

Esa Aallas

Journalist and writer

Born in Helsinki in 1950, he holds an MA in Journalism at the University of Tampere. He has worked as a journalist in Finnish newspapers and *Ydin* review since 1976. He is Information Officer and Editor of the Finnish Refugee Council. From 1988 to 1992, he was a contributor to the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle radio 1). In 1993, he made radio documentaries on the ceded Karelia for migration and Mediterranean issues, and interviews and criticisms for *Themes from Europe*. He works as a columnist for *Karjala* (Karelia) weekly. He published the pamphlet *Somalishokki* (*Somali Shock*) in 1992 and *Exiles Everywhere* in 1997. He was awarded with the prizes of State's Public Information in 1980 and of the Finnish Committee on United Nations Day against Racism in 1995. He is a member of the author Mika Waltari association board and the Anna Lindh Foundation national network.

Randa Achmawi

Journalist

Born in Egypt, she was raised in São Paulo (Brazil). Graduated at the University of Nice in Linguistics and Post-graduated in Geneva, she is a senior journalist specialized in Diplomacy, Politics and Culture. She currently occupies the position of Diplomatic Correspondent of *Al-Ahram Hebdo* and of Cairo Chief Correspondent of the Arab-Brazilian News Agency. She is also correspondent of the Mediterranean Press Club in Egypt, a member of the EU and the Media Task Force and is part of the Egyptian delegation to the Cultural Workshop Europe-Mediterranean-Gulf. She has written a number of essays related to Intercultural Psychology and, as a journalist, one thousand and two hundred articles, interviewed dozens of Heads of State and world personalities. She is a regular contributor to Mediterranean reviews like *Diálogo Mediterráneo*, *Afkar Ideas*, *ManhattanMed* and an Africa and Middle East correspondent. She also writes for *El País*.

Resat Akar

Journalist

He was born in 1955 in Nicosia (Cyprus). He went to school in Cyprus and qualified at the London School of Journalism. In 1996, he took a course for editors at the International Centre For Journalists in Washington DC. He has worked in several newspapers in Cyprus and has 33 years of experience in the profession. He held the editorship of the daily newspapers *Kıbrıs* and *Halkın Sesi* and produced the weekly *Gunaydin Kıbrıs* for many years. He has been President of the Cyprus Turkish Journalist Association. Currently he is the Editor of the three-language (English-Turkish-Greek) newspaper *Cyprus Dialogue*, the first of its kind in Cyprus. Despite the difficulties of the many obstacles that reporters still face because of the division of the country, the publication contributes weekly to mutual understanding between Turkish and Greek communities, in order to establish a dialogue for peace.

Patricia Almarcegui

Professor of Literature and writer

She is Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at the Universidad Internacional de Cataluña. She has a PhD in philosophy and for eight years she has done research in Orientalism and Travel Literature. She has published about twenty articles over this subject. She has been visiting Professor at the universities of Sorbonne, Paris, and the American University of El Cairo. Among her books are *Ali Bey y los viajeros europeos a Oriente* (2007); with L. Romero Tobar, *Los libros de viaje: la realidad vivida y los géneros literarios* (2004); the introduction of *Els viatges de Marco Polo* (2005); the coordination of *La cuestión oriental* (2000) and the direction of issues 280 and 315 of the review *Revista de Occidente*. She writes for the cultural review of the newspaper *ABC*. She has been part of the committee of the exhibition *Bellezas del harén y nuevas Sheherezades* (CCCB, Barcelona and Musée Guimet, Lyon, 2004).

Jamal Al Shalabi

Political scientist

He has a PhD from the College of Law, Paris University. Currently he is Associate Professor in the International Relations and Strategic Studies Program-Hashemite in Jordan. And he obtained the Al-Sharija Award for Arabian Culture 2006 from UNESCO France. He has written the following books: *Muhammed H. Heikal entre la politique Socialiste de Naser et la politique de l'Infitah de Sadat, 1952-1981* (2001), *The Movement towards Democracy and Freedom of the Press in Jordan* (2000) and *Europe and Arabs: Contemporary Political Vision?* (2000). He has also been a member on many committees and scientific reviews, such as: International Conference "Political Islam and Message of Amman" in 2006, General Coordinator of The Hashemite University; The First International Scientific Conference "Post 9/11 Arab-European Relations Conference: the reality and the horizons" (2005).

