



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

23-26
NOVEMBER
2021

PAMPLONA
IRUÑEA

ELRUSTIAO



The “Conference”, a snapshot of independent publishing worldwide

Since the creation of the [International Alliance of independent publishers](#) (an international network of 750 independent publishers from 55 countries around the world) in 2002, the “International Conferences” have been held every four to eight years and bring together some 100 independent publishers from around the world: [in 2003 in Dakar](#) (Senegal); [in 2007 in Paris](#) (France); [in 2014 in Cape Town](#) (South Africa) and in 2021 in Pamplona-Iruñea (Province of Navarre/ Spain).

They represent a landmark moment for international independent publishers, bringing together actors from all continents: they collectively provide a portrait of global independent publishing (Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, the Arab world and Oceania). They are a unique space for debate, meetings, and reflection on independent publishing –with no other equivalent worldwide.

Celebrate and REthink in 2021...

Between 2017 and 2018, when the Alliance network was planning and launching the 2019-2021 Conference, the goals of this event were **obvious**: celebrating bibliodiversity and the work of independent publishers, REthinking the solidarity practices that we build through perseverance and determination, but also the relationships with other book professionals, and the relationships with readers.

This is obvious in view of the progress made since the last meeting in 2012-2014, but also in view of the experience of the **Alliance, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2021**.

2020, a global health crisis, a year of transformation

While the consequences of the health crisis are still difficult to assess in detail from an economic, social, and political vantage point, **REthinking remains obvious but also becomes a necessity**.

Why are independent publishers important actors in this period of crisis? How do they accompany societal transformations and transitions at work? What are the tools and practices that they put in place to apprehend the realities of tomorrow, to understand them? In what ways do books and the ideas they convey help defend and preserve the diversity of creations, points of view, ideas?

“Tomorrow’s” independent publishing?

This Conference is thus a moment of **documentation on the state of the world, an international mapping of the movements of transition and/or interruption**.

Its objective is to **question and inform discussions on the role of books –of ideas– as a social and emancipatory trajectory**.

It is a **space for reflection, sharing of experiences and practical know-hows** concerning the issues of today and tomorrow: ecology, social economy, inclusive publishing, cultural platforming...

Finally, the Conference is a **space of solidarity, trust, human relationships, and dialogues between cultures**.

Process and phases of the Conference

The Conference of the Alliance is built **of our own accord over a long period of time**, against the often-frantic rhythm that has become the norm. It follows a **common thread** that has been running for 20 years within the Alliance: the issues defended by the Alliance since its creation are always prominent (solidarity, equity of relations, rebalancing of flows, circulation of ideas, local creations and productions, fair speech, ecological concerns...). These are the foundations on which the independent publishing movement is based and are addressed considering contemporary issues and debates.

They are **built collectively**, based on the work carried out since the 2012-2014 Conference and the [80 ensuing recommendations](#), from feedback from professionals in the field of books, from monitoring

independent publishing throughout the world, from regular dialogue with other cultural actors, but also from observation of practices, trends, and alternatives that emerge here and there.

The Conference is **built on two levels (public and “internal”)**, which feed each other and are complementary.

- **A public level** with an aim to meet, discuss, learn – which is embodied by meetings open to all (book professionals, readers, cultural actors, academics, civil society movements, etc.). **It is about taking advantage of the space that the Alliance is to REthink practices, question the relationship of independent publishers to the current world, explore themes, allow each other utopias, look together to the future.**
- **An internal level** (focused on the Alliance network) to formulate recommendations and tools, to elaborate objectives for the upcoming period, to define and refine the governance of the network.

