

#SWF20
STOCKHOLM
WRITERS
FESTIVAL
2020

Schedule
and faculty



Breaking Through Barriers
www.stockholmwritersfestival.com



Day 1: Friday, May 22

11:00 Registration opens for Intensive Workshop One

Intensive Workshop – SEK 800 (additional)

12:00 – 15:30

Intensive Workshop One:

Manuscript Makeover with Cassie Gonzales (limit 20 writers)

This interactive intensive is designed for those fiction and nonfiction writers who are ready to take a quantum leap forward in enhancing their writing skills. Participants will send a one-page synopsis and the first five pages of a manuscript in progress. Cassie will edit and critique these pages and display them to the class as a way of revealing strengths and weaknesses in the material. Additionally, she'll lead the students in writing exercises and offer advice on such topics as creating strong titles and opening paragraphs, learning to self-edit, mastering proofreading, finding the right markets for manuscripts and knowing when and how to go into writing full-time.

Main Festival Pass – SEK 2,700 (obligatory)

15:00 – 16:00 Main festival registration

16:00 Welcome and Official Opening by SWF Founder, Catherine Pettersson

16:10 Author talk with Lori Rader-Day

Lori Rader-Day is an Edgar Award-nominated and Anthony and Mary Higgins Clark award-winning author of *The Lucky One*. She'll share with us her path to success in genre fiction. Followed by audience Q&A.

17:00 – 17:30 Author book signing

17:30 Find your tribe

Meet writers in your genre in this fun, interactive activity.

Live Agent Critiques – SEK 500 (additional)

Critique times scheduled throughout the festival

Take the opportunity to get your work before an industry expert. Buy a ticket for a 10-minute live critique session with one of our SWF20 agents. First read our agent profiles (pages 7-11) to determine who's best to hear your pitch. Make your selection when you purchase your ticket. Sessions will be scheduled to occur throughout SWF20. We'll let you know your time two weeks in advance.

Day 2: Saturday, May 23

Location: Sibelius Room

8:30 - 9:00 Mingle and additional registration

**9:00 Welcome and presentation of first panel
(Catherine Pettersson)**

**9:15 - 10:15 Panel: Breaking down the barriers of genre:
Sci-fi, children, crime, and memoir**

Our panel talks about the changing trends in each: Lori Rader-Day, Catherine Coe, Julie Lindahl, Paddy Kelly. Moderator: Cassandra Ware Bloomberg

10:30 - 11:30 Panel: Meet "The Debutantes"

Authors share their insights into entering the world of publishing: Gail Aldwin, Karen Havelin, Nikki Marmery, Atilla Yoldas. Moderator: Paul Rapacioli

11:30 - 13:00 Book signing/mingle and lunch (on your own)

13:00 to 14:30 Buttonhole the Expert: An SWF classic

Get casual face time with our faculty and the chance to discuss their breakout topics. Here's how it works: Ticket holders choose a table staffed by an expert, one of our faculty members, and discuss the expert's subject for 20 minutes. When the SWF bell rings, participants change tables. We do four rounds to give everyone a chance to learn from a variety of experts.

14:40 - 15:40 Group intensive: Locate, lure and land an agent with The Book Doctors

In many ways it's harder to find a great agent than it is to write a great book. Between his 15 years as a professional actor and 15 years as a professional writer, David Henry Sterry has convinced over 50 agents to represent him. He is a Professional Agent Hunter. Arielle Eckstut has been a literary agent for over 20 years. She brings that behind-the-desk experience to the The Book Doctors. Using exhaustive research methods, surgically pinpointed query letters, and gentle but persistent follow-up techniques, they will show you in easy-to-follow steps exactly how to find, approach, and bag the literary agent who's right for you.

16:00 - 17:00 Author talk with Atilla Yoldas

Swedish author Atilla Yoldas talks about *The Man Book: From One Guy to Another*, and the barriers he's broken by writing non-fiction. Followed by audience Q&A.