Vicenç Altaió

Director of KRTU and writer

He was born in Santa Perpètua de Mogoda (Spain) in 1954. Currently he is the Director of KRTU, but previously he was the commissioner of the Miró Year, General Coordinator of the Pla Year and Cultural Advisor to diverse institutions such as the Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Langued'oc-Roussillon and the Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Midi-Pyrénées. He is a member of AELC (Association of Writers in Catalan) and the PEN Club. He is the author of many narrative and poetry works as well as dramas and TV scripts. With the work *Santa follia de ser càntic* he won the Premis Octubre-Vicent Andrés Estellés for poetry 2005 and the Premis Literaris de Cadaqués-Quima Jaume 2006. Moreover, he collaborated on the creation of the art journals *Tarotdequinze*, *Cristalls*, *Èczema*, *Àrtics* and *Cave canis*.

Oumama Aouad

Director of the Institute of Hispanic-Portuguese Studies, Université Mohammed V-Agdal in Rabat

Doctor of Iberian and Latin American Literature from the Université de Nanterre (Paris), she is Professor at the Department of Spanish and Director of the Institute of Hispanic-Portuguese Studies at the Université Mohammed V-Agdal in Rabat. Member of the Higher Education Council presided by His Majesty King Mohammed VI as well as of diverse Moroccan, Spanish and Latin American research associations and groups, she has published books and articles in Morocco, Spain, Europe and North and South America. She has been a member of the Comité Averroes and of the Comité Mixto Interuniversitario Hispano-Marroquí since their creation and of the Jury of the awards Rafael Alberti for poetry and Eduardo Mendoza for short stories. She is Director of the Festival de las Andalucías Atlánticas in Essaouira. She has received, among others, the Moroccan Woman Award 2007 in the category “Sciences, Research and Development”.

Rafael Argullol

Philosopher and writer

Born in Barcelona in 1949, narrator, poet and philosopher, he is the Director of the Institut Universitari de Cultura at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Professor of Aesthetics and Art Theory at the Faculty of Humanities of this university. He is the author of twenty-five books in different literary fields: poetry (*Disturbios del conocimiento*, *Duelo en el Valle de la Muerte*, *El afilador de cuchillos*), novels (*Lampedusa*, *El asalto del cielo*, *Desciende, río invisible*, *La razón del mal*, *Transeuropa*, *Davalú o el dolor*) and essays (*La atracción del abismo*, *El Héroe y el Único*, *El fin del mundo como obra de arte*, *Aventura. Una filosofía nómada*, *Manifiesto contra la servidumbre. Escritos frente a la guerra*, among others) gradually heading towards a cross-over writing that breaks down the literary genres (*Cazador de instantes*, *El puente del fuego*, *Enciclopedia del crepúsculo*, *Breviario de la aurora*, etc.).

Emanuela Baldi

Project Coordinator of Love Difference

Born in 1973 in Italia, she earns a degree in Foreign Literatures and Languages, University of Florence 1998 and a European Union master degree for “Expositions, fairs, events and theatre set up” in 2002. Since 2003, she collaborates with Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, first in the Art office. Since 2004 in Politics Office she follows the project that resumes all this office aims: Love Difference - Artistic Movement for InterMediterranean Politic, International Cultural Association not for profit, network of creative projects for responsible transformation of civil society and cultural dialogue. She is project coordinator, co-responsible of all the activities lead, ideates and curates shared planning workshops, organizes events, builds up collaborative relations between artists and groups of artists operative in the field of social change through creative methods in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Paul Balta

Writer

Born in 1929 in Alexandria, he is a specialist on the Arab and Muslim worlds and the Mediterranean. In the newspaper *Le Monde* he has covered the major Middle East events and as a correspondent in the Maghreb he has covered the birth of the RASD. He has also been Director of the Centre d'études de l'Orient contemporain at the Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle and he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Fondation René Seydoux pour le monde méditerranéen, as well as President of Omar Le-Chéri, SELEFA (Société d'études lexicographiques et étymologiques françaises et arabes) and President of Honour of FEMEC (Forum Euroméditerranéen des Cultures). He is the author and co-author with Claudine Rulleau of several works (*La Méditerranée, berceau de l'avenir*, 2007) and he has contributed to important international newspapers and journals such as *El País* and *Le Libéral* and writes for the journal *Confluences / Méditerranée*.

