

The Stockholm Writers Festival

Find your path to published...



Day 1: Friday, April 13

4:00 p.m. Registration opens, coffee

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

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 of their work.

Participants: 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 finalists.

“Find your tribe” genre call out: Meet like-minded writers at the festival for support in the future.

8:00 p.m. Mingle, Hotel Hellsten Earth Bar, Luntmakargatan 68. Our official hotel sponsor will offer special drinks for SWF attendees.

Day 2: Saturday, April 14

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Additional registration, coffee, welcome

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. 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 (*Acquisitions Editor, Midnight Ink Books*), Peta Nightingale (*Head of Talent, Bookouture*), Brooks Sherman (*Agent, Janklow&Nesbit US*), Rebecca Carter, (*Agent, Janklow&Nesbit UK*), Amy Cherry (*Senior Editor, W.W.Norton*)

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Breakout Session One (choose 1 of 3)

Module A	Module B	Module C
How to use setting to move your story	Memoir: Writing from past pain	Revolutionize your writing with three easy editing hacks

Module A: How to use setting to move your story

Faculty: 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

Faculty: 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. Lindahl 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.

Module C: Revolutionize your writing with three easy editing hacks

Faculty: 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. Buttonhole the expert—Part I

Buttonhole the expert is 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 six rounds over two sessions, so mix it up and take the opportunity to talk to the experts in a small group format. Come prepared with your need-to-know questions!

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Our central location offers a wide range of dining options.

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Buttonhole the expert—Part II

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Breakout Session Two (choose 1 of 3)

Module A	Module B	Module C
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"

Faculty: 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.

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

Faculty: 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

Faculty: Eira Ekre

When you break down an online game—epic quests, vivid characters, narrative hooks—the basics of good storytelling are the same. But how can gaming boost your fiction? Narrative designer Eira Ekre guides participants through a session where the elements of gaming are used to put more power in your prose.

3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Breakout Session Three (choose 1 of 3)

Module A	Module B	Module C
Subtext: Finding the heart of your story	Writing from abroad: Its effects on language and imagination	Unlikely paths to published: Take-home tips to find your way to success

Module A: Subtext: Finding the heart of your story

Faculty: 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

Faculty: 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 take-home tips to find your way to success

Faculty: Paul Rapacioli, Lola Akinimade 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.

4:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. "Fika"—Swedish for coffee break for those of you unfamiliar with the term. Get your books signed. Take an author headshot with a professional photographer. Make new writing friends.

4:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 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

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. 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.

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

Welcome

Workshop participants go to their respective sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch.

Manuscript Makeover, Cassie Gonzales FULL: NOW CLOSED

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.

Finding Fiction in Truth, Adnan Mahmutovic

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.

Indie Publishing: Building your platform, Kim Golden Malmgren

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

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 Akinimade Åkerström

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

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.