

**#SWF18**  
**STOCKHOLM WRITERS**  
**FESTIVAL**  
**2018 Program**



[www.stockholmwritersfestival.com](http://www.stockholmwritersfestival.com)

**Berghs School of Communications, Stockholm, Sweden**

Festival Wifi is "Berghs". No password needed.

The doorcode is 1804.

**Find Your Path to Published**

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#SWF18



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Venue area map



# Day 1: Friday, April 13

## **4:00 p.m. SWF18 Café**

Registration opens, coffee.

## **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Main Auditorium**

Welcome to SWF18 - Stepping onto the path to published.

### **Inspiration from our authors:**

Get to know some of the SWF18 faculty by listening to short passages from their work.

**Featuring:** Elinor Lipman, Derek B. Miller, Jess Lourey, Cassie Gonzales, Marina Blitshteyn

### **First Pages Prize award presentation**

Discover the winners of our inaugural literary competition, the First Pages Prize. Offered by SWF and The de Groot Foundation, the prize is designed to recognize the talent of emerging writers with generous cash prizes, partial developmental editing, and an agent/editor meeting for our winner and four finalists.

### **“Find your tribe” genre call out:**

Meet like-minded writers at the festival for support in the future.

## **6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Grab a bite to eat at a local Stockholm eatery and then meet us at Hotel Hellsten for a mingle.

### **8:00 p.m. Mingle at the Hellsten:**

Hotel Hellsten Earth Bar, Luntmakargatan 68. Our official hotel sponsor will offer special drinks for SWF attendees.

See map on page 1 for the Festival area.

See page 17 for dining options in the area.

# Day 2: Saturday, April 14

## 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. SWF18 Café

Additional registration, coffee, welcome.

## 9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Main Auditorium

What’s changing in the industry and the best strategies for pitching today

Disruption in traditional publishing. Self-publishing. Digital dominance. These are just a few of the trends changing “business as usual” in the writing world. Our industry experts discuss the ramifications for authors and share their tips on standing out from the crowd. Bring your questions and soak up insider insights.

**Panelists:** Terri Bischoff, Rebecca Carter, Amy Cherry, Peta Nightingale, Brooks Sherman

10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. Breakout Session One		
Module A Main Auditorium	Module B Room 25	Module C Room 27
How to use setting to move your story	Memoir: Writing from past pain	Revolutionize your writing with 3 easy editing hacks

### Module A ■ How to use setting to move your story

Adnan Mahmutovic

The details you use in your prose should serve as more than just “window dressing.” By creating vivid descriptions of setting, authors can signal the inner turmoil of a crisis, convey tone, and telegraph feelings the characters in a story may not even realize they’re experiencing. Adnan Mahmutovic, award-winning author and founder of Stockholm University’s MA program in Transnational Creative Writing, shows you how to infuse every word in your manuscript with more power to carry the themes of your writing.

### Module B ■ Memoir: Writing from past pain

Julie Lindahl

Is there something painful in your past that you’ve thought of writing about, but don’t know where to start and wonder about the consequences? In the spring of 2010 Brazilian-born Julie Lindahl visited the German Federal Archives in Berlin in desperation. The past had cast a shadow over her family and asphyxiated relationships, leaving suffering in its trail. She suspected the worst, and her fears were confirmed as she learned that her grandparents had been in the SS in occupied Poland throughout the duration of World War II, fleeing to Latin America in 1960, shortly before the trial of Adolf Eichmann. How she discovered and reconciled the truth is the subject of her memoir, *The Pendulum: In the Frightening Realm of Unclaimed Guilt*. Learn the transformational power of storytelling and how to translate a painful past into powerful writing.

## Day 2: Saturday, April 14 (cont)

### Module C ■ Revolutionize your writing with three easy editing hacks

Jess Lourey

Editing is supposed to improve your writing, but how do you know if you're doing it right? Join Jess Lourey, author of 16 books, including *Rewrite Your Life: Discover Your Truth Through the Healing Power of Fiction*. Learn the three must-haves of big-picture editing and how to apply the ARISE method to craft a story your reader won't be able to put down. As a special bonus: get your hands on the ultimate line-editing checklist.

### 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Main Auditorium

Buttonhole the expert—Part I

A speed-dating activity where participants move between tables asking questions of experts. Topics range from how to create a great non-fiction proposal to tips for getting through writer's block. There are two sessions, so mix it up and take the opportunity to talk to the experts in a small group format. See page 14 for topics.

(Agent/Editor Pitch Meetings will be held during this time.)

### 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch

Our central location offers a wide-range of dining options. The closest, Urban Deli, offers a 20% discount in their restaurant and café to SWFers. Take your coupon or ask a volunteer.

### 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Main Auditorium

Buttonhole the expert—Part II See page 14 for topics.

(Agent/Editor Pitch Meetings will be held during this time.)