Mourid Barghouti

Writer

Palestinian poet and writer Mourid Barghouti was born in 1944 in Deir Ghassana, Palestine. He has published 12 books of poetry, the last of which is *Muntasaf al-Lail* (*Midnight*, Beirut, 2005). Spanish edition *Medianoche* was published 2006 by Universidad de Castilla La Mancha and Fundación Antonio Pérez. His *Collected Works* came out in Beirut in 1997. He was awarded the Palestine Award for Poetry (2000). His autobiographical narrative *Ra'ytu Ramallah* (*I Saw Ramallah*, 1997), won the Naguib Mahfouz Award for Literature (1997) and was translated into several languages; the Spanish translation was published by Ediciones del Oriente y del Mediterráneo. Barghouti has participated in numerous conferences and poetry readings and festivals in almost all Arab countries and in several European cities.

José Gabriel Bastos

Anthropologist

Doctor of Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, he is Scientific Coordinator of the Centro de Estudos de Migrações y Minorías Étnicas, of the Mestrado em Migrações, Inter-etnicidades e Transnacionalismo (FCSH), and of the Editorial de Etnología – Revista científica of the Department of Anthropology of FCSH. Among his latest works as Chief Researcher, the following stand out: *Muçulmanos sob pressão* (2007-09), *Dar à luz em Portugal* (2007-08), *Inter-etnicidades na escola pública* (2007-08), *Portugal no Século XXI: gerações emergentes em contexto multi-étnico*. The following works will soon be published: *Identity Processes and Strategies in Multiethnic Europe*, *Para uma antropologia dos processos identitários* and *Contar direito por linhas tortas. Para uma antropologia pós-racionalista II*.

Hélé Béji

Writer

Born in Tunis in 1948, she is Professor of Modern Literature and has taught French literature at the Université de Tunis. She has worked as international officer at UNESCO and, in 1988, she founded a literary society, the Collège International de Tunis. She is the author of several essays (*L'imposture culturelle*, 1997; *Nous, décolonisés*, 2008), short stories (*L'œil du jour*, 1985; *Itinéraire de Paris à Tunis*, 1992), novels (*La robe blanche à petits pois*, 2001; *Baudrillard City*, 2004; *La vague et le rocher*, 2005). She won the Prix

de l'Afrique méditerranéenne, the Prix de la création littéraire du CREDIF (Tunis, 1998) and the Grand Prix de l'Association d'amitié France-Tunisie (Tunis, 2000). She also contributes to several journals such as *Le Débat*, *Esprit*, *La Quinzaine Littéraire* or *La Revue des Deux Mondes* and has delivered lectures in different institutions such as UNESCO, the Institut Français des Relations Internationales or the Institut du Monde Arabe.

Esther Bendahan

Writer and Director of Casa Sefarad

Born in Tétouan in 1964 in a Spanish Sephardic family. She studied Psychology and French Philology in Madrid. She is currently sub-Director of the TV2 programme *Shalom* and Head of Programming of Casa Sefarad-Israel. Moreover, she regularly writes articles and reports in several publications. She is co-author with Ester Benari of the novel *Soñar con Hispania* (2000) and her short stories are included in diverse anthologies. Among her works are *La sombra y el mar* (Morales del Coso, 2003); *Deshojando alcachofas* (Seix Barral, 2005); *Déjalo, ya volveremos* (Seix Barral, 2006); where she narrates her childhood and the disintegration of the Jewish community in Morocco; and *La cara de Marte* (Premio de Novela *Tigre Juan*, Algaida, 2007). She has translated, together with Adolfo García Ortega, *En el nombre del otro: reflexiones sobre el antisemitismo que viene* (Alain Finkielkraut, Seix Barral, 2005).

