



**CATALAN  
LITERARY  
NON-FICTION  
2023**

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# Contents

## 05 Foreword

- 06 *Tribute to Deception*, Josep Torres Tribó
- 08 *The Story of Vertebrates*, Mar García Puig
- 10 *In Bad Company*, Marina Garcés
- 12 *Together*, Txell Feixas
- 14 *Hannah Arendt: The World at Stake*, Fina Birulés
- 16 *Killing the Nerve*, Anna Pazos
- 18 *Urbis Phantasma*, Sebastià Jovani
- 20 “*Storming the Bible*” Collection, Vv. Aa.
- 22 *Technology and Totalitarianism*, Jordi Pigem
- 24 *The Mysterious Death of Dolors Bernabeu*,  
Josep Sala Cullell

## 26 Grants

## 28 Lull Fellowship

## 29 Other Services and Latest News

## 30 Lull Literature Team

## 31 Lull Foreign Offices



# Foreword

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## **Institut Ramon Llull**

The Institut Ramon Llull (IRL) is a public institution that promotes Catalan literature worldwide. Its ongoing mission is to support international publishing professionals interested in books in Catalan. To that end, the IRL provides a wide range of resources to authors, translators, publishers and agents, book fairs and literary festivals to expand the presence of Catalan authorship.

In recent years, international interest in non-fiction works has grown significantly, and the voices of Catalan historians, philosophers, journalists, and critics of a broad range of disciplines have contributed to understanding the world from a distinctive perspective in constant dialogue with other traditions and realities.

This booklet offers a selection of 10 non-fiction books recently published in Catalan. This genre includes a variety of trends, topics and styles: philosophical texts; humanistic essays; narrative journalism; popular science; memoirs; current affairs; biographies, and more. The selection targets a wide readership: outstanding books that aim to promote critical thinking and aesthetic pleasure in order to enrich our experience of the world.

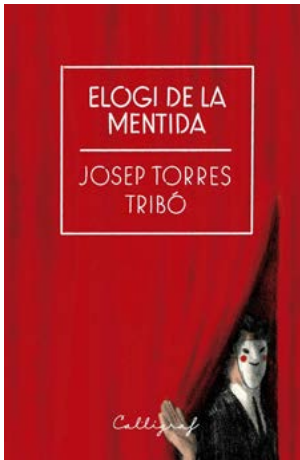
Each book also includes the foreign rights contact and all the information related to international sales. The influence and strength of contemporary Catalan literary non-fiction are also credited to a dynamic publishing industry and a proficient network of literary agents.

Along with this exciting overview of the lively scene of Catalan literary non-fiction, this booklet also presents information on the IRL Services & Grants targeted at the international publishing sector. We trust you will find our authors engaging and our resources valuable.

JOSEP TORRES TRIBÓ

# Tribute to Deception

*Elogi de la mentida*



Edicions Caltígraf, 2022  
313 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

Ramon Moreno López  
info@edicionscallígraf.com  
Edicions Caltígraf

As well as a libertarian activist, educator, dramaturgist, journalist, the quintessential turn-of-the-century man in revolt, refugee during the Spanish Civil War and victim to the Nazi regime's concentration camps, Josep Torres Tribó was a philosopher. The only philosophical work to his name – a testament to his potential and talent – displays an impassioned and poetic fragmentation without foregoing structural ambition.

A tribute to deception that is both a vibrant ode to authenticity and a critique of the impoverished spirit of the time that would eventually condemn him to death with cold and administrative efficiency. The recovery of this classic in Catalan philosophy restores, in part, the author's memory and the tradition of a radically free line of thought.