<b>2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.</b> Breakout Session Two		
<b>Module A Room 25</b>	<b>Module B Main Auditorium</b>	<b>Module C Room 27</b>
To "Indie or not to indie," that is the question...	From inspiration to story: the role of research	Infusing elements of game writing into fiction

### Module A ■ To "Indie or not to indie"

Panelists: Lizzie Harwood, Paddy Kelly, Kim Golden Malmgren

With the rise of digital publishing, self-publishing or "indie publishing" is alluring yet confusing. More and more authors choose to go indie, work with hybrid or small imprints, or even crowdfund (e.g. *Unbound* by Penguin). How to navigate this landscape? And can there be a return to traditional after starting out indie? Our panel of indie authors (writing memoir/contemporary fiction, sci-fi/fantasy, and romance) discuss if this path is for you and how to go indie with success.

## Day 2: Saturday, April 14 (cont)

### Module B ■ From inspiration to story: The role of research

Jenny White

Research. The word is dry. Academic. But bestselling author Jenny White knows it's anything but boring. Find out how research can transform a story, breathe life into it, or push it in an entirely new direction. Learn the techniques Jenny developed while writing three historical novels set in nineteenth-century Istanbul.

### Module C ■ Infusing elements of game writing into fiction

Eira Ekre

Eira is Senior Narrative Designer at King, one of the world's leading game companies. She's a pioneer in teaching narrative game design for the Nordic region's biggest studios and universities. She is the co-author of *Stockholms Undergång* and *Zonen Vi Ärvde*. Eira co-founded the author's collective, Fruktan. In June, her first children's book will be published by B. Wahlströms Bokförlag.

3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Breakout Session Three		
Module A Main Auditorium	Module B Room 25	Module C Room 27
Subtext: Finding the heart of your story	Writing from abroad: Its effects on language and imagination	Unlikely paths to published: Inspiration and practical tips to find your way to success

### Module A ■ Subtext: Finding the heart of your story

Cassie Gonzales

In every story there's the main action: the what and how a character acts. And there's the why, or the subtext. Getting to the subtext of a narrative transforms it from ordinary to extraordinary and enriches the reader's experience. Find out how to spot the themes of your manuscript and bring them forward to create more powerful stories.

### Module B ■ Writing from abroad: Its effects on language and imagination

Derek B. Miller

Writing in your mother tongue from abroad. What are the challenges of experiencing our home countries as "distant listeners?" Conversely, what are the advantages? Derek has thoughts on both as a novelist, as a social scientist, and as an American who has lived abroad for 22 years—the last seven in Oslo, Norway. In this session he shares his personal insights on writing about home from abroad. And he also gives his perspective on how to bridge the distance gap in theory and practice.

### Module C ■ Unlikely paths to published: Inspiration and practical tips to find your way to success

Panelists: Paul Rapacioli, Lola Akinmade Åkerström, Katarina Bivald

The journey to put a book into the hands of readers is as varied as the writing represented by this panel. Use these author's stories as inspiration for your own! Paul got his inspiration from a controversial news story. Lola started out as a systems architect and ended up a bestselling author and National Geographic photographer. Katarina went from working in a bookstore to getting a book deal after setting her novel in a country she'd never even been to.

## Day 2: Saturday, April 14 (cont)

### 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. SWF18 Café

Fika - Swedish for coffee break.

Get your books signed. Take an author headshot with a professional photographer. Make new friends.

### 4:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. Main Auditorium

Find your superpower.

What keeps us writing? How do we build a writing practice that will sustain us over the long haul? A writer's path is often difficult and lonely, no matter how many books you've published. Find out how our authors keep going even when things get tough.

**Panelists:** Katarina Bivald, Jess Lourey, Derek B. Miller, Marina Blitshteyn, Elinor Lipman

### 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Main Auditorium

Keynote Address by Elinor Lipman: "What—no outline?"

Moving forward one sentence at a time without apology."

Elinor Lipman published her first novel, *Then She Found Me*, in 1990, later adapted as a feature film, written by, starring and directed by Helen Hunt. Her latest novel, *On Turpentine Lane*, is, according to the New York Times, "constructed with an almost scary mastery. Not a single thread dangles, not a single character is left without a place in Faith's world. The story folds out and back in as neatly as an origami flower..."

#SWF18 is thrilled to have Elinor as our keynote speaker. Festival goers are sure to gain insight and inspiration from one of America's leading writers as she shares her "one-sentence-at-a-time" process.

### 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Grab a bite to eat at a local Stockholm eatery and meet us back at Hotel Helsten for a mingle.

### 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Mingle and Literary Idol event

At Hotel Hellsten, Luntmakargatan 68. Join us in the **Glass Room** where we'll serve wine and hors d'oeuvres. **Literary idol** is a fun game-show style event where the first page of an anonymous manuscript is read to an SWF judging panel. Judges buzz in at the point where they would stop reading. A brief summary is conducted reviewing the turn-offs and strengths of each piece.

**Reader:** Marina Blitshteyn

**Judges:** Elinor Lipman, Brooks Sherman, Peta Nightingale, Terri Bischoff, Amy Cherry



# Day 3: Sunday, April 15

## 9:00 a.m. Main Auditorium

Welcome and room assignments for Intensive Workshops.

- Manuscript Makeover
- Finding Fiction in Truth
- Indie Publishing: Building your platform
- Write and Sell Your Novel: From Idea to Publication
- Upping Your Travel Writing Game
- Sound and Sense

## 9:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meet in respective rooms

See the following information boxes below and on the next page.

