

# Program 2015

International Literature Festival – **polip**

**5th Edition**

**22-24 May 2015**

<https://polipfestival.wordpress.com>

<http://www.qendra.org>

## **FRIDAY, 22.05.2015**

**19:30 – 20:00 Official opening of the polip festival**

**20:00 – 00:00**

### **Readings**

Fatos Kongoli (AL), Biljana Srbljanović (SRB), Primož Repar (SI), Alida Bremer (GER),  
Elfriede Czurda (AU), Jurij Hudolin (SI), Margret Kreidl (AU).

**Moderators:** Qerim Ondozi (RKS) & Saša Ilić (SRB)

**Live music:** Nezafete Shala & band

## **SATURDAY, 23.05.2015**

**11:00 – 13:00**

**Let's talk about freedom 1: How to Defend the Media Freedom?**

**Panelists:** Elke Schmitter (GER), Hubert Spiegel (GER), Ralph Hammerthaler (GER)

**Moderator:** Alida Bremer (GER)

Translation into English will be provided.

**17:00 – 18:30**

**Let's talk about freedom 2: Freedom and repression in the Balkan states: Creating cultural and political alternatives as a platform for joint future**

**Panelists:** Biljana Srbljanović (SRB), Veton Surroi (RKS), Arina Leka (ALB), Marko Pogačar (CRO)

**Moderator:** Saša Ilić (SRB)

Translation into English will be provided.

**20:00 – 00:00 Readings**

Veton Surroi (RKS), Tanja Šljivar (BiH), Marko Pogačar (CRO), Stanislava Chrobáková Repar (SI), Edmond Tupja (ALB), Elke Schmitter (GER), Ervina Halili (RKS)

**Moderators:** Besa Shahini (RKS) & Jeton Neziraj (RKS)

**Sunday, 24.05.2015**

**15:00–17:00**

**Let's talk about freedom 3: Freedom, literature, censorship: What are we *allowed* to write, here and now? How the market, past, politics and religion influence the literary production in the region**

**Panelists:** Margret Kreidl (AU), Edmond Tupja (ALB), Primož Repar (SI), Tanja Šljivar (BiH), Stanislava Chrobáková Repar (SI)

**Moderator:** Arian Leka (ALB)

Translation into English will be provided.

**17:00–18:30**

**Let's talk about freedom 4: Let's talk about 'sex/gender' baby!**

**Panelists:** Miroslava Malešević (SRB), Ervina Halili (RKS), Fjolla Hoxha (RKS), Stanislava Chrobáková Repar (SI)

**Moderator:** Eli Krasniqi (RKS)

Translation into English will be provided.

**20:00 – 00:00**

## **Readings**

Fjolla Hoxha (RKS), Miroslava Malešević (SRB), Balsor Hoxha (RKS), Ralph Hammerthaller (GER), Vasko Raičević (MN), Vesa Qena (RKS), Arian Leka (ALB),  
**Moderators:** Eli Krasniqi (RKS) & Arian Leka (ALB)

**Live music:** Edona Reshitaj & band

## **Panels & Debates**

**Saturday, 23. 05. 2015**

### **11:00 – 13:00 Let's talk about freedom 1: How to Defend the Media Freedom?**

According to HYPERLINK "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters\\_Without\\_Borders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders)" Reporters Without Borders, more than a third of the world's people live in countries where there is no press freedom. How are media freedom and freedom of speech defined? What are their main principles? What is the journalistic ethics? Are there self-censorship or unintentional errors of prejudice and ignorance in the best European media and how to deal with it as a conscientious journalist? Are there other repressions beyond the political, for example those of the market? What is the relationship of the German media to politicians and other powerful people in their country? Do the media make influence upon social processes? These and similar questions Alida Bremer as moderator will interview the three guests from Germany, all of which have great experience in journalism and working for major German newspapers: Elke Schmitter (Der Spiegel), Hubert Spiegel (FAZ) and Ralph Hammerthaler (freelance writer of various newspapers ).

### **17:00 – 18:30 Let's talk about freedom 2: Freedom and repression in the Balkan states: Creating cultural and political alternatives as a platform for joint future**

We live in the times when all kind of rights and freedoms are violated – human, intellectual, creative and media ones. On the other hand, we can observe the rise of neo-liberal democracies in Europe taking the form of democracy, but suspending at the same time the fundamental rights and freedoms that used to be guaranteed before. Those countries are recognised and supported because they seemingly fit into the "acceptable" ideology and current state of affairs. Such developments can be observed in the Balkans too, in the states formed after the break up of Yugoslavia. In which ways do these political developments affect the cultural sector and politics in general in these countries? In which ways are various forms of democratic developments turning against those who strive to preserve the basic rights and freedoms? What is lurking behind the idea of "free market" in these new states, where is the repression beginning to take place and how can one become aware of it? Are literature, theatre and the arts governed by the free market principles and what is the future of alternatives in the cultural sector? Has the

concept of reconciliation in the region from year 2000 and onwards affected the cultural exchange in the Balkans and in which way?

**Sunday, 24.05.2015**

**15:00–17:00 Let's talk about freedom 3: Freedom, literature, censorship: What are we allowed to write, here and now? How the market, past, politics and religion influence the literary production in the region**

Each literary scene has its own tested and proved mechanisms, which are used to manage production and representation of cultural products, as well as the whole infrastructure of performing, publishing and presenting of literary awards. Touching upon the issue of censorship, only a rare EU official will confirm that censorship really exists. In the Balkans, the critical articles about those in power and about how the domain of public discourse is controlled can only be found in media outlets of the opposition. Generally, all forms of political or cultural subversive activity are declared illegal, destructive, against the state and even terroristic. Which place do literature and the arts occupy in these circumstances then? Is the domain of cultural activity restricted and by which forces exactly? What are we not allowed to write and talk about, and where do the signals that tell us that a topic is unwelcome or a taboo come from? Is satire under attack and is it just the religion which happens to be intolerant towards different forms of parody and artistic exposure of many issues, including social and cultural stereotypes?

**17:00–18:30 Let's talk about freedom 4: Let's talk about 'sex/gender' baby!**

There is a general perception that after the fall of socialism, societies in Western Balkans, or concretely in former Yugoslavia, have been re-traditionalized. In this line, if we accept this, one has to discuss also literature, and the impact (if any) of feminism, especially the aspect of language. Do women still remain objects of desire in literature rather than subjects? What is the language that women writer, or men writers use? Can literature be gender emancipatory? Does today's literature still reinforce gender stereotypes? Do we need to de-romanticize literature so we could break down the clichés of metaphorical language about women? How can we break free from essentialization and moralization of women's lives, women's bodies, women's voice in literature? Are there attempts from philologists or literature researchers to dig deeper about women writers? Some of them not even put to the surface. Is there a space within Universities for such researches? These are some of the questions that this panel will discuss by bringing examples of literature developments from countries in the region.

**All activities happening in Qendra Multimedia**

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**Organized by Qendra Multimedia, Prishtina**

**in cooperation with RK LINKS / Beton International, Belgrade**