**A 1920's philosophical manifesto and a classic in Catalan thought that has only just now been recovered, both an invitation to leading a genuine life and a warning to a society on the brink of sinking to the depths of its own truths.**



**Josep Torres Tribó** (Mollerussa, 1899 – Alkoven, 1941) was a libertarian teacher, philosopher, and intellectual. From a young age, he was a prominent anarchist. During the Spanish Civil War, he took part in the collectivisation of Catalan farmlands. After the war, he fled into exile in France where he was forced to enlist in the Company of Foreign Workers. In 1940, the Nazis arrested him and made him a prisoner in the Mauthausen concentration camp. He was murdered in a gas chamber at the Hartheim castle in Alkoven, Austria, on September 22, 1941.

## **SELECTED WORKS**

### NON-FICTION

*Al Pueblo, cultura*  
(To the People, Culture)  
Biblioteca Cultura, 1922

*Técnica social*  
(Social Technique)  
Biblioteca Cultura, 1922

### DRAMA

*La loca vida. Drama en 3 actos*  
(A Crazy Life. Drama in 3 Acts)  
Crisol, 1926

*La ciutat ens pren els fills*  
(The City Takes Away Our Children)  
Unpublished play

MAR GARCÍA PUIG

# The Story of Vertebrates

*La història dels vertebrats*



La Magrana, 2023  
320 pages

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

Marta González  
marta@mbagencialiteraria.es  
MB Agencia Literaria

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the author became a mother, lost her mind, and was elected a member of Parliament for the first time. But what should have been the happiest of days, marked the beginning of a frightening journey to save her own life: to overcome insanity and regain her rationality; to take care of her new-born twins; to represent with dignity those who voted for her.

During her healing process, she realises that her most intimate struggles are a secret out in the open shared by many others before her. Centuries of whispering and gossiping silenced the lives of damaged women and labelled them as witches, hysterical wives, or any other of the volatile characterisations made of the female mind. Reaching out to art, literature, mythology, and medicine, Mar García frames her own story within a longer history of oppressed women seeking to deconstruct the myths of patriarchy.



## A personal and literary exploration on motherhood, insanity, and how women's greatest loves and deepest wounds have been silenced throughout history.

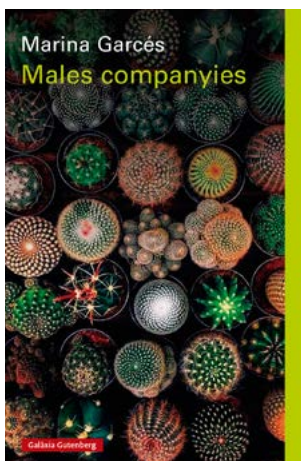


**Mar García Puig** (Barcelona, 1977) has a degree in English Philology and a master's in Linguistics. She works as a publisher and has written articles in newspapers such as *La Vanguardia*, *El Periódico*, *El Diario*, *Público*, and *CTXT*. She has contributed to the books *LGTBI* (Sembra Llibres, 2020), *Neold-fashioned*, *On the Dangers of Nostalgia* (Península, 2022) and *More Than Visible* (Egales, 2022). Between 2016 and 2023 she was a member of parliament and spokesperson for the Culture Committee in the Spanish Parliament. *The History of Vertebrates* is her first book.

MARINA GARCÉS

# In Bad Company

*Males companyies*



Galaxia Gutenberg, 2022  
192 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

Nuria Cicero  
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Galaxia Gutenberg

## RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Éter (Arabic)

In this personal book, philosopher Marina Garcés gathers a series of writings, in which she pays homage to and dialogues with classical and contemporary figures that have influenced her work. Thinking *about* also implies thinking *with* (others), and, in a way, Garcés and her (bad) company have produced a synergistic book about freedom and truth.

In these pages, Büchner presents us Danton and Robespierre chatting in front of the gallows; Diderot and Sophie Volland describe their love in a hollow eternity; Saint Teresa chops onions while talking to her inquisitor; and Albert Camus discusses deception... An engaging compendium that displays the bounds of knowledge, care, and generosity embedded in Garcés' ruminations.