## 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

There are many local eateries open on Sunday. Or go to Urban Deli and use your 20% off coupons in the cafe or restaurant.

## 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Continuation of Intensives

## 2:30 p.m. Main Auditorium

Gathering to end SWF18.

<b>Manuscript Makeover</b> <b>Cassie Gonzales</b> <b>Room 34</b>
<p>Participants will receive a detailed critique on the first five pages of a work-in-progress. These pages will be used to teach story hooks, narrative voice, characterization, and plot. This workshop will be full of tips and tricks useful to writers of all genres across fiction, non-fiction, and drama.</p>

<b>Finding Fiction in Truth</b> <b>Adnan Mahmutovic</b> <b>Room 25</b>
<p>In this session, participants looking to start a project arrive with a page of description of actual events. Then are walked through the process of preventing the facts from “getting in the way” of the truth of their story.</p>

## Day 3: Sunday, April 15 (cont)

**Indie Publishing: Building your platform**  
**Kim Golden Malmgren**  
**Room 23**

Learn the steps for creating a great platform for your independent book effort during this in-depth workshop. Topics covered include creating a social media platform authentic to your work, choosing your publication channels, and sustaining marketing to support sales.

**Write and Sell Your Novel: From Idea to Publication**  
**Jess Lourey**  
**Room 38**

Learn a seven-step process for transforming an idea into a novel in six months. Topics covered in this workshop include crafting memorable characters, building a page-turning plot, creating cinematic settings, and landing an agent or self-publishing. Bring your ideas as well as something to write with and on.

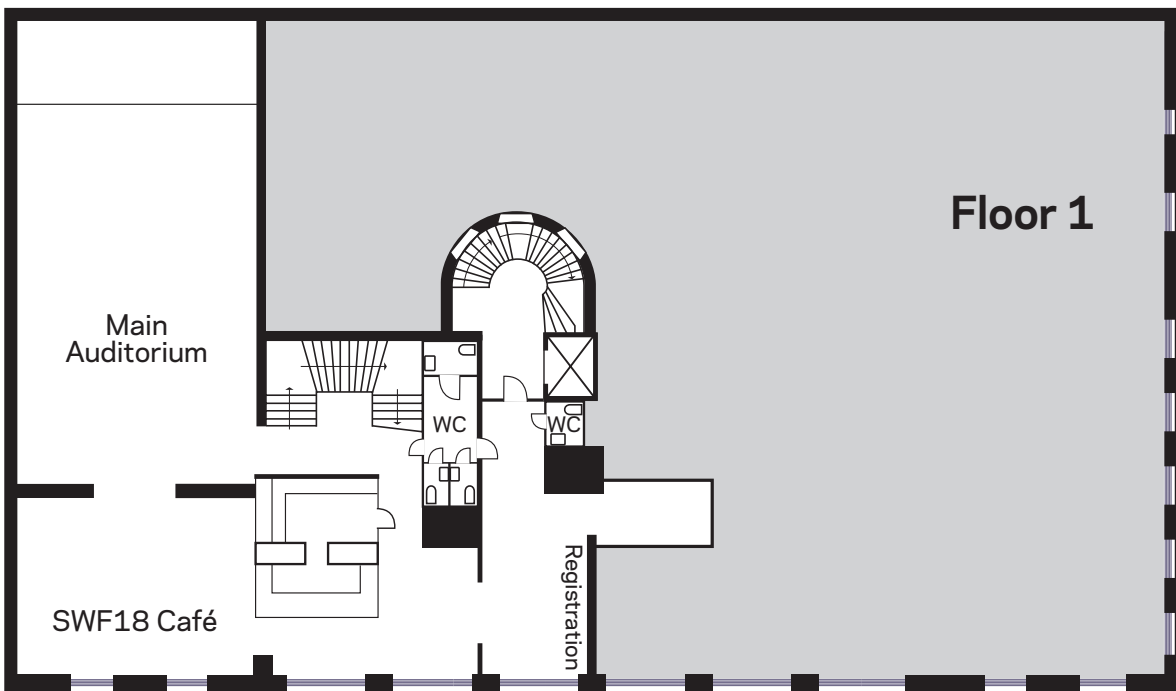
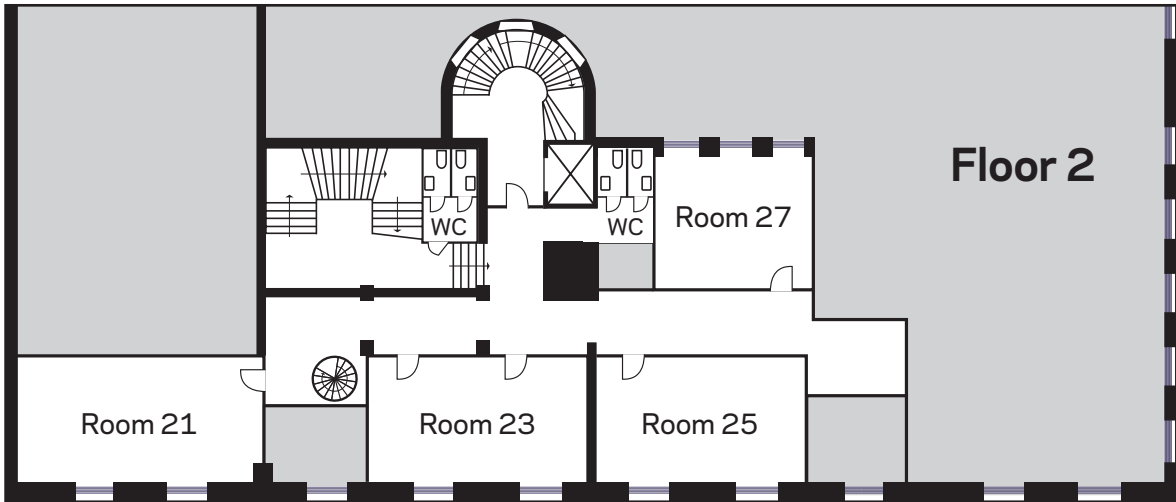
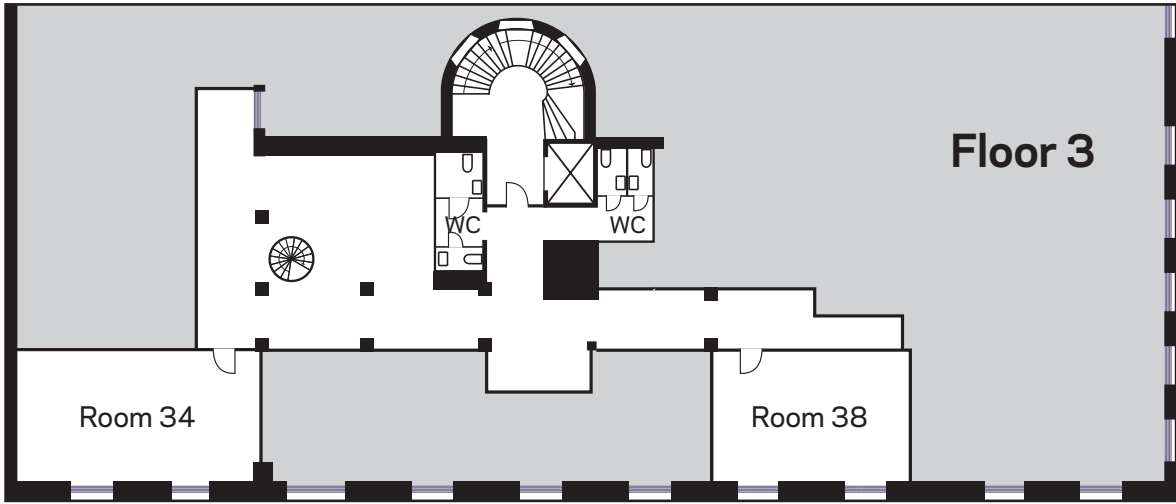
**Upping Your Travel Writing Game**  
**Lola Akinmade Åkerström**  
**Room 21**

