

Press release
Tuesday 16 August



International Booker Prize 2023: Judges announced and submissions now open

[International Booker Prize](#) | @TheBookerPrizes
#InternationalBooker2023

Images of the judges can be found [here](#).

The judges for the International Booker Prize 2023 are revealed today, 16 August 2022, as [the prize opens for submissions](#).

The panel is chaired by the prize-winning French-Moroccan novelist, [Leïla Slimani](#). The panel also includes [Uilleam Blacker](#), one of Britain's leading literary translators from Ukrainian; [Tan Twan Eng](#), the Booker-shortlisted Malaysian novelist; [Parul Sehgal](#), staff writer and critic at the *New Yorker*; and [Frederick Studemann](#), Literary Editor of the *Financial Times*. The 2023 judging panel will be looking for the best work of translated fiction, selected from entries published in the UK or Ireland between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023.

The International Booker Prize, which highlights fiction from all five continents translated into English, continues to build in global importance every year. The winners' prize purse is £50,000; £25,000 for the author and £25,000 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). There will be a prize of £5,000 for each of the shortlisted titles: £2,500 for the author and £2,500 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators).

The announcement of the 2022 International Booker Prize winner, *Tomb of Sand*, written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, was met with both public and critical acclaim. The novel made history as the first book originally written in any Indian language to win the prize. The book's British publisher, Tilted Axis, ordered a 15,000 reprint the day after the announcement that it had won the International Booker Prize. Sales in the UK increased in volume by 877% compared to the week before the announcement. Before the win, *Tomb of Sand* did not have a US publisher, and had not been reviewed by any UK newspapers. It was subsequently praised as 'a triumph of literature' by the *Financial Times* and 'a novel of enormous intelligence' by *The Daily Telegraph*. The day after the announcement, US publisher HarperVia acquired the rights to the book.

And it wasn't just the publishing industry that was celebrating. Amul, a butter brand and household name in India, shared a delightful ode to Shree and Rockwell on its Twitter channel to 345k followers, with its fans claiming *Tomb of Sand's* Booker win a 'matter of pride for India'.

Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell are set to appear at this year's [Edinburgh International Book Festival](#) on Saturday 20 August (4.15-5.15pm) where they will be in conversation with Peggy Hughes.

Leïla Slimani, Chair of the International Booker Prize 2023 judges, comments:

'As a child, I lived in books. Through the magic of fiction, I was a Russian princess, a gold digger, a little orphan from the suburbs of London, an alchemist from the Colombian mountains. This is what novelists teach us and what translators offer us: in literature there are no borders, no illegals, no outcasts. Fiction is my home and I am more than happy to be able to live there for several months, surrounded by friends and colleagues, to celebrate our passion for words and stories. It is a great honour and responsibility to present this prestigious award to a novelist and to his or her translator whose talents have enabled them to be read by English-speaking readers.'

Fiammetta Rocco, Administrator of the International Booker Prize, adds:

'Led by Leïla Slimani, the five judges of the International Booker Prize 2023 bring a wealth of talent and global experience as writers, critics, translators - and most of all as readers. At the end of the prize cycle, in May 2023, their reading and discussions will give them an unparalleled view of the new fiction from around the world, written in other languages that has been translated into English and published in UK and Ireland. Their recommendations should leap to the top of your must-read list.'

The International Booker Prize longlist of 12 or 13 books will be announced in March 2023 and the shortlist of six books in April. The winning title will be announced at a ceremony in May.

About the judges

Leïla Slimani (Chair) is the bestselling author of *Lullaby* (published in America as *The Perfect Nanny*), one of *The New York Times Book Review*'s 10 Best Books of 2018, for which she became the first Moroccan woman to win France's most prestigious literary prize, the Prix Goncourt. Her first novel, *Adèle*, about a sex-addicted woman in Paris, won the Mamounia Prize for the best book by a Moroccan author written in French and inspired her non-fiction book *Sex and Lies: True Stories of Women's Intimate Lives in the Arab World*. A journalist and frequent commentator on women's and human rights, Slimani spearheaded a campaign - for which she won the Simone de Beauvoir Prize for Women's Freedom - to help Moroccan women speak out against their country's 'unfair and obsolete laws.' She is President Emmanuel Macron's personal representative for the promotion of the French language and culture. Born in Rabat, Morocco, in 1981, she now lives in Lisbon with her French husband and their two young children. Her most recent novel is *In The Country Of Others*, the first instalment of a planned trilogy fictionalising the author's family history.

Uilleam Blacker is Associate Professor of Comparative East European Literature at University College London. He is the author of *Memory, the City and the Legacy of World War II in East Central Europe* (Routledge). He has translated the work of many Ukrainian authors, including Oleg Sentsov's short story collection *Life Went On Anyway* (Deep Vellum). His translations of novels by Taras Prokhasko and Maik Yohansen will be published in the Harvard Library of Ukrainian Literature series. His translations have appeared in many anthologies and journals, including *The White Review*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, and *Words Without Borders*. He has written for *The*

Atlantic, *The Times Literary Supplement* and *The Literary Review*, among others. In 2022, he was Paul Celan Translation Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna.