Dolors Bramon

Specialist in Islamic studies

Born in Banyoles (Spain) in 1943, she obtained her PhD in philosophy and literature (Semitics philology speciality) at the University of Barcelona. She is a Professor of the Semitics Philology Department. She works in the fields of religious minorities in Girona under the crown of Aragon and of Islamic past period of those lands where Catalan is spoken nowadays, from a historical and philologist point of view. She has also worked in the field of Arab and Islamic geography. She is a member of the Association of Catalan Language Writers. She has published many articles, such as "El passat arabomusulmà a Catalunya: Ni tan lluny, ni tan a prop, ni tan aliè" (in the *Revista de Catalunya*) and books as *Contra moros i jueus: Formació i estratègia d'unes discriminacions al País Valencià*, (Joan Fuster Award in 1981).

Xavier Bru de Sala

Writer and journalist

Born in Barcelona in 1952, Xavier Bru de Sala is a writer and journalist. He was Literary Director of Edicions Proa (1984-87) and Director General for Cultural Promotion at the Generalitat de Catalunya (1988-91). He writes columns in the newspaper *La Vanguardia*. He has devoted himself to the world of theatre and has worked on stage versions of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Misanthrope*, *Pygmalion*, the musicals *Mikado* and *Els pirates* or the libretto of *Mar i Cel*. His latest published books are: *El descrèdit de la literatura* (Quaderns Crema, 1999); *Reflexiones magmáticas* (La

esfera de los libros, 2004); *Fot-li, que som catalans* and *Fot-li més que encara som catalans* (L'esfera dels llibres, 2005 and 2006), both together with Julià de Jòdar and Miquel de Palol; and the novel *Cartes d'uns coneguts a una desconeguda* (La Magrana, 2007). In 1972 he won the Premi Carles Riba for poetry with *La fi del fil* and in 1974 the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona.

Ion Bulei

Historian

Born in Comarnic, Romania, in 1942, he studied History at Bucharest University and he was post graduated in International Relations. He worked as Editor at the Encyclopedic Publishing House before he received a PhD in 1976. Since 2002, he is Professor at the Faculty of History of Bucharest University, head of the Chair of History of the Romanians. Since 1996, he is also Diploma and PhD adviser. He was appointed Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Venice (1997-2003). Editor in chief of *Annuario dell'Istituto Romeno di Cultura*, Venezia, and its supplement, *Quaderni della Casa Romena di Venezia*, since 2004 he is also the Director of the Political Sciences and International Relations Institute of the Romanian Academy. All his works are focused on the political, social and cultural affairs and the mindset of the 19th and 20th centuries, in the context of the European value system.

Eliseu Carbonell

Anthropologist

Born in Barcelona in 1969, he has a doctorate of Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Universitat de Barcelona and post-graduate in African Studies from the Universitat Rovira i Virgili; moreover he is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford and at the University of Quebec. He currently works as a freelance researcher in issues of sea ethnology, collaborating with the Barcelona Maritime Museum and other public institutions. He is consultant in ethnography at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and tutor in Social Anthropology at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. He has published the books *Debates acerca de la antropología del tiempo* (2004) and *Josep Pla: el temps, la gent i el paisatge. Una etnografia de l'Empordà franquejant la literatura* (2006). His research focuses on suicide, literature and Mediterranean anthropology, and the anthropology of Mediterranean climate and landscape.

Josep Lluís Carod-Rovira

Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia

Born in Cambrils de Mar (Baix Camp), 1952. He holds a Degree in Catalan Philology from the Universitat de Barcelona. He was a Professor at the Escola Universitària de Tarragona (1976-1982). He worked as Head Technician of Linguistic Planning for the Government of Catalonia (1981-1988). He was Professor and Vice-President at the Universitat Catalana d'Estiu (1986-1995). He headed the Cultural Territorial Services of the Government of Catalonia in Tarragona from 1982 to 1984. He has been a Member of the Board of Directors of Òmnium Cultural (1986-1995). He is currently the President of Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) and he has been a deputy for ERC in the Parliament of Catalonia since 1988. He was the First Minister of the Government of Catalonia (2003-2004) and he is now the Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia. He is also the author of several books.