Participants will learn practical ways of improving both their narrative and service-style travel writing including short peer-to-peer critiques and valuable resources for pitching their travel stories to various publications. This includes finding unique story angles, crafting pitches, and tightening your overall storytelling skills. Whether you are just beginning or are already published, take your writing to the next level in this session.

**Sound and Sense**  
**Marina Blitshteyn**  
**Room 27**

Get to know a language by playing with it! In this workshop we'll be breaking apart familiar and unfamiliar words by their look and their sound in order to make new meaning. We will be composing oddly rhymed poems, homophonic translations of forgotten languages, and alienating ourselves from semantic sense. Bring a notebook and a sense of adventure.

# BERGHS FLOOR PLANS



# Meet our SWF18 Faculty

## Agents, editors, publishers

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### Terri Bischoff - Acquiring Editor, Midnight Ink

Terri joined Midnight Ink as Acquiring Editor in October 2009. She leads all editorial direction and creates the seasonal lists. She has dramatically increased the number of titles per season, publishing between 36 to 40 titles per year, as well as expanded the type of crime fiction MI has published. Terri has a wealth of experience and knowledge in both mysteries and in bookselling, particularly as book buyer and reviewer. She has worked at Kramer Books in Washington, DC, and more recently, Terri owned and operated Booked for Murder Mystery Bookstore in Madison, WI.

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### Rebecca Carter - Literary Agent, Janklow & Nesbit

Rebecca joined the UK office of Janklow & Nesbit in 2012, after 15 years as a Commissioning Editor at the Random House imprints Chatto & Windus and Harvill Secker. She represents both fiction and non-fiction, bringing her long editorial and publishing experience to bear on all aspects of the publication process.

