

Press Release

German Book Prize 2017: New jury, new academy members

Seven jury members nominated / New members in the German Book Prize Academy / Publishers may submit titles until 29 March 2017

Seven literary experts will decide which novel receives the German Book Prize 2017. The German Book Prize Academy has appointed Silke Behl (Radio Bremen), Mara Delius (*Die Welt*), Christian Dunker (autorenbuchhandlung berlin), Katja Gasser (Österreichischer Rundfunk), Maria Gazzetti (Casa di Goethe), Tobias Lehmkuhl (independent critic) and Lothar Schröder (*Rheinische Post*) as members of this year's jury.

"Books promote understanding in turbulent times. Literature brings people together. Novels teach us to understand our counterparts. Stories promote empathy. In its 13th year, the German Book Prize will once again encourage the general public to grapple with new novels. The seven members of our jury will help us with their selection. I am already looking forward to seeing what their choices will be", says Heinrich Riethmüller, president of the Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels and chairman of the German Book Prize Academy.

New academy members

The German Book Prize Academy is composed of representatives of the book and media industries. New members this year are: Nico Bleutge (winner of the Alfred Kerr Prize for literary criticism), Dr Siv Bublitz (vice-president of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels), Benedikt Föger (president of the Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels), Dr Kristina Hasenpflug (managing director of the Deutsche Bank Foundation), Rudolf Müller (managing director of the Müller & Böhm bookstore in the Heine Haus, Düsseldorf) and Andreas Rötzer (member of the spokespersons for IG Belletristik und Sachbuch).

Together with Juergen Boos (director of the Frankfurt Book Fair), Prof Monika Grütters (member of the German Bundestag, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media), Prof Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (president of the Goethe-Institut), Michael Münch (deputy chairman of the Deutsche Bank Foundation) and Heinrich Riethmüller (academy chairman,

president of the Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels) select a new jury every year to ensure the greatest level of independence for the award.

Publishers may submit their titles

Starting now, publishers may nominate their candidates at www.deutscher-buchpreis.de/anmeldung. Between now and 29 March 2017, they may submit two German-language novels each – and recommend up to five additional titles – from their current or forthcoming lists. Applicants must be members of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels – the German Publishers and Booksellers Association – or of the Swiss or Austrian equivalents, the Schweizer Buchhändler- und Verleger-Verband and the Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels. The books must be published between October 2016 and 12 September 2017 (when the shortlist will be announced). The books themselves, reading copies, e-books or galley proofs may be submitted up until 16 June 2017.

The novel of the year will be selected through a multiple-stage process. First, the jury will review all of the novels submitted by the publishers and compile a longlist of 20 titles. This list will be announced on 15 August 2017. From this list, the jurors will then select six titles for the shortlist, which will be published on 12 September 2017. These six authors will only find out which of them has won the German Book Prize on the evening of the award ceremony, which will take place in the Kaisersaal of the Frankfurt Römer on 9 October 2017, to coincide with the start of the Frankfurt Book Fair. The winner will receive 25,000 euros, the five finalists 2,500 euros each.

The German Book Prize is awarded by the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels Stiftung – the Foundation of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association. It receives funding from the Deutsche Bank Foundation, and additional partners include the Frankfurt Book Fair and the city of Frankfurt am Main. The television network Deutsche Welle supports the German Book Prize in its media activities both at home and abroad.

For additional information and the online application form, please visit www.deutscher-buchpreis.de. The hashtag for the German Book Prize 2017 is #dbp17.

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