**Marina Garcés has somehow connected with the spirit of our times and has brought philosophy books -rigorous and beautifully written essays- back to the bestselling lists.**



**Marina Garcés** (Barcelona, 1973) is a philosopher, activist, and teacher. Her work focuses on politics, critical thinking, and pedagogy. She is the author of several philosophy essays appealing to commitment and action. She oversees and teaches the master's on Philosophy for Contemporary Challenges at the Open University of Catalonia and runs the School of Thought of the Lliure Theater with Albert Lladó. She contributes to TV and radio shows. She has been a member of the academic board of the Independent Studies Program of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (MACBA).

## **SELECTED WORKS**

### NON-FICTION

*Nova Il·lustració radical*  
(New Radical Enlightenment)  
Anagrama, 2017

*Filosofia inacabada*  
(Unfinished Philosophy)  
Galaxia Gutenberg, 2015

*Escola de aprendices*  
(School of Apprentices)  
Galaxia Gutenberg, 2020

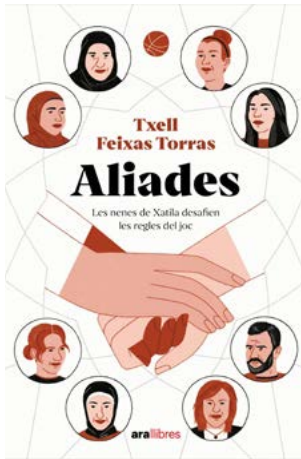
*Un mundo común*  
(A Common World)  
Bellaterra, 2012

*Ciutat Princesa*  
(Princess City)  
Galaxia Gutenberg, 2018

TXELL FEIXAS

# Together

*Aliades*



Ara Llibres, 2023  
208 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

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MB Agencia Literaria

In Lebanon's Shatila refugee camp, a Palestinian façade painter named Madji formed a girls' basketball team to steer them away from a dramatic fate that often begins with child marriage and ends in a spiral of abuse, drugs, and honour killings. Txell Feixas had witnessed the first steps of the team and had been following their progress for over a decade when she returned to the court to meet Majdi and the players.

Written in short chapters and an engaging narrative style, the coach, the girls, their parents and families, and their endangered environment all have the chance to explain the story in their own words. In the end, this journalistic chronicle offers a detailed insight into life and death in the camp as well as how new generations of women there (and across the Middle East) can survive thanks to their sisterhood and heaps of courage.

# The story of the Shatila Refugee Camp girls' basketball team: the struggles, challenges, and battles both lost and won of a group of girls who defy the rules of the game.



**Txell Feixas** (Mediona, 1979) is a journalist. She has worked as a Middle East correspondent from Beirut for the Catalan Corporation of Audiovisual Media. She has covered the war against the Islamic State in Iraq, the collapse of the Caliphate from Rojava, and the Great March of Return demonstrations in Gaza. Before, she also covered the al-Qaeda kidnapping of the Barcelona Solidarity Action volunteers in Mauritania and the humanitarian crisis at the Ceuta-Morocco border fence. In her previous book *Brave Women*, she shed light on the struggles of women in Middle East conflicts.

## SELECTED WORKS

NON-FICTION

*Dones valentes*  
(*Brave Women*)

Ara Llibres, 2020

FINA BIRULÉS

# Hannah Arendt: The World at Stake

*Hannah Arendt: el món en joc*



Arcàdia, 2023  
296 pages

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

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MB Agencia Literaria

It is incredibly challenging to tame and frame both the energy and radical independence of Arendt's philosophy. It is also quite difficult to write a book about one of the most influential and quoted thinkers of the past decades. Fina Birulés, a world authority -an Arendtian concept in itself- on her fellow philosopher, succeeds in both endeavours with a personal approach to Arendt's work and uncovers new and illuminating threads of thought.

Birulés chooses two recurring categories in the work of this German-Jewish philosopher -the world and natality- to explain her thinking and how it is still relevant today. She speaks of tradition, beginnings, community, distance, freedom, memory, education, creating meaning, understanding, and responsibility. Under the attentive gaze of Hannah Arendt, this essay reveals that what is truly at stake is the very world itself.