In fiction, she is looking for new literary fiction writers, as well as writers of upmarket crime and thrillers, and some children's and YA authors. She has varied taste in fiction, enjoying the spare and the dark as well as the rich and linguistically playful; the big family drama alongside a more pared back story; the biting contemporary as well as the reflectively historical; novels set in worlds already familiar, as well as those opening up different, distant lives and places. In non-fiction, her curiosity and tastes are similarly broad but she works mainly in the fields of history, politics, social and cultural commentary, design and technology, the environment and travel, often mixed together with memoir, and with a strong emphasis on quality of writing and storytelling. Her authors include Rutger Bregman, Tara Isabella Burton, Elly Griffiths, Olivia Laing, Derek B Miller, Nell Stevens and Rebecca Stott.

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### Amy Cherry - Senior Editor, W. W. Norton

Amy is vice president and senior trade editor at W. W. Norton, an independent publisher of serious nonfiction and literary fiction. Primarily a nonfiction editor, works she has acquired have won, among others, the Pulitzer Prize, James Beard Award, Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and PEN Open Prize. She can't keep her hands off of fiction, though, and has worked with Jenny White, Irvine Welsh, Chuck Palahniuk, Lawrence Hill, and Neil Gaiman (*Norse Mythology*).

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### Peta Nightingale - Head of Talent, Bookouture

Founded by Oliver Rhodes and recently acquired by Hachette UK, Bookouture is a market-leading digital publisher with a wide list of international bestsellers in crime fiction, contemporary women's fiction, historical fiction, chick lit, saga and more. Peta joined Bookouture in February 2017 after 28 years in publishing, both as a publisher and an agent with Law Ltd. She manages the submissions, contractual and rights processes, working with authors either directly or through literary agents.

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## Brooks Sherman – Literary Agent, Janklow & Nesbit

Brooks is a literary agent with Janklow & Nesbit Associates. His client list includes #1 New York Times bestseller Angie Thomas (*The Hate U Give*), New York Times bestseller Adam Silvera (*They Both Die at the End*), Morris Award winner Becky Albertalli (*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*), acclaimed author/illustrator Sam Gorton (*I Am Otter*), and many more.

Brooks is currently on the lookout for middle-grade fiction of all genres (especially fantasy and contemporary), young adult fiction of all genres except paranormal romance, character-driven picture books with an emphasis on humor, and adult fantasy and science fiction. Across all categories, he seeks projects that balance strong voice with gripping plot. Ones that make him laugh earn extra points! He is particularly drawn to stories that elevate marginalized voices and where contemporary social issues are either prominently centered or woven into the world building; he prefers nuanced narratives over “issue books,” in which characters confront such issues over the course of larger personal journeys. Brooks is a member of AAR and SCBWI. He lives in Brooklyn, but you can find him sharing publishing perspectives and horrible puns on Twitter at @byobrook

## Authors

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### Lola Akinmade Åkerström

Lola has written for National Geographic Traveler, the BBC, CNN, the Guardian, Travel & Leisure, Slate, Travel Channel, Lonely Planet, Fodor’s Travel and National Geographic Channel, among others. Her articles and photography have been syndicated on MSNBC, Slate, Yahoo, New York Daily News, Chicago Sun Times, Huffington Post, and Time Warner. Her bestselling book, *Lagom*, was released in 2017 by Headline Publishing and has been translated into 17 languages.

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### Katarina Bivald

Katarina grew up working part-time in a bookshop. Today she lives in Stockholm, Sweden, with as many bookshelves as she can squeeze in. *Life, Motorcycles, and Other Impossible Projects* is her second novel, following her New York Times bestselling debut *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend*, which has now been published in 28 countries; the novel won the Debut of the Year award at the French literary festival.

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### Marina Blitshteyn

Born in the Soviet Union, Marina’s family fled in 1991 and settled in Buffalo, New York as refugees. She studied English at SUNY Buffalo and creative writing at Columbia University. She is author of *Two Hunters*, to be published by Argos Books in 2018. Prior chapbooks include *Russian for Lovers* (Argos Books), *\$kill\$* (dancing girl press), *Nothing Personal* (Bone Bouquet Books) and the forthcoming *Sheet Music* (Sunnyoutside Press). She teaches composition, rhetoric and experimental nonfiction in New York City.

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### Eira A. Ekre

Eira is Senior Narrative Designer at King, one of the world’s leading game companies. She’s a pioneer in teaching narrative game design for the Nordic region’s biggest studios and universities. She is the co-author of *Stockholms Undergång* and *Zonen Vi Ärvde*. Eira co-founded the author’s collective, Frukta. In June, her first children’s book will be published by B. Wahlströms Bokförlag.

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### Kim Golden

Kim was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1995, she left the US and moved to Sweden for love with a capital L with her gorgeous Swede. She writes US Today bestselling romance stories for people who know that love comes in every color. When not writing fiction, she writes copy about perfume and lipstick for a Swedish cosmetics firm.

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### Cassie Gonzales

A creative writing fellow at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Cassie holds a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Oxford. Her work has been featured in several literary journals including the Kenyon Review. Her play REX has been published and staged throughout the United States.

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### Lizzie Harwood

Lizzie's writing has been published by the "big five" (Vintage), and an independent publisher in the US, before she indie published *Xamnesia*, a memoir, and *Triumph*, contemporary women's fiction. Both works have reached international Amazon bestseller status despite being in divergent genres. She is also a copywriter and literary consultant.