The Conference is **structured around working groups and thematic workshops set up since the 2012-2014 Conference of the Alliance** (1/on public book policies; 2/on the freedom of publishing; 3/ on digital publishing; 4/on publishing in local and national languages; 5/on solidarity-based editorial partnerships; 6/on the impacts of book donation practices). **The Conference is also built on collective discussions, the production of analyses and tools.**

Concretely, for the Alliance network, the aim is to achieve the following results for the period 2022-2025:

- Recommendations (based on the [80 recommendations from the previous Conference](#) but also in the context of the current crisis)
- Objectives and action plan for the period 2022-2025
- Adjustments and validation/ endorsement of the governance of the association

On the agenda of the Conference

The **main themes of the Pamplona-Iruñea Conference** have been identified by independent publishers as priority issues to REthink. The programme was built over time, considering the international, intercultural and collective dimensions of the Alliance. Based on the recommendations of the ICIP (International Committee of Independent Publishers), the decision-making body of the Alliance, a working group was set up. This working group drew up the programme, and identified speakers (academics, professionals from the book industry, culture, civil society, etc.) who could contribute to the round tables and assist before the meetings.

The mornings of the Conference (9:00 am - 2:00 pm) will be devoted to **plenary sessions during which essential questions about the future of the sector will be addressed** (dependencies and interdependencies, the ecology of the book, inequalities and relationships of domination within the publishing world, freedom to publish, publishing in minority languages, the impact of technology), while the afternoons (4:00 pm - 6:00 pm) will be organized around **workshops and meetings in small groups aiming to forge concrete alliances between professionals.**

These workshops will be followed, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, by **“face-to-face” discussions between the participants**, a time dedicated in particular to the presentation of the publishing houses’ catalogs (sale and purchase of rights).

Finally, the Conference will be held within the framework of the **Navarra Book Fair (November 25-28, 2021)**, organized by the Association of independent publishers of Navarra, [EDITARGI](#), in which international participants will be able to take part (collective stand provided).

Programme



The Conference will be held at the [Baluarte](#) (Navarre Congress Centre and Auditorium). The sessions can also be followed online, live (<https://babelica.alliance-editeurs.org/en/participer/>). The times indicated in the programme are Spanish times (UTC+1).

Monday, 22 November 2021

Opening of the Conference (6 pm)

Opening speech from representatives of the Government of Navarra and the City of Pamplona, the President of the Parliament of Navarra, the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers and EDITARGI (Navarra Publishers Association).

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

Welcome (8:30-9 am)

Welcome address (9-9:30 am)

Address from a representative of the Comunidad Foral de Navarra, the International Committee of Independent Publishers...

Bibliodiversity: Independence and interdependence (9:30 am-2 pm)

For several years now, the notions of independence and bibliodiversity permeate almost all discourses on the publishing sector. However, there is a strong network of interdependencies at different levels of society, which are not always easy to identify. Yet, their identification is necessary for the theoretical framework constructed from these notions to go beyond mere sloganeering and lead to a meaningful reflection on the place of the publishing activity of independent publishers within society.

> Challenges for a diversified and committed book ecosystem in the face of current issues (economic, social, cultural, institutional, ecological...) 9:30-11:30 am

- John B. Thompson, sociologist, United Kingdom
- Julien Lefort-Favreau, professor of Contemporary Literature and Critical Theory, Québec/ Canada
- Kenza Sefrioui, publisher (En toutes lettres), Morocco
- Esther Merino, publisher (éditions les Monédières and chair of the Association des Editeurs de Nouvelle-Aquitaine), France
- Alfonso Serrano, publisher (La Oveja Roja), Madrid (moderator)

Coffee break (11:30 am-12 pm)

> Ecology of the book (12-2 pm)

A quick look at the national budgets of most states shows that publishing is classified as an industrial activity. This is logical for a business that uses a significant amount of labour and raw materials, which once transformed into marketable products, are transported, and traded around the world. At a time of inevitable reflection on the ecological sustainability of human activity on the planet, nothing should prevent us from calmly analysing the responsibilities arising from the choices made by independent

publishers. And in a context of increasing digital visibility, it is also appropriate to question what lies behind the apparent intangibility of this 'cloud'.