The renowned expert Fina Birulés offers an original and refreshing approach to Arendt's work that goes beyond clichés and is deeply rooted in our current (dark) times.



**Fina Birulés** (Girona, 1956) is a philosopher. She taught Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Barcelona between 1979 and 2020. She is a researcher in the Philosophy and Gender-ADHUC Seminar which she helped to create in 1990. She is the author of articles and essays on subjectivity, politics and memory, feminist theory issues, and women's philosophy production, focusing on the thinking of Hannah Arendt. She has translated works of contemporary philosophy and has jointly published collective books on Simone Weil, Hannah Arendt, and Judith Butler.

## SELECTED WORKS

### NON-FICTION

*L'embolic del gènere.  
Per què els cossos importen?*

(Gender Trouble.

Why do Bodies Matter?)

With Judith Butler and

Marta Segarra

CCCB, 2019

*Hannah Arendt:  
llibertat política i totalitarisme*

(Hannah Arendt:

Political Freedom and

Totalitarianism)

Gedisa, 2019

*Feminisme, una revolució  
sense model*

(Feminism, a Revolution

Without a Model)

CCCB, 2018

*Hannah Arendt.*

*El orgullo de pensar*

(Hannah Arendt.

The Pride of Thinking)

Gedisa, 2018

*Entre actes entorn del  
pensament la política i el  
feminisme*

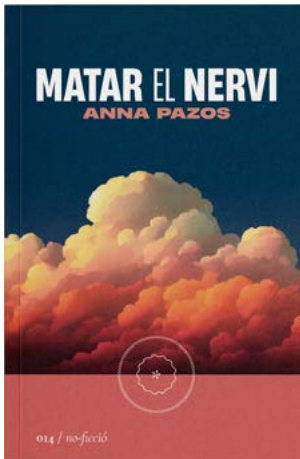
(Intermission On Thought Politics  
and Feminism)

Trabucaire, 2014

ANNA PAZOS

# Killing the Nerve

*Matar el nervi*



*Killing the Nerve* is a stark reflection on youth. The rabid search for an answer. A wild, untameable urge spurs the author on a nomadic and penitent journey that takes her through Thessalonica, Jerusalem, across the North Sea and the Atlantic, New York, and the very bottom of her family's private history.

Anna Pazos' writing is sharp and defiant, sceptical and distant. A gaze in open revolt that transforms her insatiable appetite for experience-hoarding into literature. In the end, perhaps literature was always the answer and writing down her life, the only way to redeem it.

La Segona Perifèria, 2023  
208 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

**María Juncosa**  
juncosa@casanovaslynch.com  
Casanovas & Lynch  
Literary Agency



**In the finest tradition of non-fictional narratives, this book mixes memory, literary essay, and journalistic chronicling to tell the tale of a forward-escape, which is both an impatient search and a slow return home.**



**Anna Pazos** (Barcelona, 1991) is a writer and documentary maker. She has contributed to the cultural section of *El País* and has published in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Haaretz*, *La Vanguardia*, and *Jacobin*. In 2017 she received a Fulbright grant to undertake postgraduate studies in New York where she worked as a fact-checker for the *New York Times* and publisher of the BBC website. In 2020 she presented her first autobiographic short film, *The Circle*. In 2021 she produced *The Lost*, a non-fiction podcast on the stolen babies in Spain. Since May 2020 she is the cohost of the *Les Golfes* podcast.

## **SELECTED WORKS**

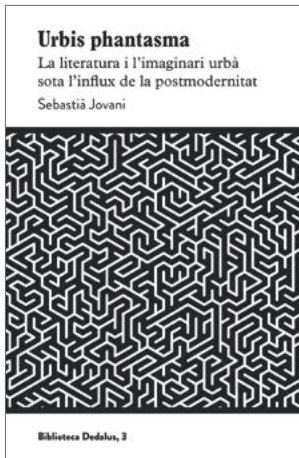
NON-FICTION

*Poder i desig*  
(Power and Desire)  
Fragmenta, 2023

SEBASTIÀ JOVANI

# Urbis Phantasma

*Urbis Phantasma*



Periscopi, 2022  
176 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

Bernat Fiol  
bernat@salmaialit.com  
SalmaiaLit

The move away from modernity and the traumatic birth of the postmodern world have generated a textual and urban palimpsest that denotes an upheaval in lived experience. This book seeks to make sense of this critical juncture in Western history, an era in which time signals simultaneously altered our way of inhabiting and describing the urban realm.

