

OUR PARTICIPANTS



ALEXANDRA VELEVA

Alexandra Veleva is editor and head of the foreign literature department at the FAKEL EXPRESS publishing house. She is currently a consultant on cooperation policies, human rights issues and

the rule of law in East European member states of the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). She holds a master degree in English philology from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and a master degree and a PhD in translation theory from l'Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III, – École supérieure d'interprètes et de traducteurs (ESIT). She has translated the works of a number of American, English and French writers among which Bernard Malamud, John Cheever, John Steinbeck, Robert Louis Stevenson, Edgar Allen Poe, Michel Houellebecq, Muriel Burbery, and Jérôme Ferrari. Previous positions held are associate professor at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology at Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, cultural counsellor at the Bulgarian Embassies in Rome, London and Paris, deputy permanent representative at the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria to UNESCO and senior programme specialist at the International Organization of the Francophonie.



AKSINIA MIHAYLOVA

Aksinia Mihaylova is a poet and translator and one of the founders of the literary magazine Ah, Maria. She has written six volumes of verse in Bulgarian and one in French, as well as three collections of selected

poems in Slovak, Arabic and Italian. Her poems have been translated into 19 European languages, and are known also in Canada, USA, Mexico, Colombia, Australia, Egypt, Japan and China. She has translated more than 35 books of poetry and

prose. Mihaylova has won various poetry awards, among them the Bulgarian literary prizes “Hristo Fotev” and “Milosh Ziapkov” for Unbuttoning the Body (Zhanet 45), the “Ivan Nikolov” prize for Change of Mirrors (Zhanet 45), the prestigious French “Guillaume Apollinaire” award (2014) for her collection Ciel à perdre (Gallimard), as well as three international translation prizes, among them the highest distinction of the Republic of Latvia.



ALBENA STAMBOLOVA

Albena Stambolova is an editor and translator and she is also known for her writing in the field of literary and social criticism, foreign literature reception

and psychoanalysis. From 1990 till 1999 she has lived in Paris and earned her MA in Psychology and defended these in DEA focused on semiotics and psychoanalysis in University of Paris 7 „Jussieu“. She also has worked and taught in the Universities Paris 9 “Dauphine” and Paris 3 “Censier”. She is a Human Resources Director at SPARKY Group and a Project orientation Director at New Bulgarian University.



BOYAN ANGELOV

Boyan Angelov graduated Philosophy and Bulgarian Philology at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 1990 was appointed editor-in-chief of the Chitalishte

Magazine. In 1994 he found the Bogianna publishing house, which is part of the Bulgarian-Swiss Arts Science Academy since 2002. In the period 1998 - 2005 he lived and worked in Switzerland (Basel and Lausanne), where he studied at the Academy

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DARIYA KARAPETKOVA

Dariya Svetlozarova Karapetkova is an interpreter and teacher. She holds a Master’s degree in European Integration from the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University St’Kliment

Ohridski and specialized at Sapienza – Università di Roma. Since 2000 she is a full-time teacher in modern Italian language, Romance Studies Department, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski. In 2017 she was awarded the Order “Star of Italy”, class “Knight” for special merit in the development of bilateral relations and promotion of Italian culture worldwide. The order is conferred by the President of the Italian Republic.



DAVID BERNSTEIN

The philologist, teacher and translator David Bernstein is one of the well-established translators of Bulgarian literature. His debut was the novel Mission London by the famous contemporary Bulgarian

author Alek Popov. His second translation was the novel Adriana by the acknowledged writer and playwright Teodora Dimova. For this translation he won the Prize for Contribution to Bulgarian Literature of the Bulgarian Translators' Unit in 2014. In 2015 his translation of Teodora Dimova's most famous novel Mothers was published. It received very positive critics reviews and two nominations for best translation – for the Pen Prize at the National Book Centre in Bulgaria and for the Jungmann Prize at the Czech Literary Translators' Guild in Czechia. Currently he is translating another very successful novel by the one of most popular contemporary Bulgarian authors Georgi Gospodinov, the novel Physics of Sorrow. He has translated several short stories by Svetoslav Minkov and Georgi Raichev which have been included in the recently published Diabolic Anthology.



