

Strategies for Peace
The Power of the Word – The Power of Literature
Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:00 PM
Leipzig City Library (Stadtbibliothek)
Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz 10-11
04107 Leipzig

Discussion with Boualem Sansal (Algiers), Lizzie Doron (Tel Aviv), Alfonso de Toro (Director of the IAFSL/FFSL, Leipzig) Ruth Fine (Director of the European Forum of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Keynote: Gabriele Goldfuß: in representation of the Mayor of the City of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung

Moderator: Alfonso de Toro

The focus of this discussion in the context of the “World in Motion” conference by the Ibero-American and Francophone Research Seminar includes the increasing and diverse current conflicts centered on fundamentalism and terrorism with their cultural, religious, and territorial roots; as well as large-scale migrations and diaspora creation. The victims of these conflicts are the civilian population, in addition to all those who act in the name of peace and tolerance. Again and again, intellectuals, writers and journalists attract the attention of those in power.

In Europe, we see growing xenophobia, racism, islamophobia and antisemitism, along with different radical right-wing groups that have begun to assemble and spread their ideologies within and outside of the center of society. This is more than disconcerting, and necessitates a counter strategy and new solutions.

The discussion will therefore focus on addressing fundamental questions concerning current societal processes like hospitality, belonging and emotion, which are closely connected and have a huge impact on the ability to create a new home with acceptance; and to develop an awareness of cultural otherness, of common ground within coexistence in difference, and of mutual recognition.

In our field and in the context of today’s event, we ask what literature and the corresponding literature and culture sciences can contribute to solving these problems. Can they employ their inherent experience and openness? What are their strengths, and where are their limits? Can the written word, literature and the many scientific publications be of any use here?

In order to pursue some of these burning questions, **Boualem Sansal** from Algiers, with selected works like *Postlagernd: Alger/Post restante: Alger; Allas Narren. Wie der Islamismus die Welt erobert*; and **Lizzie Doron** from Tel Aviv, with *Who the Fuck is Kafka (German/Hebrew)*, and their multifaceted experience are at the center of the dialogue. The discussion will also be supported by Ruth Fine, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the European Forum at the same university; as well Alfonso de Toro, professor at the University of Leipzig and Director of the Ibero-American and Francophone Seminars at the same university.

The event is in German and English.

Contact for this event:

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