As such, Sebastià Jovani discusses an intimate cartography of modern and postmodern cities. In dialogue with Calvino, Weiss, Amis, le Clézio, Ballard and many others, *Urbis Phantasma* reflects on the fictions that form the urban landscape and examines the diverse range of answers we have so far given to the question of what it means to inhabit a city.

## A literary study on urban life in transition from modernity to postmodernity.



**Sebastià Jovani** (Barcelona, 1977) is a storyteller, cultural researcher, poet, and performer. His work includes fiction, essay, and textual experimentation pieces, as well as multidisciplinary projects that integrate writing, performing, video creation, and sound exploring. He also teaches several courses and seminars at the Bloom School about dystopian futures, paranoia, humour as a disruptive artifact, or the relationship between fiction and urbanism, through authors such as Philip K. Dick, Kafka, DeLillo, Burroughs, Gombrowicz, or Beckett.

### SELECTED WORKS

#### FICTION

*L'ètica*

(Ethics)

Editorial Alrevés, 2014

*Emet o la revolta*

(Emet or the Revolt)

La Magrana, 2011

#### NON-FICTION

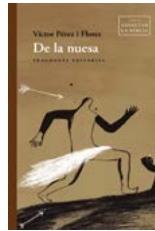
*Phylosofar*

Plec22, 2019

ANNA PUNSODA (ED.)

# “Storming the Bible” Collection

*Assaltar la Bíblia (Collecció)*



Fragmenta Editorial, 2023  
80 pages aprox / each book

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

Ignasi Moreta

ignasi.moreta@fragmenta.cat  
Fragmenta Editorial

This collection of brief literary essays plays unashamedly with the Christian imagery and goes beyond the specialist’s or devotee’s scope with a humanist and transversal understanding. The authors reflect on literary criticism, philosophy, or sociology, and propose new approaches to the Bible’s narratives.

Pilar Codony reviews Judeo-Christian tradition, the modern heteropatriarchy, and the climate crisis; Víctor Pérez digs into topics as wide and diverse as scapegoating in contemporary societies to pornography; Anna Pazos analyses the relationship between power and desire, the masculine and feminine eros; while Borja Bagunyà analyses the relationship between reality and consciousness as well as the implications behind the mechanisms of order-giving and taking. A collection born under the conviction that the classics can allow us to rethink current-day challenges.

**A no-holds-barred, independent, and dogma-free rereading of the most famous Bible passages with an updated look at its literary legacy linked to contemporary debates.**



**Anna Pazos**

(Barcelona, 1991) is a writer and documentary maker. She has published in various international newspapers. She has worked for the *New York Times* and the BBC. In 2020 she presented her first autobiographic short film, *The Circle*. In 2021 she produced *The Lost*, a non-fiction podcast on the stolen babies in Spain. Author of the self-chronicle book *Killing the nerve*.



**Pilar Codony**

(Banyoles, 1987) has a degree in Veterinary Medicine. After a stay in Cuba (where she completed an apprenticeship on a dairy cattle farm) and in the United States (where she worked in a wildlife center) she currently pursues an occupation in farms. Her debut novel, *Distòcia* [Dystocia], won the 2021 Documenta prize.



**Víctor Pérez**

(Barcelona, 1975) is a philosopher and organiser of cultural activities. He has a PhD in Heritage and Cultural Studies from the University of Girona. His research focuses on the intellectual history of Catalonia, analysing the impact of philosophers such as Francesc Pujols, Diego Ruiz, and Eugeni d'Ors in the social landscape of the beginning of the 20th century.