17:00 - 18:00 Mingle and author book signing

20:00 Meet at Hotel Hellsten for more SWF fun

Day 3: Sunday, May 24

8:30 - 9:00 Mingle and coffee/author book signings

9:00 - 10:10 — Breakout A
Reading like a writer — Jacquelin Cangro
Mystery writer’s bootcamp — Lori Rader-Day
Writing interiority in children’s and YA books — Catherine Coe
Female erasure in history — Nikki Marmery
Writing for independent publishers — Gail Aldwin

Reading like a writer

Understanding how good stories tick is key to great writing, and requires close reading. Editor Jacquelin Cangro leads a breakout session exploring what to look for – including how time, structure and character development are managed, and the effect of those choices on the text.

Mystery writer’s bootcamp

Mystery and suspense stories attract a large readership and sell big. Why? Because they keep readers turning pages. Lori Rader-Day will lead discussions on the psychology behind what compels readers to keep reading – and give beginning writers tips for how best to satisfy, subvert, and exceed reader expectation in this classic genre.

Writing interiority for children and young people

Good interiority is essential for connecting readers with protagonists. The author’s job is to plunge the reader into their character’s shoes and convey how they think and feel, but how do you do that in a natural, non-telling way? Catherine Coe leads this craft-focused break-out, including lots of tips, tricks and examples.

Female erasure in history

How can we write authentic historical women when women’s lives and voices are so scarce in archives? In this session, Nikki Marmery will show how women are dismissed, ignored, and misrepresented in historical records – and how to overcome their erasure with creative and lateral research.

Writing for independent publishers

No luck in hooking an agent? Don’t want to self-publish? There is another way! Try approaching one of the growing number of independent publishers with open submission windows for fiction and poetry. Gail Aldwin has experience of being published by three small independent presses and shares the benefits and pitfalls of this route to publication.

Day 3: Sunday, May 24 (cont)

10:20 - 11:30 — Breakout B
How writing connects to activism — Julie Lindahl
Infusing Poetry into Your Prose — Liz Clark Wessel
Finding the story: writing fact that reads like fiction — Paul Rapacioli
Writing physicality — Karen Havelin
Writing powerful female characters — Cassie Gonzales

How writing connects to activism

What motivates an author to become an activist, and what are the pluses and minuses of activism for writing? Is writing in itself activism? Join author and activist Julie Lindahl, author of *The Pendulum: A Granddaughter's Search for Her Family's Forbidden Nazi Past* in a conversation based on her experiences.

Infusing Poetry into Your Prose

What do we mean when we talk about a poet's voice, and why is this voice so essential to poetry? In this session, Liz Clark Wessel will use contemporary poetry as a starting point to begin developing a distinctive voice in our writing. We will read and analyze poems together, then write and share our own.

Finding the story: writing fact that reads like fiction

Writers can have the most important message in the world but if they don't take their reader on a journey, they're wasting their time. So how does one carve a story out of a mountain of facts? Should the theme or the characters drive the narrative? Paul Rapacioli helps writers identify the questions they need to ask to kickstart and sustain their non-fiction projects.

Writing physicality

We are all stuck in our bodies. But art allows us to try on being another person. Writing convincingly about physicality is perhaps the main way to make your writing live and breathe. In this session, Karen Havelin focuses on creating a writing practice that lets authors go deeply into the physical elements in writing.

Writing powerful female characters

Girls! Girls! Girls with agency and specificity! From the Evil Stepmother to the Femme Fatale to the Damsel in Distress, we know the tropes about women - yet we can't stop writing them. Until now! In this session Cassie Gonzales will teach specific writerly techniques to quash those boring clichés and to complicate all female characters. This discussion will be useful to writers from any genre, writing for the page or screen.

Day 3: Sunday, May 24 (cont)

12:30 to 14:00 Pitchapalooza

Pitchapalooza is *American Idol* for books (only kinder and gentler). Twenty writers will be selected at random to pitch their book. Each writer gets one minute—and only one minute!