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### Paddy Kelly

Paddy got his first literary rejection at age 12 but he didn't let it get to him. Since then, he has published fiction, articles and poetry in a range of online and analog outlets (one of which was actually called Analog). His fiction is mostly but not entirely in the area of science fiction, and he has two self-published works with more positive reviews than he has family members, which is a good trick. A qualified teacher and physicist, Paddy works with neither of those things, but he does enjoy sharing the few crumbs of writing wisdom he's collected over the decades. He also dances belly dance.

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### Julie Lindahl

Julie is a Fulbright scholar and holds a master of philosophy in international relations from Oxford University. She is launching a global online learning program in connection with her memoir, *The Pendulum*. It explores how she confronted the dark secrets of her family and her grandfather's past as a member of the SS in Nazi Germany. An expanded version of her memoir will be released by Rowman and Littlefield (US) and Norstedts (Sweden) in 2018.

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### Elinor Lipman

Elinor is the author of 13 books of fiction and nonfiction, including *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Isabel's Bed*, *The Family Man*, *The View from Penthouse B*, and *I Can't Complain: (All Too) Personal Essays*, and most recently, *On Turpentine Lane*. Her rhyming tweets were published in 2012 as *Tweet Land of Liberty: Irreverent Rhymes from the Political Circus*. She has taught at Simmons College, Hampshire College and Smith College in the US, and was in 2011-2012 Elizabeth Drew Professor in creative writing at Smith College. Her novel, *Then She Found Me*, was adapted into a 2008 feature film starring Helen Hunt, Colin Firth and Bette Midler.

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### Jess Lourey

Jess is a Lefty- and Anthony-nominated author best known for her critically-acclaimed Murder-by-Month mysteries, which have earned multiple starred reviews from Library Journal and Booklist, the latter calling her writing “a splendid mix of humor and suspense.”

Jess also writes sword and sorcery fantasy, edge-of-your-seat YA adventure, magical realism, and feminist thrillers. She is a tenured professor of creative writing and sociology, a recipient of The Loft’s Excellence in Teaching fellowship, a regular Psychology Today blogger, and a TEDx presenter. When not teaching, reading, or dorking out with her family, you can find her dreaming of her next story. *Rewrite Your Life: Discover Your Truth Through the Healing Power of Fiction*, the only book to walk readers through the healing process of transforming personal experience into bestselling fiction, was released May 2017.

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### Adnan Mahmutovic

Adnan became a refugee of war in 1993 and wound up in Sweden. He has a doctorate degree in English literature and master of fine arts degree in creative writing. He is a lecturer and writer-in-residence at the Department of English, Stockholm University. His stories have dealt with contemporary European history and the issues of identity and home for Bosnian refugees. His works include *Thinner Than a Hair* (novel), *How to Fare Well and Stay Fair* (short stories), and *Ways of Being Free* (literary criticism).

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### Derek B. Miller

Derek is an American novelist and international affairs professional. His first novel, *Norwegian by Night*, was called one of the best six novels in the world by the Economist and was shortlisted for seven literary awards. It won the Crime Writer’s Association John Creasy (New Blood) Dagger Award. Miller’s second novel, *The Girl in Green*, was published in 2016 and shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger. In 2018, Miller released *American by Night*.

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### Paul Rapacioli

Paul is the founder of Swedish news company The Local, which provides Europe’s news in English to five million readers each month. His recent book, *Good Sweden, Bad Sweden*, draws on more than a decade of news coverage to explain how the story of this unique country is being told in a post-truth world.

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### Jenny White

Jenny is a writer and a social anthropologist. Her first novel, *The Sultan’s Seal*, was published in 2006. It was translated into 14 languages and is available as a paperback and audiobook. Booklist has named it one of the top 10 first novels of 2006 and one of the top 10 historical novels of 2006. It was shortlisted for the 2006 The Crime Writers’ Association Ellis Peters Historical Award. The sequel, *The Abyssinian Proof*, was published in February 2008 (W. W. Norton). A third Kamil Pasha novel, *The Winter Thief*, was published in 2010.

# Buttonhole the expert topics

This is a “speed-dating” type activity where participants move between tables asking questions of experts. Topics range from how to create a great non-fiction proposal to getting into the world of gaming. There are two rounds, so mix it up and take the opportunity to talk to experts in a small group format.



**Katarina Bivald**  
Getting Swedish work published abroad



**Marina Blitshteyn**  
How to submit your work on-line



**Eira Ekre**  
Getting into the world of game writing



**Julie Lindahl**  
Crafting your non-fiction proposal



**Lola Akinmade Åkerström**  
Using social media to create a platform



**Jess Lourey**  
Editing hacks & blasting through writer’s block



**Jenny White**  
Research



**Lizzie Harwood**  
Story Structure



**Kim Golden Malmgren**  
Indie publishing



**Paddy Kelly**  
Query letters



# Tips for making the most out of SWF

## 1. **Come prepared.**

Before you arrive, check out the details about our authors and agents.

## 2. **Practice your elevator pitch.**

Who are you? What do you do? Why are you attending SWF?

## 3. **Wear your nametag.**

It makes it easier for everyone to get to know you and will serve as your entrance ticket to the sessions.