**Borja Bagunyà**

(Barcelona, 1982) has a PhD in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature and is a lecturer in literary theory, editor of the magazine *Carn de Cap*, and author of three short story collections, which earned him both a Mercè Rodoreda and a QWERTY award in 2006. His novel *Els angles morts* [Dead Angles] won the Critics Prize for Catalan Fiction Writers 2022.

JORDI PIGEM

# Technology and Totalitarianism

*Tècnica i totalitarisme*



Fragmenta Editorial, 2022  
190 pages

**FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT**

Ignasi Moreta  
ignasi.moreta@fragmenta.cat  
Fragmenta Editorial

Following his precise study detailing the core anxieties and contradictions of pandemic society in his last book, *Pandemics and Post-truth*, which was met with both an enthusiastic and contentious reception, Pigem continues his critical cycle of analyses on contemporary life with this latest book on surveillance capitalism.

Taking the confluence between scientific understanding (psychology, neuroscience, sociology of new technologies) and humanism (Tolkien's literary landscape, Rilke's poetic intuition, Hannah Arendt's essays, Agamben's philosophy) *Technology and Totalitarianism* examines and confronts proposals that seek to reduce human beings to data and algorithms, while preparing us to wilfully accept a new order of technocratic control.

# A humanist counterweight to techno-capitalism; an analysis of the perils of digital panopticism; a vindication of a life that transcends logical algorithms.



**Jordi Pigem** (Barcelona, 1964) is a Doctor of Philosophy. Between 1998 and 2003, he was a lecturer in the master's course in Holistic Science at Schumacher College (UK). He has also been a resident lecturer at the University of Barcelona and taught at several other universities, including Columbia and Oxford. In 1999, he was awarded the Institut d'Estudis Catalans Philosophy Award. He writes regularly for publications in Spanish, Catalan, and English.

## SELECTED WORKS

### NON-FICTION

*Pandèmia i postveritat:  
La vida, la consciència i la  
Quarta Revolució Industrial*  
(The Pandemic and Post-Truth:  
Life Consciousness and the  
Fourth Industrial Revolution)  
Fragmenta Editorial, 2021

*Inteligència vital  
(Vital Intelligence)*  
Kairós, 2016

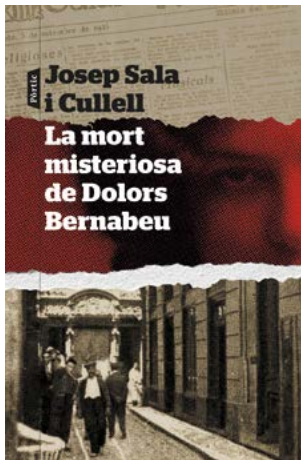
*La nueva realidad  
(The New Reality)*  
Kairós, 2013

*Àngels i robots  
(Angels or Robots)*  
Viena Editorial, 2017

JOSEP SALA CULLELL

# The Mysterious Death of Dolors Bernabeu

*La mort misteriosa de Dolors Bernabeu*



Editorial Pòrtic, 2023  
216 pages

## FOREIGN RIGHTS CONTACT

Josep Lluç Puig  
jlluch@grup62.com  
Grup 62

It was a Friday night in Barcelona, 21st August 1925, when Dolors Bernabeu met her fate in Escudellers Alleyway launching one of the most famous cases of the era. The story filled newspapers' pages for months and inspired a whole array of theories and rumours. However, the case was eventually covered up without the truth ever surfacing. Irregularities around the investigation exposed the level of censorship imposed during the dictatorship and the lack of accountability of the governing elites.

Josep Sala Cullell has meticulously scoured newspapers and archive documentation from the time to make a colourful narrative reconstructing the events as well as to transport us to a thrilling and turbulent decade: a Barcelona filled with cabarets and pistol-wielders, nightclubs, and hideouts where the bourgeoisie, unionists, artists, criminals, politicians, and journalists, hot on the scent for the story of the decade, all once mixed.

