



POSSIBLE

FUTURES

Meet the speakers



CHEF AND AUTHOR

Amanda Bankert

Amanda Bankert, an Irish/American pastry chef trained at Cordon Bleu Paris, is the founder of France's first artisanal donut shop, Boneshaker Donuts & Coffee.

She's a two-time cookbook author: *Voilà Vegan* (Penguin Random House, 2023) and *Donuts, Café, and Good Vibes* (Hachette, France, 2023).

Amanda champions veganism not as a restrictive diet, but as an inclusive, indulgent lifestyle that simply excludes animal products.



AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

Barbara Diggs

Barbara Diggs is a Washington, DC native and long-time resident of France.

A former corporate attorney, Barbara has written several non-fiction books for adolescents on a range of topics, from history to social justice to racial bias.

Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Fractured Lit*, *Emerge Literary Journal*, *Funicular Magazine*, and *Your Impossible Voice*. Her stories have also won The Bridport Prize and the Bath Flash Fiction Award and placed as finalists in competitions such as the Craft Literary Flash Prose Prize, the *SmokeLong Quarterly* Grand Micro, and the Best of the Net.





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PUBLISHER

Kristina Kearns

Kristina Kearns is an award-winning publisher and literary arts nonprofit consultant. She is co-founder and publisher of Fern Books, a small press that publishes contemporary French literature in translation.

She is also the former operations director of Fitzcarraldo Editions, executive and editorial director of McSweeney's, founding director of the McSweeney's Literary Arts Fund, executive director of the arts festival and artist residency Twenty Summers, and founder and director of Ourshelves Lending Library, the last of which raised dues and donations to establish cost-free libraries and literary programming in San Francisco shelters.



AUTHOR AND TRANSLATOR

Daniel Levin Becker

Daniel Levin Becker is the author of *Many Subtle Channels: In Praise of Potential Literature* (Harvard UP, 2012) and *What's Good: Notes on Rap and Language* (City Lights, 2022).

He is also the translator of, among others, books by Laurent Mauvignier, Éric Chevillard, and Jakuta Alikavazovic.

He is a founding editor of Fern Books and has been a member of the Oulipo since 2009.





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NEWS ANCHOR, FRANCE 24

Erin Ogunkeye

Erin Ogunkeye grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia but has spent more time living in Paris than in any other city.

She studied French law before realizing she wanted to feel a closer connection to the rest of the world by following, relaying, and breaking down current events.

She is an anchor at France 24 and presents Live From Paris in the mornings.



YOUNG ADULT AUTHOR

Amy Plum

Amy Plum is an international bestselling author of young adult fiction. Her books are translated into thirteen languages.

She has written supernatural romance (her *Die For Me* series), action-adventure faux-post-apocalyptic road trip (*After the End* duology), and psychological thriller (*Dreamfall* duology).

Amy grew up in Birmingham, Alabama before venturing further afield to Chicago, Paris, London and New York. An art historian by training, she lives in Paris with her two children and black Labrador Oberon.





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Meet the moderators



IN CONVERSATION WITH BARBARA DIGGS

Anita Caref

Anita Caref is an educator and literacy specialist. She spent 40 years managing and teaching in adult education and family literacy programs in New York City, Detroit, and Chicago. She's written numerous courses for adult students on social justice, U.S. history, and the civil rights movement. She is also a specialist in early childhood education and is now enjoying her retirement which gives her time to travel and lead a book club for children at a local community center.



IN CONVERSATION WITH AMY PLUM AND KRISTINA KEARNS

Michelle Crowell

Michelle Crowell is an American writer and educator based in Nantes, France. She is pursuing a PhD in American Literature and holds a Master's in General and Comparative Literature from the Sorbonne. Her creative nonfiction has appeared in *Anti-Hero Chic*. She is currently finishing a memoir.



Meet the moderators



IN CONVERSATION WITH DANIEL LEVIN BECKER

Kathryn Frost

Kathryn Frost is a lecturer at Parsons Paris where she teaches a course on Sustainable Systems. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of Virginia and Yale University, respectively, and has worked as an architect for practices in New York, Dublin, and Paris. Her work focuses on the interaction between human and natural systems, engaging with interdisciplinary practices such as urban agriculture, permaculture, biomimicry, and biofabrication. She is passionate about the role of education in responding to the climate crisis and how designers can put forward creative visions for a sustainable future.



IN CONVERSATION WITH AMANDA BANKERT

Ginette Law

Ginette Law is a Canadian writer of mixed heritage who stopped eating meat in the 90s. Before pursuing writing, she worked at Radio-Canada and Radio-Canada International, co-founded a visual data consultancy, and worked in the wine industry. She's completing her first novel and is based in Angers.