Tan Twan Eng was born in Penang, Malaysia, and grew up in Kuala Lumpur. He is of Straits Chinese descent and speaks English, Penang Hokkien, and Malay, as well as some Cantonese. He studied law at University of London and was an intellectual property lawyer in Kuala Lumpur before becoming a full-time author. His debut novel, *The Gift of Rain*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2007. *The Garden of Evening Mists*, his second novel, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2012, more about which can be read at thebookerprizes.com. *The Gift of Rain* also won the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2012 and the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction in 2013, as well as being shortlisted for the Dublin IMPAC Prize in 2014. *The Garden of Evening Mists* has been adapted into an award-winning film. His novels have been translated into more than 15 languages. His third novel, *The House of Doors* will be published in spring 2023. He has a first-dan ranking in aikido and divides his time between Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Cape Town, South Africa.

Parul Sehgal was raised in India, Hungary, the Philippines and the United States. She is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. Previously, she was a book critic at the *New York Times*, where she also worked as a senior editor and columnist. She has won awards from the New York Press Club and the *National Book Critics Circle* for her criticism. She teaches in the graduate creative writing programme at New York University.

Frederick Studemann is Literary Editor of the *Financial Times*. He joined the *FT* in 1996 as Berlin correspondent since when he has held a number of roles across the paper, including Assistant News Editor, UK Correspondent, European News Editor, Comment & Analysis Editor and Assistant Editor. He was a founding member of *FT Deutschland* where he ran the features and weekend section. The son of restless, itinerant parents, he spent his early years in Cork and Dublin, before moving to London, with later postings in Berlin, the Soviet Union, Greece and Austria.

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Notes to Editors

- Images of the judges can be found [here](#)
- The International Booker Prize - awarded annually in spring - is for the best single work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK and Ireland. It was known until 2019 as the Man Booker International Prize when sponsored by Man Group. The winner's prize purse is £50,000; £25,000 for the author and £25,000 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). There will be a prize of £5,000 for each of the shortlisted titles: £2,500 for the author and £2,500 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). The announcement of the 2022 International Booker Prize winner, *Tomb of Sand*, written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, was met with both public and critical acclaim. The novel made history as the first book originally written in any Indian language to win the prize. The book's British publisher, Tilted Axis, ordered a

15,000 re-print the day after the winner announcement, and sales saw a 877% jump week on week in volume. HarperVia acquired the rights in the US shortly after.

- The rules state that the judging panel will be looking for the best work of translated fiction selected from entries published in the UK or Ireland between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023. There is no restriction on the number of submissions per publisher but this will be kept under review and may change in future years.

The judges may 'call in' any work published within this timeframe, even if that work has not been submitted or nominated for call in by a publisher. If the publisher agrees that the novel is to be considered then the publisher must sign an undertaking to the effect that the publisher will comply with all the rules of the prize.

The judges read the submissions and are responsible for compiling a longlist of 12 or 13 books, and from this a shortlist of six books from which they then choose a winner.

There are no fees for publishers to submit books for the prize, nor to be longlisted, shortlisted or win.

- The Booker Prize - awarded annually in the autumn - is the leading literary award in the English speaking world. It was first awarded in 1969 and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over five decades. It was called the Man Booker Prize for Fiction when sponsored by Man Group from 2002-2018. Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best work of long-form fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland, irrespective of the nationality or citizenship of the author. The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a global readership and can expect a dramatic increase in book sales. The 2021 winner was Damon Galgut with *The Promise*.
- The Booker Prize 2022 judging panel is chaired by cultural historian, writer and broadcaster Neil MacGregor. He is joined by academic and broadcaster Shahidha Bari; historian Helen Castor; novelist and critic M John Harrison; and novelist, poet and professor Alain Mabanckou. The 2022 longlist was announced on 26 July, the shortlist will be announced on 6 September and the winner on 17 October.
- The recently relaunched website, thebookerprizes.com - supported by Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts, as well as a YouTube channel - is a unique online space which showcases the 500+ exceptional books that have won, or been longlisted or shortlisted for the Booker Prize and International Booker Prize. The site aims to be an entertaining and illuminating content destination that combines both practical information about the prizes past and present with fresh and original features to bring the books and their authors to life, encouraging readers new and old to visit and revisit titles in the 'Booker Library'.
- The Director of the Booker Prize Foundation is Gaby Wood. The Administrator of The International Booker Prize is Fiammetta Rocco - senior editor and culture correspondent, *The Economist*.
- The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no 1090049) established in 2002. Its purpose is to promote the art and value of literature for the public benefit and its mission is to inspire people to read the world's best fiction. It is driven by a simple belief - great fiction not only brings joy to millions, it has the power to change the way we think about the world we live in. It is responsible for awarding the Booker Prize for Fiction and the

International Booker Prize. Other aspects of the Foundation's work include reading initiatives in prisons, writers' visits to universities, the distribution of books to disadvantaged readers, the funding of Braille and audio editions of Booker Prize books through the RNIB, and awarding the annual UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship.