## 4. **Identify your SWF hosts.**

We are the ones wearing white t-shirts and badges with a SWF button. We can answer your questions about the festival or Stockholm. And if we can't figure out the answer, we will find someone who can. We are here to help you get the most out of this wonderful experience.

## 5. **Take notes.**

Use this notebook, your phone, laptop or whatever works the best for you. It doesn't matter how you do it, just do it. Trust us. You will be receiving so much good advice and information over the next few days that you will want to keep track of it all.

## 6. **Make friends.**

Meeting new people can be difficult, especially for writers who can often be introverts. But we all have something in common here—writing! So reach out and start a conversation with someone new.

## 7. **Bring business cards.**

Make it easy to be contacted and keep in touch with all the great new people you will meet. And take notes on the cards you get so you remember the connection.

## 8. **Be respectful.**

It's not advisable to pitch agents in the bathroom!

# A few fun facts about Stockholm

by Sandra Carpenter, Stockholm-based writer and editor

Often called the **Venice of the North**, Stockholm's center is made up of 14 islands and its archipelago has 24,000 more. Sailboats and wooden motorboats seemingly lifted from the 1950s French Riviera cruise around the islands and serve as a reminder that one of the best ways to see the city is from the water—try the classic Stromma steamboats or chart your own course on a GoBoat.

Stockholm's neighborhoods have different personalities and **Södermalm**, for instance, is where writers like me and other creatives live. Incidentally, it's also where the good guys in Stieg Larsson's *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* live.

The **Old Town, Gamla Stan**, is where all visitors go and for good reason. This island, with buildings dating from the 1600s, has winding cobblestone streets, charming squares, churches, museums, a castle and all kinds of restaurants, cafés, bars and places to shop. **Västerlånggatan** and **Österlånggatan** are the busy main streets, but to escape the crowds, create your own experience. First head to **Stortorget** – the oldest square in Stockholm and the scene of a bloodbath in 1520 – to see the colorful collection of buildings dating from the 1400-1700s. Then wander down any of the tiny streets off of it to explore the many nooks and crannies. Use a map to find **Mårten Trotzigs Gränd**, the narrowest street, and **Brända Tomten** square, where you can relax under the big chestnut tree. Check out neighboring islet **Riddarholmen** to see the church, one of the oldest buildings in Stockholm – chances are good that you'll find quiet here, too.

**Sightseeing:** The Stockholm Free Tours are good and yes, they are free. (That said, you can tip if you like.) Several tours are offered in English and guides are friendly, know their history and culture, and are willing to answer questions and offer tips on where to go.

**Getting around on public transport:** Buy an SL card in the **Pressbyrån** shops in the subway stations and you can use it not only on the subway and bus, but also for the ferries. Plus, the subway system is called the “*world's longest art exhibit*” and you will want to, at the very least, see the **Kungsträdgården** stop's “*archaeological excavation*” and murals.

**Eat like a Swede:** If you have to have meatballs, have them Swedish style with potatoes, lingonberries and pickled cucumber. While they are fabulous, the more unique option is to try **skagenröra** – Swedish shrimp salad on toast, often garnished with caviar. One of the classic places to have both dishes is **Prinsen**.

To better understand Stockholm, stop for a fika. Literally translated, fika means to have coffee. But culturally, the word implies much more than just that. In short, you need to slow down, have coffee, a pastry and conversation. As for your pastry, try a **kanelbull** or cinnamon roll. Cafes where you can fika are everywhere, but a traditional favorite is **Vete-Katten**.

**What to buy:** To bring a bit of Sweden home, get one of the traditional hand painted Dala horses. For a taste of Stockholm, get a bottle of Snaps from a Systembolaget alcohol store.

**Photo Opps:** For great views of Stockholm, head to *Monteliusvägen*, the cliffside path that looks over Lake *Mälaren*, City Hall and *Riddarholmen*. It's a great spot to be at sunrise and sunset. Make sure to use a map to find your way around the steep cobblestone streets to find the path.

## Where to eat and be merry

**Following are a few suggestions for food and drinks near our festival sites:**

- **Urban Deli**, Sveavägen 44: A combination of bar, restaurant, food hall. You can buy readymade salads and more to take with you. And you'll get 20 percent off your purchase in the café and restaurant with your coupon.

Along *Luntmakargatan*—the street the Hellsten is on—you will find a variety of Asian fare. A few options include:

- **Arirang Restaurant**, Luntmakargatan 65: Korean.
- **LaoWai**, Luntmakargatan 74: Chinese homestyle vegetarian. This place is tiny, casual and a good bet for lunch.
- **Cumin Club**, Luntmakargatan 90: Indian.

Along *Tegnérgatan*, just, off of *Luntmakargatan*, there are all sorts of restaurants and bars. Our suggestions:

- **Man in the Moon**, Tegnérgatan 2C: Casual pub.
- **Paladar de Cuba & Havana Rum Bar**, Tegnérgatan 19: Caribbean/Cuban cuisine.
- **Bierhaus**, Tegnérgatan 10: German style beer pub.
- **Ralf's Kok**, Tegnérgatan 41: Modern Nordic cuisine.
- **Pho & Bun**, Tegnérgatan 19: Super casual Vietnamese noodles and soups.
- **The Queen's Head**, Drottninggatan 108: Classic English pub.
- **Steam**, Tegnérgatan 4: Dumplings.