- Experiences and preliminary studies: state of play
 - The sector as a system, thinking about the book sector to preserve its richness
 - Assessment of the lifecycle: the challenge of integrating all activities in the ecosystem to try to define their ecological impacts
 - Digital publishing: against the illusion of zero ecological impact
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- Anaïs Massola, bookseller (Le Rideau rouge and co-founder of the Association pour l'écologie du livre), France
 - José Bellver, economist and researcher, Madrid
 - Susan Hawthorne, Publisher (Spinifex Press), Australia
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- Corinne Fleury, publisher (Atelier des nomades), Mauritius/France (moderator)

Lunch (2.00-3:30 pm)

Group workshop: ecological practices in the book sector (4-6 pm)

Pre-registration required

Animated by Corinne Fleury, publisher (Atelier des nomades, Mauritius/France) and Anaïs Massola, bookseller (Le Rideau rouge and co-founder of the Association pour l'écologie du livre, France).

Face-to-face meetings between professionals (6-7:30 pm)

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Welcome (8:30-9 am)

Relations of power and domination in the world of books: cultural colonialism, representation of minorities and of women in the book industry... (9 am-2 pm)

> **What to say and where to say it? (9-11 am)**

The logics of concentration in the publishing world and the domination of the commercial aspect of the book to the detriment of its cultural aspect are mixed with other conservative impulses that have an impact on the sector, such as cultural colonialism, patriarchy, the marginalisation of minorities and peripheral languages... Reflecting on these relations of power and domination, reinforcing the liberating and transforming character of books and words is the invitation of this second morning of the International Conference of Independent Publishers.

- Minority representation/ inclusive publishing (who can publish, write, have their voice heard?)
 - Imbalance between Southern and Northern markets (cultural colonialism)
 - Publishing in minority languages
 - Indigenous literature
-
- Gisèle Sapiro, sociologist, France
 - Ronny Agustinus, publisher (Marjin Kiri), Indonesia
 - Ibrahima Aya, publisher (Editions Tombouctou), Mali

 - Paulo Slachevsky, publisher (Lom Ediciones), Chile (moderator)

Coffee break (11-11:30 am)

> **Women in the publishing world (11:30 am-1:30 pm)**

While the publishing profession seems to be predominantly occupied by women in many countries – and although the situation is not identical in all cultural contexts and book markets– women remain under-represented in positions of responsibility within publishing houses, just as women authors are less recognised than men by literary prizes. Is this situation –this imbalance– which has been pointed out in Europe in particular, generalizable at the international level? What does being a woman in the publishing world mean in concrete terms? International independent publishing offers a diverse and varied panorama of the place and role accorded to women professionals in the sector. Whether they practice their profession in Syria, the Czech Republic, Cameroon or Canada, whether they are authors, publishers or feminist publishers, this round table will amplify the voices of women book professionals who contribute to shaping the international publishing landscape.

- Samar Haddad, publisher (Atlas Publishing), Syria
 - Barbora Baronová, publisher (wo-men), Czech Republic
 - Julia Ortiz, publisher (Criatura Editora), Uruguay
 - Djâili Amadou Amal, author, Cameroon
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- Ana Gallego Cuiñas, Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Granada (moderator)

Lunch (2-3:30 pm)

Group workshop: social and solidarity economy practices in the book sector (4-6 pm) / Pre-registration required

Animated by David Murray, publisher (Ecosociété, Quebec/Canada), Alfonso Serrano, publisher (La Oveja Roja, Madrid) y Mikel Buldain, publisher (Txalaparta, Navarre).

Face-to-face meetings between professionals (6-7 pm)

Face-to-face sectoral meetings (7-8 pm)

Thursday, 25 November 2021

Welcome (8:30-9 am)

Freedom of publishing/ fair speech (9-11:30 am)

In November 2021, the members of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers will publish an unprecedented collective study on the freedom of publishing. Their testimonies offer a unique and pluralistic overview of the freedom of publishing around the world. From state censorship in its “classic” sense to more insidious censorship (e.g. administrative), from mass/ societal censorship (conservative, nationalist or religious groups) that sometimes leads to self-censorship; from market censorship to the absence or shortcomings of public book policies, the multiple obstacles faced by book professionals threaten freedom of expression. Although it is part of the freedom of expression, the freedom of publishing, the freedom to choose an author, to take responsibility for his or her writings, to distribute them and to market them, is often prevented and limited, giving rise to circumvention practices that often forge the secret history of the texts we read. This round table will attempt to restore the plurality of voices and trajectories that shape the study, while giving voice to the movements of resistance and solidarity at work.