Jordi Casassas

Historian

He has a PhD in Contemporary History and currently he is a professor of Contemporary History at the University of Barcelona. His thesis was entitled "Jaume Bofill (1878-1933). L'adscripció social i l'evolució política" (Jaume Bofill. The social enrolment and the political evolution) (1977). His main fields of research are Politics, National and Cultural History, and his last work of research was about political problem of national identities in the Contemporary Mediterranean space. His main published books are *J.Bofill i Mates (1878-1933)* (1980), *La dictadura de Primo de Rivera (1923-1930)* (Primo de Rivera's dictatorship) (1983), *Història de l'Ateneu Barcelonès. Dels orígens als nostres dies* (History of the Ateneu Barcelonès. From its origins to nowadays) (1986) and *El futur del catalanisme* (The future of Catalan Nationalism) (1997).

Abdelkader Chaui

Writer

Born in 1950, he holds a Degree in Modern Literature from the University of Rabat, where he passed his doctorate in 1997. In 1990 he was the editor of the journal *'Alá al-aqall* and, in 1993, of the newspaper *al-Mawdja*. Among his awards, we must cite the Novel Prize 2000. He has developed the autobiographical novel and journalism. In 1994 he obtained a position in the Ministry of Human Rights and since 2004 he has worked in the Embassy of Morocco in Madrid. His first work was *Sult:at al-wâqi'iyya (The Power of Realism, 1981)*. Also of special note are *al-Nas:s: al-'ad:awî (The Organic Text, 1982)* and *al-Salafiyya wa-l-wat:aniyya (Salafism and Patriotism, 1985)*. Among his novels the following stand out: *Kâna wa-ajawâtu-hâ (Kana and His Sisters, 1986)* an autobiography published and banned a few weeks later where he describes his childhood, youth and the years in prison, and *Dalîl al-'unfuwân (A Guide to Plenitude, 1989)*.

Tahar Chikhaoui

Filmmaker

Born in 1954 in Tunis. Since his doctorate on La Rochefoucauld, he has taught literature and cinema at the Université de la Manoub and at the Ecole des Arts et du cinéma. He organises training courses in Tunisia and abroad (for five years in Namur, where he co-directs the scriptwriting workshop for young French-speaking filmmakers). He also organises cine-clubs, including the university of the Rue Houcine Bouzaine, that of the Salle Africarts and that of the Faculty of Humanities of Manouba. He was the founding member and President for many years of the Association Tunisienne Pour la Promotion de la Critique Cinématographique. He is the founder and director of the publication *Cinécrits* and Honorary President of the cine-club *Cinéfilms* in El Hamra. He contributes to the Italian cinema journal *Filmcritica* and to *Cahiers du cinéma* and translates the articles that appear in the electronic edition into Arabic.

Ornella D'Agostino

Dancer and choreographer

Born in Cagliari (Italy) in 1960, she is a dancer, author of performances and Artistic Director of the association Carovana S.M.I. In 1989 she graduated from the School for New Dance Development of Amsterdam, after firstly being educated in Italy and France. Her activity is based on the organisation of artistic productions, pedagogic and event programmes that combine innovative methodologies with traditional cultural contexts. These programmes are located especially in the Mediterranean area and represent an investigation around body and identity. She has been President of the Dance Bassin Méditerranéen for 3 years and she is President of the Co.R.D.I.S. (network of dance companies in Sardinia). Her last productions are *La ballata dell'Errore* on the musical opera *L'Eroe* by Giovanna Marini, *But Beautiful*, *Hip hop e altro inutili belati* and *Trasfigura*, which have toured Italy, France, England, the USA and Slovenia.

Miquel de Palol

Writer

Born in Barcelona in 1953, he is the author of books of poetry, narrative and essays. Among others, he has published *Lotus* (1972), *Delta* (1973), *Salamó* (1982), *El Porxo de les Mirades* (1983), *Indiferència* (1986), *El Sol i la Mort* (1996) and *Nocturns* (2002) in the first of these genres; *El Jardí dels Set Crepuscles* (1989), *L'Àngel d'Hora en Hora* (1995), *El Legislador* (1997), *El Quincorn* (1999), *El Troiacord* (2001), *Gallifa* and *Un Home Vulgar* (2006) in the second; and *Jacint Verdaguer* (2002), *La Poesia en el Boudoir* (2003), *Els Proverbis* (2003) and *Dos Poetes, impressions d'Espriu i Vinyoli* (2006) in the third. He is a regular contributor to the newspapers *Avui* and *El Mundo* and has received the awards Carles Riba, Josep Pla, Víctor Català, Sant Jordi, Joan Creixells, Nacional de Literatura de la Generalitat de Catalunya, Ciutat de Barcelona and, in the three genres, Crítica Serra d'Or.