**Also nearby if you walk just a few minutes further:**

**Hötorgshallen Saluhall:** A food hall where you can sit down to eat or pick up food. You will find Swedish classics as well as food from around the world.

**Note:** We recommend you check out websites for open times, menu and pricing. See any of the SWF staff if you need help finding anything.

# Acknowledgments

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Our sincere thanks go to Clydette and Charles de Groot for their support of the inaugural First Pages Prize, which recognizes five emerging writers of fiction, creative nonfiction or poetry to complete their manuscript with the help of a cash award and partial developmental editing.

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## About us

So, who's behind the Stockholm Writers Festival? A group of writers and literary lovers who want to do their part to help the English-language scene here flourish.

### **SWF board members:**

Catherine Pettersson, Founder, President

Lizzie Harwood, Vice President

Elizabeth Clark Wessel, Vice President

Sandra Carpenter, Vice President

Adnan Mahmutovic, Vice President

Cassie Gonzales, Community Outreach

### **Committee members:**

Amy Brown, Hilarie Cutler, Rebecca Foreman, Karen Hagersten, Steven Hahn, Afra Harwood, Sarah Hollister, Paddy Kelly, Kimberly Golden Malmgren, Olivia Olsen, Marti Parker♥, Ron Pavellas, Carol Snyder, Kendal von Sydow, Cassandra Ware Blomberg, and Susan Wuest

### **And our amazing Stockholm University Creative Writing**

#### **MA student volunteers:**

Sophie Austin, Clarellen Engler, Sofia Fransson, Adriana Martinez, Chris Somos-Stroutzas, Nikki Tomates and Ting J. Yiuu



# Resources

Bolster your writing career with these handy resources.

**Online Groups:**

**Facebook groups:** The Stockholm Writers Festival, Stockholm Writers Network.

**Meet-up:** Cassie Gonzales/Stockholm Writers' Workshop:  
[www.meetup.com/Stockholm-Writers-Workshop/](http://www.meetup.com/Stockholm-Writers-Workshop/)

**Writing Groups:**

**Stockholm Writers Group:** [www.stockholmwritersgroup.com](http://www.stockholmwritersgroup.com)

**Book Groups:**

**English Book Shop Book Group**

Stockholm: Södermannagatan 22

Uppsala: Svartbäcksgatan 19

**Education:**

**Stockholm University:**

Transnational creative writing masters program, Stockholm University:  
<https://sisu.it.su.se/search/info/HCREO/en>

**Folkuniversitetet:**

Offers a range of English-language writing courses.

Check the schedule at: [www.folkuniversitetet.se](http://www.folkuniversitetet.se)

**Public forums:**

**International Author Stage:**

<http://kulturhusetstadsteatern.se/Litteratur/Internationell-forfattarscen/>



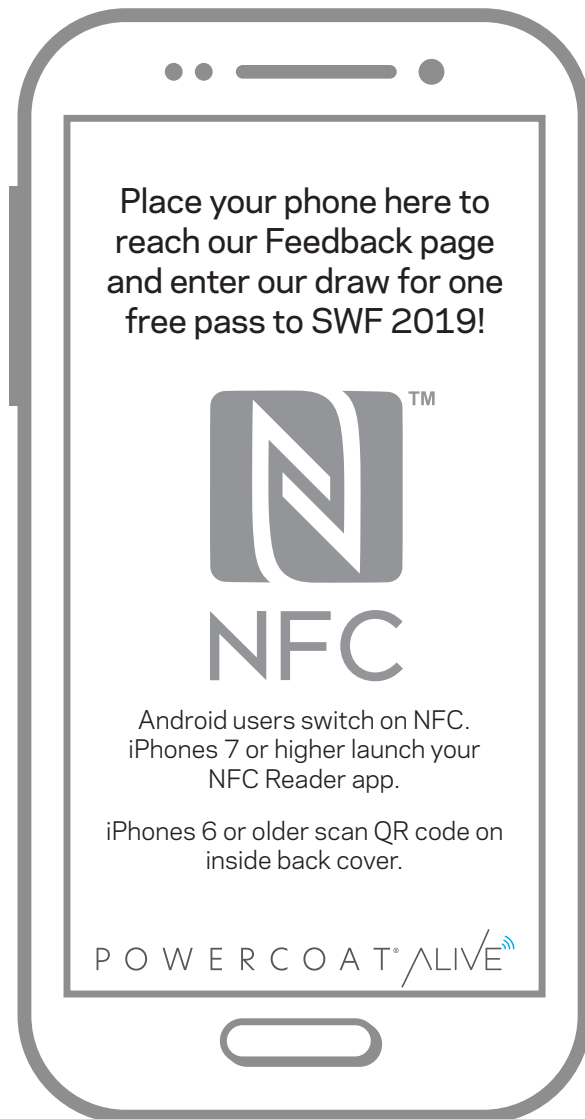






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