- Launch of a ground-breaking study on the freedom of publishing by members of the Alliance network. Freedom of publishing: what does it mean in 2021?
 - Words and testimonies from publishers. Free speech vs. fair speech in different regions of the world
- Azadeh Parsapour, publisher (Nogaam), Iran/ UK
 - Mohamed El Baaly, publisher (Sefsafa Publishing), Egypt
 - Tomaz Adour, publisher (Vermelho Marinho and LIBRE), Brazil
 - Müge Gursoy Sokmen, publisher (Metis Publishers), Turkey
 - Antoinette Koleva, publisher (KX Critique and Humanism), Bulgaria (moderator)

Coffee break (11:30am-12 pm)

Writing and publishing in ‘minority’ languages (12-2.00 pm)

It is said that the European Union alone has around 60 minority languages. In total, about 10% of the European population is fluent in these languages and, due to migration, this figure is increasing. Sometimes speakers (and readers) of a minority language outnumber speakers of one of the official languages, as is the case with Catalan, for example. The situation of these languages, as well as those without a written tradition, is very varied. Publishing in one of the minority languages involves often very complex challenges, which professionals in the sector will address in this round table.

- Marie Michèle Razafintsalama, publisher (Jeunes malgaches), Madagascar
- Dante Gonzales, publisher (Pakarina Ediciones), Peru
- Maria José Galvez, Director General of Books and Reading Promotion, Ministry of Culture
- Garazi Arrula, Basque language publisher (Txalaparta), Navarre (moderator)

Lunch (2.00-3:30 pm)

Group workshop: impact of digital advancements on the book sector (4-6 pm)

Pre-registration required

Animated by Octavio Kulesz, publisher (Editorial Teseo, Argentina) and Gilles Colleu (Vents d'ailleurs, France).

Face-to-face meetings between professionals (6-7:30 pm)

Friday, 26 November 2021

Welcome (8:30-9 am)

Collectively defining the future period of independent publishing within the Alliance (9 am-12 pm)

Internal working meetings of members of the Alliance

Action plan, guidelines, and governance for the period 2022-2025

All the Alliance's language networks will meet at least once between 2020 and 2021, virtually. The aim of these meetings per language network is to prepare the 2021-2022 Conference (identify priority themes, topics and projects for the Conference), to determine the networks' roadmap for the period 2021-2022 and to work on the governance of the association.

At the end of the Conference, the two main objectives are as follows

- Define the Alliance's objectives and action plan for 2022-2025 - based on the priority issues of the Conference
- Clarify and validate the governance of the association for the period 2022-2025

Coffee break (12-12.30 pm)

REthinking... the book of the future! (12:30-2 pm)