From Miami to Portland, from LA to NYC, and many stops along the way, dozens of writers have gone from talented amateurs to professionally-published authors as a result of participating in Pitchapalooza, including Raul the Third, Ylonda Caviness, Stacy McAnulty, Judith Fertig, Gloria Chao, Nura Maznavi and Ayesha Mattu.

At Pitchapalooza, judges will help you improve your pitch, not tell you how bad it is. Judges critique everything from idea to style to potential in the marketplace and much, much more. Authors come away with concrete advice as well as a greater understanding of the ins and outs of the publishing industry. Whether potential authors pitch themselves, or simply listen to trained professionals critique each presentation, Pitchapalooza is educational and entertaining for one and all.

At the end of Pitchapalooza, the judges will pick a winner. The winner receives an introduction to an agent or publisher appropriate for his/her book.

14:00 Official farewell of the Stockholm Writers Festival

Day 3: Sunday, May 24 (cont)

Intensive Workshops – SEK 800 (additional)

14:30 – 17:30

Intensive Workshop Two:

Make editing your manuscript fun with The Book Doctors

One of the hardest things for writers is to turn their beautiful but unshaped pieces of clay into glorious works of art that agents, publishers and readers will fall in love with. But what may seem a confusing and slightly terrifying task can actually be a systematic and easily understood process. And yes, it can even be fun!

The Book Doctors will show how to:

- Start off with a bang
- Check character arcs
- Build suspense
- Avoid repetition avoid repetition avoid repetition
- Trim fat
- Make the most of your title
- Know when to show and when to tell

And much more!

Intensive Workshop Three:

Writing for children and young adults

A nuts-and-bolts session taking you through each aspect of the unique craft of writing for younger readers, from choosing your readership and developing a voice to plot structuring, pacing and tension. Suitable for both writers wanting to hone their craft and those considering writing for children but not sure where to start.

Meet our SWF20 Faculty

Authors

Gail Aldwin

Gail is an award-winning writer of fiction and poetry. Her work includes *The String Games* (Victorina Press, 2019), a coming-of-age novel that was longlisted in The People's Book Prize 2019 and *adversaries/comrades* (Wordsmith_HQ, 2019), a poetry pamphlet written on the theme of siblings. Her flash fiction collection *Paisley Shirt* (Chapelton Books, 2018) was longlisted in the Saboteur Awards 2018. Short plays and comedy sketches that Gail has co-written are staged at theatres in South West England. She appears at literary festivals and fringe festivals in her home county of Dorset. Gail holds a PhD in creative writing and teaches fiction in a range of settings including universities, schools and community venues. Visit gailaldwin.com to learn more.

The Book Doctors

Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry are co-founders of The Book Doctors, a company dedicated to helping authors get their books published. They are also co-authors of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published: How To Write It, Sell It, and Market It... Successfully*. Arielle Eckstut has been a literary agent for over twenty years at The Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency. She is now the agent of Newbery Award winner, Kwame Alexander. She is also the author of nine books and the co-founder of the iconic brand, LittleMissMatched. David Henry Sterry is the best-selling author of 16 books, on a wide variety of subjects including memoir, sports, middle-grade fiction, and reference. His first book has been translated into ten languages; his latest book was featured on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*. They've taught at Stanford University, Indiana University, Smith College, and other institutions. Some of the publications they have appeared in include the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Jacquelin Cangro

Jacquelin is a developmental editor, writing coach, and instructor. For nearly twenty years, she has worked at Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster in the young readers divisions of both houses. She served as editor for her first book, *The Subway Chronicles: Scenes from Life in New York* (Plume), which contains essays about the New York City subway system. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Valparaiso Fiction Review*, *the Cortland Review*, and *The Macguffin*, among others. She was a finalist in the Saturday Evening Post's Great American Fiction Contest. She has an MFA in creative writing from Georgia State University. For more information on Jackie and her work, visit jacquelinecangro.com.

