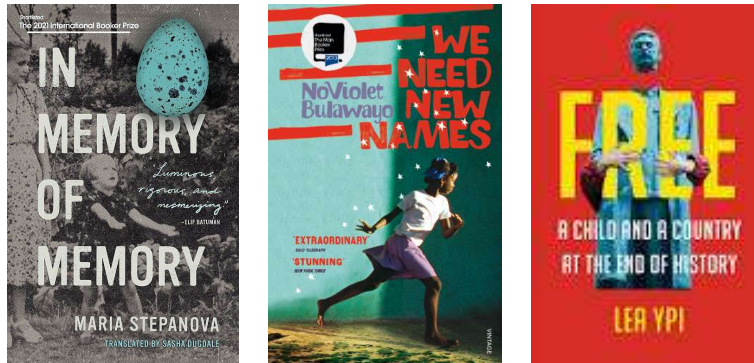


Program for the Meeting of the Fellows' Club, June 8 & 9, 2023

The Collective Me: Auto-Socio-Biography as a Hybrid Genre



Yasmina Reza's *Serge*, Edouard Louis' *En finir avec Eddy Bellegueule*, Thomas Chatterton William's *Self-Portrait in Black and White*, and Natasha Wodin's *She came from Mariupol* are recent examples of a blossoming genre: the autobiography. It is obvious, though, that in these texts, which are narrated in first person, it is often not an inner self that is put before the reader, but rather an array of much larger themes and questions. In this new wave of texts, for which Annie Ernaux has coined the adjective "auto-socio-biographique", the lines between fact and fiction, between subjectivity and objectivity, between documentary and literary writing, between introspection, personal experience, historical research, and social analysis are blurred. Wiko is lucky to count authors among its present and former Fellows who have masterfully contributed to the new genre and are ready to share their thoughts and experiences in the course of the coming Meeting of the Fellows' Club: Maria Stepanova's *In Memory of Memory* deciphers the author's failing attempt to retrieve the history of her Russian Jewish family. NoViolet Bulawayo's novel *We Need New Names* narrates a life that, like her own, leads from Zimbabwe to North America. Lea Ypi, not a novelist like the two others but a political philosopher, goes back to her Albanian childhood in *Free*. From whichever point one arrives at this genre, there is unfailingly a tension between subjectivity and the attempt at critical visions of reality. How do writers in this genre actually deal with facts, sources, and personal memories? To what degree do their narrations differ from those of historians, sociologists, and anthropologists? And why is the "auto-socio-biography" so popular in our times of identity crisis?

Thursday, June 8, 2023

5:30 p.m.: Reception at the Wissenschaftskolleg (Wallotstr. 19)

6:00 p.m.: Session in the Large Seminar Room

Juliane Vogel (Fellow 2018/2019, Literature, Konstanz): *An Introduction to Auto-Socio-Biography*

Reading & Discussion of "In Memory of Memory" by Maria Stepanova (Fellow 2022/2023, Writer)

Moderation: Eva Geulen (Literature, Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin)

8:00 p.m.: Buffet

Friday, June 9, 2023

10:00 a.m.:

Excursion to the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin
(Sandwerder 5, 14109 Berlin, S-Bahn: Wannsee)

Guided Tour of the Premises

Reading & Discussion of "We Need New Names" by NoViolet Bulawayo (Fellow 2022/2023, Writer)

Moderation: Insa Nolte (Fellow 2022/2023, Anthropology, Birmingham)

4:00 p.m.:

Members Assembly of the Fellows' Club in the Large Seminar Room

5:30 p.m.:

Session in the Large Seminar Room

Reading & Discussion of "Free" by Lea Ypi (Fellow 2014/2015, Political Science, London)

Moderation: Christoph Möllers (Fellow 2022/2023, Law, Berlin)

7:00 p.m.: BBQ and further discussion