- The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are: Mark Damazer (chair) - freelance journalist and former broadcast executive; Tony Damer (treasurer) - member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; Nick Barley - director, Edinburgh International Book Festival; Carol Lake - President of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation; Ben Okri - poet and author; MT Rainey - strategist, agency founder and social entrepreneur; Professor Dame Louise Richardson - vice chancellor of the University of Oxford; Nicki Sheard - chief marketing officer, BBC Studios; The Rt Hon. Lord David Willetts - writer, ex-minister and advocate of fairness between the generations.
- The Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee, which advises on any changes to the rules and on the selection of the judges, represents all aspects of the book world. Its members are: Nic Bottomley - co-founder, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights; Jamie Byng - publisher, Canongate Books; James Daunt - managing director of Waterstones; Jonathan Douglas CBE - director of the National Literacy Trust; Adam Freudenheim - publisher, Pushkin Press; Daniel Hahn OBE - writer and translator; Sharmaine Lovegrove - publisher, Dialogue Books; Emma Paterson - agent, Aitken Alexander Associates; Fiammetta Rocco - senior editor and culture correspondent, *The Economist*, and The International Booker Prize Administrator; Eve Smith - Secretary, Booker Prize Foundation; Boyd Tonkin - writer and critic; Helen Williams - Legal Counsel of Booker Group plc. It is chaired by Gaby Wood - Director, Booker Prize Foundation.
- Crankstart, a charitable foundation, is the exclusive funder of the Booker Prize and the International Booker Prize.
- Four Culture handles PR, comms and event management for the prizes and provides all events and administrative back-up.
- Booker Group is the UK's leading food & drink wholesaler with branches nationwide and a delivery network. It serves over 400,000 catering customers and 100,000 independent retailers.
- In 2009, the Booker Prize Foundation and the University of East Anglia came together to create the UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship. The Creative Writing course at UEA is a close historical relative of the Booker Prize, boasting as it does a number of alumni who have gone on to win the prize - including Anne Enright, Kazuo Ishiguro and Ian McEwan.

It is awarded annually to an applicant who has already been offered a place to study for an MA in Prize Fiction, but who in many cases would not be able to afford to accept were it not for the support of the Booker Prize Foundation. The scholar is chosen each year by members of the Creative Writing department in collaboration with the Director of the Booker Prize Foundation. Many past scholars have since met with acclaim as published authors.

The scholar for 2022/23 will be Zanta Nkumane (Eswatini). The past scholars are:

2009-10 D.W. Wilson (Canada)
2010-11 Anthony Good (UK)
2011-12 Eliza Robertson (Canada)

2012-13 Sharlene Teo (Singapore)
2013-14 Sarah Young (New Zealand)
2014-15 Anna Pook (UK)
2015-16 Kristien Potgieter (South Africa)
2016-17 Alake Pilgrim (Trinidad)
2017-18 Francis Gosper (Australia)
2018-19 Stephen Buoro (Nigeria)
2019-20 Daniel Wiles (UK)
2020-21 Esther Opeoluwa (Ope) Adedeji (Nigeria)
2021-22 Michael Egan (UK)

- The Booker Prize Foundation has a longstanding partnership with RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). The Foundation funds the production of The Booker Prize for Fiction shortlisted titles in braille and audio, which the RNIB produces by the date the winner is announced. It also funds the production of the winner of the International Booker Prize in these formats. The accessible versions are then made available to the tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted members of the RNIB Library. People with sight loss have a limited choice of books in accessible formats and often have to wait much longer than their sighted peers for titles to be made available to them - and there are many more books that they will never have the chance to read. The Foundation is working with RNIB to change this story. For further information contact the RNIB PR Team on 020 7391 2223 or pressoffice@rnib.org.uk
- The Booker Prize Foundation has partnered with the National Literacy Trust since 2012 to deliver Books Unlocked. The Foundation funds the programme, which has transformed the lives of prisoners and young offenders in the UK by helping them develop a love of reading. Prisoners are able to engage with high-quality writing as copies of The Booker Prize for Fiction and International Booker Prize shortlisted titles are sent out to prison reading groups. These same titles are also serialised as audiobooks on National Prison Radio, which is broadcast into c.80,000 cells, enabling still more prisoners to experience these exceptional stories. Authors go into prisons to discuss their writing directly with reading groups and many also record interviews on National Prison Radio. The shared vision for Books Unlocked is to bring about positive change in prisoners' life chances. Since 1993, the National Literacy Trust has led the campaign to transform the future of the UK's most disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy levels: literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/books-unlocked/
- The Booker Prize Archive was given on loan in 2003 to Oxford Brookes University, where it now resides.

Four Culture
August 2022