DENITSA SACHEVA

Denitsa Sacheva holds MA degree in Public Relations from the Faculty on Journalism and Mass Communication at Sofia University St. Kliment

Ohridski. Her professional carrier began in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy from specialist to head of sector in the National Centre for Social Assistance. In 1999 she is one of the first employees of the newly founded National Health Insurance Fund. In 1999 – 2001 Denitsa Sacheva is head of the cabinet of the Minister of Health responsible for the liaisons with international institutions, IMF, World Bank and European Commission. In 2016 – 2017 she has been Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Denitsa Sacheva is fluent in English, works with German and Russian.

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DIMITAR CHERNEV

Born in Blagoevgrad, grew up in Sofia and studied Bulgarian Philology at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Member of the International Writers Association. He was a referent with the Union of Bulgarian Writers, chairperson of an Artistic Fund, editor-in-chief of the Bulgarian Writer newspaper, head of the Literature division of the Pulse newspaper, editor-in-chief of the Literary Magazine newspaper and the Sedan publishing house, manager of Softkniga EOOD, chairperson of the Bulgarian Book Association and of the Young Writer’s Cabinet, chair of the Nikolay Haytov chitalishte in Sofia, director of the Bulgarian Cultural and Information Centre in Skopje. He is the director of the Union of Bulgarian Writers and has published poetry and drama books in Russian, French, Polish, Ukrainian, Serbian, Albanian and other languages. He has translated and compiled books and anthologies of authors, representing the Slavic literatures.



GIUSEPPE DELL'AGATA

Giuseppe Dell'Agata was born in Rome on 17 February 1940. He studied at the University of Pisa and Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa; he specialized in Prague with Antonin Dostàl e Josef Kurz. Since January 1965 he has been teaching Slavonic philology at the University of Pisa. He has long experience as a teacher in Bulgarian and Czech language and literature. For two mandates he was President of AIS (Italian Association of experts in Slavonic Studies). He retired in November 2010 but he is still teaching (pro bono) Bulgarian Literature and Slavonic Studies. He has given lectures in Sofia University as well as lectures in Moscow, Kiev, Athens, Janina, Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad, Prague, Paris as well as in almost all major Italian universities.



HANNA KARPIŃSKA

Hanna Karpińska is a translator of Bulgarian literature into Polish and an active ambassador of Bulgarian literature in Poland. She graduated in Slavic Philology at the University of Krakow and journalism at the University of Warsaw. She translates mainly modern Bulgarian literature. She has translated and published twenty fiction books and fifteen plays, as well as poetry. She is the author of anthologies, reviews, essays, and articles devoted to the problems of translation and on the Bulgarian-Polish literary relations. She is also involved in the translation of scientific literature in the field of humanities, as well as is an interpreter (simultaneous and consecutive). She is an honorary member of the Union of Translators in Bulgaria. She initiated the Plamen Doinov Sofia Berlin poetry collection which qualified for the final of the European Poetry of the Arcade organized in Gdańsk in 2018.



IRINA VELEVA

Irina Veleva was born in Berlin in 1971. She studied German Philology and is a translator of fiction from and to German. Currently she is a professor for German language and member of the editors’ collegium of the Plamak magazine. Published books: “Apocalypse” (1992), “Self-Obituary” (1997), “Meetings and Partings” (2004), “The Senses Absorb” (2010) etc.