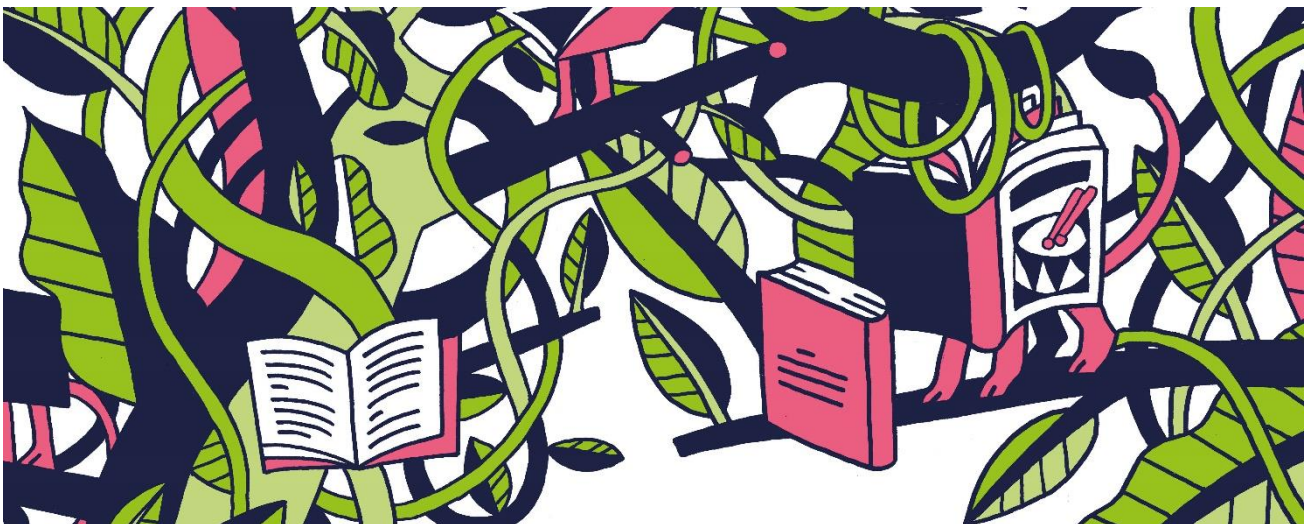
Speeches by Bibliodiversity Ambassadors (Vandana Shiva, author and activist, India and Djaili Amadou Amal, author, Cameroon)
Conference Declaration

Lunch (2-3:30 pm)

20 years of the Alliance (9 pm)

Saturday 27 November 2021

City tour (all day)



Participants

The **geographical and linguistic representation** of the participants will illustrate the diversity of voices of the Alliance, which includes more than 750 publishing houses in 55 countries around the world.

[See the list of participants here.](#)

Would you like to participate in the Conference?

Participation in the round tables and discussions is free and open to all ([with prior reservation](#)): we hope that many of you will participate!

If you need accommodation, the International Alliance of Independent Publishers has a list of partner hotels for the event on its website (preferential rates).

If you need a visa to attend the Conference, the Alliance can provide you with an invitation letter.

[To register for the Conference, click here!](#)

[To follow the Conference online, click here!](#)

For more information and details, please contact the International Alliance of Independent Publishers (equipe@alliance-editeurs.org).

Practical information

[See on Babelica website.](#)

Partners

The Conference is organised by



With the support from the following partners, to whom we extend our warmest thanks



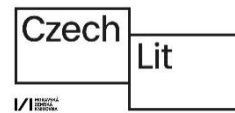
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The Board and the team of the International Alliance of Independent Publishers would also like to thank all the people who have made the Conference possible

Especially Mikel Buldain ([Txalaparta](#) and secretary of the [EDITARGI association](#), Province of Navarre), Aritz Otazu ([Editorial Mintzoa](#) and president of the [EDITARGI association](#), Province of Navarre), Alfonso Serrano ([La Oveja Roja](#), Madrid) and Paulo Slachevsky ([Lom Ediciones](#), Chile), members of the working group organising this Conference. The Conference is made possible thanks to their unwavering commitment, time, ideas and energy.

We also thank the [Madrid Book Fair](#) for providing a space to present the International Conference.

The [International Committee of Independent Publishers](#) (made up of the coordinators of the Alliance's language networks) and many publishers have also provided essential support throughout the process of organising this event –we thank them most warmly.

Several publishers have also contributed to the organisation of the Conference by offering to pay for their travel to Pamplona –thank you very much for this support.

We would also like to extend our warmest gratitude to [Elías Taño](#), the artist who designed the poster for this Conference.

Finally, the Conference is the fruit of a collective and intercultural dynamic: we are grateful to all the people who have been involved, from near and far, during the months leading up to the Conference.

Under the patronage of





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