Liz Clark Wessel

Liz is a poet, Swedish to English translator, and small press editor based in Stockholm, Sweden. Born and raised in rural Nebraska, she spent many years living in New York and Connecticut. She received her BA in liberal arts from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA in poetry and literary translation from Columbia University, where she taught in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Program. She is the author of four chapbooks of poetry, most recently *first one thing, then the other* (Per Diem Press, 2018), and translator of numerous novels, including *The Believer* by Joakim Zander and *What We Owe* by Golnaz Hashemzadeh Bonde.

Catherine Coe

Catherine is a children's book editor and author with eighteen years of editorial experience and over forty books published, including the popular Blossom Wood series (Scholastic). Formerly Senior Commissioning Editor at Hachette Children's Books, Catherine has been freelance since 2011 and has lived in Stockholm since 2016. She works for many major and independent UK-based publishers and agents, and also enjoys mentoring talented writers on their journey to publication. She edits children's books of all genres and for all readerships, from picture books to young adult, and has worked with top authors including David Almond, Malorie Blackman, Mary Hoffman and Nikesh Shukla. She's passionate about demystifying the path to publication for writers and loves nothing more than sharing knowledge and advice. Catherine is also volunteer co-editor of SCBWI's Undiscovered Voices, a biennial competition for unpublished and unagented children's book writers.

Cassie Gonzales

Cassie's prose has been Pushcart nominated and published in print and online by *The Kenyon Review*, *Tin House*, *Ploughshares*, and *Granta*, among others. Her drama has been shortlisted by the BBC and staged by The University of Iowa. She was awarded Emory University's Creative Writing Fellowship in Fiction and has taught creative writing to undergraduates and postgraduates. Cassie has a Master's degree in creative writing from the University of Oxford and is currently a PhD candidate in creative/critical writing at the University of East Anglia. She is working on a novel about women in the American Southwest.

Karen Havelin

Karen is a writer and translator from Bergen, Norway. She attended Skrivekunstakademiet i Hordaland, has a Bachelor's degree in French, literature and gender studies from the University of Bergen and University of Paris Sorbonne and she completed her MFA in Fiction from Columbia University in May 2013. She has published fiction, translations, poetry and nonfiction in various publications in English and Norwegian, such as *Vinduet*, *Words Without Borders*, *Literary Hub*, *Agave Magazine* and *Nylon*. Her debut novel *Please Read This Leaflet Carefully* was published in the UK, the US and Norway by Dottir Press, Dead Ink Books and Cappelen Damm in spring 2019. The novel was shortlisted for the Not the Booker Prize by the *Guardian*. Find out more at karenhavelin.com.

Paddy Kelly

Paddy, born in Ireland, now lives in Sweden, where he's learned to love strong coffee, fermented fish and rampant socialism. He's had fiction, non-fiction and poetry published in *Analog*, *The Irish Times*, *The Local* and Amazon. He's into cosmology, maps of imaginary places, dark belly dance and anything even slightly gothic. He's never been beaten in a staring contest, ever. Don't believe him? Then bring it on.

Julie Lindahl

Julie is an author, educator and activist based in Sweden. During the past decade she has researched, spoken and written about the causes and reverberations of radicalization, war and genocide through the generations based on her own experience of discovering her grandparents' role in the Third Reich. Her memoir of her journey of discovery, *The Pendulum: A Granddaughter's Search for Her Family's Forbidden Nazi Past* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019 and Norstedts 2019) has been critically acclaimed in both the US and Sweden where it has been a best-selling title.

Nikki Marmery

For 15 years Nikki worked as a financial journalist, editing magazines about global trading markets. She lives in a village just outside London where she writes historical fiction. Her debut novel *On Wilder Seas* is the story of Maria, the only woman aboard Francis Drake's Golden Hind when he sailed around the world in 1577-1580. *On Wider Seas* was shortlisted for the Myriad Editions First Drafts Competition 2017 and the Historical Novel Society's New Novel Award 2018. Nikki has a degree in history and studied creative writing at the Faber Academy.