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KRISTIN DIMITROVA

Kristin Dimitrova (is a writer, poet and translator. She is the author of eleven books of poetry. Dimitrova is a five-times winner of various Bulgarian national poetry-of-the-year awards, among which the Association of Bulgarian Writers Annual Prize (2003). Kristin Dimitrova’s fiction works include the novel Sabazius (2007), published in Mexico, Belarus and Romania, winner of the Hristo G. Danov National Award (2008) and shortlisted for the Canetti Prize, as well as three collections of short stories: Love and Death under the Crooked Pear Trees (2004), The Secret Way of the Ink (2010) and Give Me a Call When You Arrive (2017). Among Dimitrova’s translations are a selection of John Donne’s poetry, The Anagram (1999), winner of The Union of Bulgarian Translators Award, and The Hunting of the Snark by Lewis Carroll (2013), recognized with the Union of Bulgarian Translators special award for outstanding achievement. Her most recent translation work is a selection of Mark Strand’s poetry, A Piece of the Storm, (co-translator Katia Mitova, 2016). Graduated in English and American Studies from the Sofia University, Dimitrova now teaches at the Department of Foreign Languages there. In the period 2004-2006 she was an editor of Art Trud, the weekly supplement for arts and culture of the Trud Daily. Dimitrova holds a Doctoral Degree in journalism and mass communications. Poems, short stories and essays by Kristin Dimitrova have been translated into 27 languages and published in anthologies and literary journals in 36 countries.



KSENIJA BANOVIĆ

Ksenija Banović (1975, Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina), graduated from the Department of Croatian Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science in Zagreb, and specialized in the Bulgarian

language and literature from the University of Sv. Kliment Ohridski in Sofia, Bulgaria, where she was employed as a lecturer of the Croatian language in the academic year 2009/2010. She actively translates Bulgarian literature (over 30 publications of poetry and prose translations in numerous literary magazines and anthologies). Besides translating, Ksenija enjoys studying Bulgarian-Croatian cultural links. She turned the work on these bilateral cultural links into the exhibition Sacred Language of my Forefathers: Bulgarian – Croatian parallels.



PANOS STATHOYIANNIS

Panos Stathoyiannis is writer, translator and journalist. He holds Master degrees at the Systemic Analysis of the Mass Media from Sofia University “Saint Kliment Ohridski”. Editor of the Greek Magazine “Aition”. He has written 11 books (romans and poetry) and has translated over 20 romans of modern Bulgarian Literature. His books and texts have been translated into 7 languages. He lives in Athens.



PLAMEN MIRYANOV

Plamen Miryanov is born in Bulgaria and holds master degree in Architecture from the University of Architecture, Civil engineering and Geodesy. He creates foundation “Our home is Bulgaria” in 2016 and in 2017 receives an award for a worthy Bulgarian from the most popular newspaper and the national television for directing the short film “The sacred alphabet”. Also in 2017 he wins prize in the national contest “Building of the year” with the famous project „Letera”. In 2018 he wins an award for “Investor in Christian and moral values” and first prize in a touristic film festival for directing “The magic of the Bulgarian

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rose". Plamen is fluent in English and French and works with Spanish.



ROSE-MARIE FRANCOIS

Author of 39 books (novels, short stories, poems) published in Belgium, France, Quebec, Germany, Austria, Latvia, Great-Britain, Romania, Bulgaria, etc. Her poems are also to be found in many periodicals and anthologies (including Armenia, Spain, the United States, Greece, Israel, Algeria, Italy, Latvia, etc.) and have been translated into more than 12 languages. She has taught at the Universities of Liege (Belgium), Lund (Sweden), Latvia (in Riga), from which she received an honorary doctorate (goda biedre). Taught painting (by Berthe Dubail) and theatre (by Monique Dorsel, Yves Bical, Uta Wagner, Genevieve Page, Joseph Jacquinet) she takes her own poems and those she has translated to the stage.



STEFAN HERTMANS

Stefan Hertmans is considered to be one of the outstanding Flemish writers of his generation. He has won or been nominated for most of the literary prizes in the Dutch-speaking world (Multatuli Prize, Arch Prize of the Free Word, AKO Prize, Libris Prize, Bordewijk Prize, Prize of the Flemish Provinces, 'State' prize of the Flemish Community, Paul Snoek Prize, ...). He has taken part in important international festivals such as the Adelaide Writers' Week Australia, the Struga Poetry Festival or Poetry International Rotterdam (1989 and 1997), the Writers' Festival in Durban, Medellin Colombia, Ovid Festival Mangalia Rumania, Mexico City a.m.o. He has lectured at The Library of Congress, Washington (1998), at the Bookfair of Leipzig (1996), has been widely

invited for discussions and readings in cities such as Berlin, Frankfurt, London (King's College), Paris, Vienna, Cologne, Amsterdam, Weimar, Madrid etc. He was writer in residence at the university of Vienna (1997), took part in Les Belles Etrangères 1999 Paris, and was elected writer in residence at the Marguerite Yourcenar- villa in Northern France, where he finished his novel 'As on the first day' (AKO Nomination).