Tamara Djermanovich

Professor of Literature and writer

Born in Belgrade in 1965, currently she has a PhD in Humanities and she is Professor and Director of the Seminary of Slavonic Studies at the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Since 2000, she participates in the research project on arts and visions, sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture, with a study and research concerning Russian icons. She considers the problem of a particular development of literature, art and aesthetics in the Slavic world and forms of dialogue that were being established in the Western Europe. She has organized a number of seminars, lectures and various cultural performances dedicated to Slavic cultures. *She has published books, a number of papers, articles and reviews on Slavic cultures in the numerous Russian, Spanish and Serbian books, periodicals and daily papers. Her last books are Dostoyevski entre Rússia y Occidente* (2006) and *La espiritualidad ortodoxa en la obra de F.M Dostoyevski* (2006).

Najat El Hachmi

Writer

Najat El Hachmi was born in Nador (Morocco) in 1979, when her father had already emigrated to Catalonia. At the age of eight she went to live in Vic (Spain) thanks to family regrouping. Since then she has always lived in Vic, the town where she had studied until she registered in Arabic Philology at the Universitat de Barcelona. In 1999 she married and in 2000 she had a child. She currently works as mediator at the Delegation of Education in Vic, although she has had many jobs: cleaner, cook, sports monitor, etc. She has written since she was eleven or twelve, firstly for pleasure although writing gradually became a way to channel the uneasiness and the restlessness of feeling from two places at the same time and a means to approach these two worlds to which she belongs. *Jo també sóc catalana* (2004) was her first book. In 2008 she won the Premi Ramon Llull with her novel *L'últim patriarca*.

Zeyneb Farhat

Journalist and theatre organiser

Born in 1957 in Tunis, she is a journalist and a consultant in the different cultural specialities and in the conception and organisation of artistic events. She is the founding member of the network "Danser dans le bassin méditerranéen". She has training in theatre management, with residences at the Théâtre National de Toulouse and the workshop Ste. Anne in Brussels. Since 1987, she has been in charge of the programming, press and public relations at El Teatro, the first independent venue of art and creation in Tunisia. To date, she has organised and produced, among others, the documentary *Femmes artistes Arabes et la guerre* (2007), the first meeting "Femmes, guerres et créations" (2006), the contemporary dance production *Zangana* or the five platforms of contemporary dance in the Arab Mediterranean "Rencontres internationales Dama - El Teatro" (1993-2003).

Francisco Ferrero

Director of the Instituto Cervantes in Brussels

Born in Ontinyent in 1943, he holds a Degree in Humanities and is Doctor of Hispanic Philology. He has taught at the North Devon Technical College (England), Universidad de La Laguna, Universidad Politécnica de Las Palmas, Lycée Espagnol in Paris; Fordham University and Columbia University (New York), University of Vienna, Instituto Cervantes in Vienna and DolmetschInstitut der Universität Wien. He was Director of the Colegio Mayor Universitario San Agustín, Director of the Instituto Luther King, Vice-Director of the Lycée Espagnol in Paris, and Director of the Instituto Cervantes in Vienna and the Instituto Cervantes in Brussels, his current position. He has published numerous articles on language, literature and translation along with poetry and short stories. He was awarded the Premio Siurell, granted by Club Última Hora and the Xonecuilli 2006, for his literary work.

Benita Ferrero-Waldner

European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy

Born in Salzburg, Austria, in 1948, Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner studied Law at the University of Salzburg and received a Doctorate from the same university in 1970. Until 1983 she worked in the private sector. In 1984 she entered the diplomatic service: she worked in the Austrian Embassy in Madrid, Dakar and Paris. One of her most influential positions was Chief of Protocol for Secretary General Boutros-Ghali at the United Nations

in New York (1993-1995). From 1995 to 2000 she was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, from 2000 to 2004, she occupied the position of Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. In November 2004 she was appointed Member of the European Commission in charge of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, a position she currently occupies.