Lori Rader-Day

Lori is the Edgar Award-nominated and Anthony and Mary Higgins Clark award-winning author of *Under a Dark Sky*, *The Day I Died*, *Little Pretty Things*, and *The Black Hour*. She lives in Chicago, where she is co-chair of the mystery readers' conference Murder and Mayhem in Chicago and the national president of Sisters in Crime.

Paul Rapacioli

Paul is the founder of the news company *The Local*, which publishes Europe's news in English for five million readers each month. His first book, *Good Sweden, Bad Sweden*, drew on more than a decade of news coverage to explain how the polarized story of this unique country is being told in a post-truth world. Paul is now working on a novel.

Atilla Yoldas

Atilla is a Swedish journalist, writer and lecturer. As a columnist in Swedish newspaper *Expressen*, he writes about equality and discrimination. His first book, *Mansboken - från en kille till en annan* (translates to *The Man Book - from one guy to another*) was released in 2019. As a lecturer, Atilla focuses on destructive masculinity norms and how they affect the individual and society. He was awarded the journalist scholarship from *Expressen* in 2016, listed as "one of the most powerful young people of the future" in 2017 and was nominated "Internet Angel of the Year" in 2018 for his efforts in fighting hate online.

AGENTS

Megan Carroll

Megan is an associate agent at Watson, Little Ltd in London. Megan is looking for writers in a variety of areas. In fiction, she is keen to see commercial fiction and reading group fiction with original voices and an interesting hook. At the moment, she'd love to find a regional family drama, a female led police procedural, a uniquely told love story or a brilliant ghost/witch story in the vein of Laura Purcell. In children's and YA, Megan would love to see contemporary YA tackling realistic issues and big, epic love stories as well as funny, female focused MG - think Louise Rennison - and an Abi Elphinstone style adventure for that age group too. She's also keen on finding new picture book authors writing funny, commercial texts tackling the big issues and is growing a list of talented illustrators for all ages. Megan is also keen to see interesting memoir and good narrative non-fiction on film, music, popular culture and issues from a female perspective.

Ayesha Pande

Ayesha heads her eponymous agency in New York. She has worked in the publishing industry for over twenty years. Before launching her boutique agency, she was a senior editor at Farrar Straus & Giroux. She has also held editorial positions at HarperCollins and Crown Publishers. Ayesha is a member of AAR (Association of Author's Representatives), PEN, the Asian American Writer's Workshop, Women's Media Group and sits on the advisory board of the German Book Office. Her interests are wide-ranging and include literary as well as popular fiction, young adult, women's, African-American and international fiction. She is also seeking authors of nonfiction, including biography, history, economics, popular culture, cultural commentary, memoir, and graphic novels. She is particularly drawn to distinctive, original and underrepresented voices. Visit pandeliterary.com for more.

Hayley Steed

Hayley is a Literary Agent and Book to Screen Agent at Madeleine Milburn Literary, TV & Film Agency. She was named as a Rising Star 2019 in The Bookseller. She looks for commercial and book-club fiction across all genres including contemporary women's fiction; uplifting love stories; upmarket general fiction; high concept novels; grounded sci-fi; speculative fiction; gothic novels; horror; feminist reads; magical realism; tense crime and thrillers; cross-genre books; true crime and compelling memoirs, non-fiction focused on sport and female voices. Find out more at madeleinemilburn.co.uk.

Laura Williams

Laura joined Greene & Heaton in London as an agent in 2018. She worked at Peters Fraser and Dunlop from 2011, after completing a degree in Classics at Oxford. She is actively building a fiction list and a small non-fiction list. She is currently looking for literary fiction, edgy commercial fiction, psychological thrillers and high-concept contemporary young adult, as well as narrative non-fiction of all types. Her taste is quite dark, and she loves gothic, ghost stories, horror and anything sinister. She also loves books that make her cry, from big love stories to intense family dramas. See greeneheaton.co.uk for more.