This is a crime chronicle and a historical fresco, a homage to the victims' memories, a critique of power, and a vindication of the importance – and fragility – of freedom of the press.



**A piece of journalistic investigation that reopens a mythical case from Barcelona's darkest chronicles while offering a vivid depiction of life in the city in the 1920's.**



**Josep Sala Cullell** (Girona, 1978) holds a degree in Environmental Sciences and Humanities. For years he has been living between Norway, where he is a high school teacher, and l'Empordà in Catalonia. He writes opinion articles for the online newspaper *Vilaweb*. In 2020 he published an essay addressing the question of the generational struggle for power, *Plug Generation*.

## **SELECTED WORKS**

NON-FICTION

*Generació Tap*  
**(Plug Generation)**  
Ara Llibres, 2020

# Grants

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## LITERATURE TRANSLATION

Grants for the translation of Catalan literature, including fiction, poetry, plays, graphic novels and scholarly works (non-fiction and the humanities).

**Recipients:** Publishers.

## LITERATURE PROMOTION

Grants for activities aimed at promoting Catalan and Aranese literature abroad, including participation in international literary events and promotional plans focused on illustrated works.

**Recipients:** Publishers, Literary Events Organisers.

## ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Grants for the publication abroad of illustrated books by illustrators settled in Catalonia or the Balearic Islands.

**Recipients:** Publishers.

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Grants for the creation of materials used in the promotion of Catalan works abroad.

**Recipients:** Catalan Publishers, Literary Agencies.

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#### **TRANSLATORS IN RESIDENCY**

Grants for translators working on translations from Catalan to stay in Catalonia for two to six weeks.

**Recipients:** Translators.

#### **PROGRAMME FOR TRANSLATORS**

Programme for the translation of excerpts and the creation of materials to promote abroad the work of literary modern classics in Catalan and Aranese.

**Recipients:** Translators.

# Llull Fellowship

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In 2023, the Institut Ramon Llull is organising the 22nd edition of its fellowship, aimed at international publishers and agents. It will take place in Barcelona between the 11th and 15th of September, during the 41st Setmana del Llibre en Català (Catalan Book Week Festival).

## **HISTORY**

First launched in 2007, when Catalan Culture was Guest of Honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the project was designed to foster the translation of Catalan works into other languages and the introduction of these books to new markets. Since then, over 200 professionals from 45 countries have participated in this fellowship.

## **GOAL**

The program aims to provide participants with a more in-depth perspective on Catalan literature and the Catalan publishing sector and to build networks among Catalan and international publishing houses and literary agencies.

## **APPLICATION DATES**

Call for applications not yet published. The exact dates of the call can be found on our website ([llull.cat](http://llull.cat)).

# Other Services and Latest News

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The Institut Ramon Llull promotes networking between international publishers and agents and the Catalan publishing sector. We will be delighted to put publishing professionals in touch with Catalan authors, publishers or agents.

Llull also provides information about the translation of Catalan literature through three databases:

## BOOKS IN CATALAN

[booksincatalan.llull.cat](https://booksincatalan.llull.cat): A professional tool full of great Catalan-language books, waiting to be discovered and devoured by international readers.

## TRAC

[llull.cat/trac](https://llull.cat/trac): A tool to find out what works of Catalan literature have been translated.

## TRADUCAT

[llull.cat/traducats](https://llull.cat/traducats): A database with the profile and contact details of literary translators from Catalan to other languages.

If you wish to be informed about our calls for applications for grants and all the latest news, you can subscribe to one of our newsletters aimed at translators, publishers and festival programmers via [literature@llull.cat](mailto:literature@llull.cat).

# Llull Literature Team

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**Maria Jesús Alonso**

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**Julià Florit**

Fiction, Poetry, Comic,  
Festivals and Residences  
[jflorit@llull.cat](mailto:jflorit@llull.cat)



**Carles Navarrete**

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