SVETOSLAV MALINOV

Mr Svetoslav Malinov is a Member of the European People's Party Group in the European Parliament. In the Parliament he is a Member of the Committee on Culture and Education. He has graduated the English-language high school in Burgas and holds a bachelor's and Master's degree in political science from St. Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia. He has a PhD in political science and has held the positions of lecturer on the history of political philosophy at St. Kliment Ohridski University and appointed associate professor of political science (political philosophy). Since 2002 Mr Malinov is editor in Chief of the journal "Razum" ("Reason"). He is the author of the first translation into Bulgarian of classic political philosophy works by Francis Bacon, John Locke, Edmund Burke, John Stuart Mill, Hannah Arendt and others. He has been awarded the Bulgarian Union of Translators' prize for his translations of John Locke.



TSVETA VELINOVA

Tsveta Velinova graduated from the English Language School in Plovdiv, English Philology from the University St. Kliment Ohridsky in Sofia and Dutch Studies from

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the Leiden University. She worked as a translator in Sofia and in The Hague Since 1991 she is a freelance correspondent for Bulgarian media, member of the Foreign Press Association in The Netherlands. Since 2015 till now she works as an expert on European cooperation for the Metropolitan Region Rotterdam The Hague (MRDH). She is the secretary of the Board of the Foundation for Eastern European Projects STOEP. At the moment Tsveta is translating three plays from the Flemish writer Stefan Hertmans, whose work has been the subject of her graduation theses at the University of Leiden.

VLADIMIR KARAKASHOV



Vladimir Karakashov is now heading the Bulgarian Language Unit at the Translation Service of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

He graduated in Ancient and Medieval History in the Sofia University. The next 27 years he spent as a political journalist. He has been a reporter, a correspondent, an editor and a deputy director-general in the Bulgarian News Agency (BTA). He has edited a weekly magazine and two daily newspapers. He has also contributed to a number of other printed media and to two European broadcasters - Radio Free Europe and Deutsche Welle. From 1997 to 2007 he has been a producer, newsreader and editor in the BBC World Service in London. Since 2007 he works in the Translation Service of the Council of the EU.



ZDRAVKA EVTIMOVA

Zdravka Evtimova was born in 1959, Bulgaria where she lives and works as translator/interpreter from English, French and German. She holds BA in English language and English literature, St. Kiril and St. Methodius University,

Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria, and MA in contemporary American literature from the same university.

Her short stories have been published in 31 countries including USA, UK, Germany, France, China, Japan, Canada, Israel, Vietnam, etc. Her novel Sinfonia Bulgariaca, was published in USA, Fomite Books 2015, in Italy, Salento Books, 2016 in China 2016, Serbia and Macedonia 2016. Her novel In the Town of Joy and Peace was published in USA, Fomite Books 2017, her novel The Same River won the Novel Prize of 13 Centuries Bulgaria Fund and was published in Italy in 2017 by Salento Books. Three of her short story collections were published in UK, five in the USA, one in Canada, in Greece and Israel. The short stories in the short story collection Carts and Other Stories were included in the curriculum of Bard College, USA in the Spring Semester 2018 in the course Balkan Voices, Writing from South Eastern Europe. This course was led by Elisabeth Frank, Professor of Modern Languages and Literature at Bard College, who won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for Louise Bogan: A Portrait (1985).

Zdravka Evtimova's short story Blood of a Mole was included in the English language high schools, Denmark.