Senén Florensa

Director-General of the IEMed

Born in Valls, Spain, in 1950. He holds a Degree in Economic Science (1971) and in Law (1972) from the Universitat de Barcelona. He studied for his Doctorate in Economics at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (1973-1974); as a Fullbright scholarship holder at New York University, PhD Programme (1974-1976), and at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where he presented his doctoral thesis in 1979. He holds the Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Recently he has been General Director of the Instituto de Cooperación con el Mundo Árabe, Mediterráneo y Países en Desarrollo, ICMAMPD, (1996-2000) and Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia (2000-2004). In March 2006, he was appointed Director-General of the IEMed.

Miquel Forcada

Philologist and writer

Born in Barcelona in 1964, he has a Degree in Semitic Philology (Arabic) from the Universitat de Barcelona (1987); graduate in Law from the Universitat de Barcelona (1988) and Doctor of Semitic Philology from the Universitat de Barcelona (1992). Currently, he is Professor at the Department of Semitic Philology (Arabic section) at the Universitat de Barcelona and Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the same department. Moreover, he is a member of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences and member of the consolidated research group on History of Arab Science Millàs Vallicrosa, as well as of the writing team of *Suhayl, Journal for the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation* and of *Estudios Onomástico-Biográficos de al-Andalus* of CSIC in Madrid. Author of more than 50 titles, including books, articles and book chapters, on Arabic-Islamic science, history and culture.

Nathalie Galesne

Journalist

She studied Literature and Philosophy in Paris and very soon she began working on the organisation of cultural events, marketing, communication, journalism and writing. She has worked on radio programmes of RAI 3 and has written contributions for the French and Italian press. In 1995 she became chief writer of the journal *Rive*. In 2002 she published the book *Syrie, éclats d'un mythe* and created the website Babelmed.net (on-line magazine on Mediterranean cultures) of which she is currently the chief writer. She is also President of the association Babelmed, coordinator of the research project *Littératures fécondes: écrivains européens et maghrébins* and is responsible for a series of journal surveys on the Mediterranean supported by the European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam: *Mythes et cosmopolitismes des grandes villes méditerranéennes, le cas d'Alexandrie, Tanger, Alger, Palerme*. She also teaches French at the University of Siena (Faculty of Arezzo).

Bensalem Himmich

Philosopher and writer

Moroccan philosopher, writer and scriptwriter, he is the author of several works in Arabic and in French. His novel *Le Calife de l'Épouvante* (translated into four languages) received the Arabic Novel Award in 1999 and was selected by the Union of Arab Writers among the best one hundred 20th century novels. His novel *Le Savantissime*, translated into English and in process of translation into three languages, received the Prix Grand Atlas (2000) and the Najib Mahfouz Award (2002); it will be released in 2008 by Éditions Actes Sud. In 2003, he received the Sharjah-UNESCO Award for the whole of his work. A committed intellectual, he is engaged in politics and in the defence of human rights. Other titles of his are *Le livre des fièvres et des sages* (1989), *De la formation idéologique en Islam* (1990), *Partant d'Ibn Khaldoun, penser la dépression* (1997), *Être en vie et autres philosophèmes* (2005) and *Anbar l'éprouvé* (to be published).

Emma Hooper

Economist

She is a specialist in Economic and Social Development, with a particular interest in the countries of South Asia, the Mediterranean region, and the Islamic world. She has worked with the World Bank, the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as with the private sector and non-governmental organisations, including the Agha Khan Foundation. She was Regional Gender Consultant for the Mediterranean Region for the European Commission (1996-97) and Poverty & Macro-Economic Specialist for the Asian Development Bank, Islamabad Pakistan, from 2004-06. Her fields of specialisation include urban and rural development, resettlement, poverty reduction and micro-finance. She has a PhD from the London School of Economics on Women in the Urban Labour Force in Pakistan; and her first degree was in Middle Eastern History at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London University.

Oriol Izquierdo

Director of the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes and philosopher

Born in Barcelona in 1963, he holds a Degree in Philosophy. Currently he is Professor of Literature and Humanities at the Facultat de Comunicació Blanquerna (Universitat Ramon Llull) and at the Escola d'Espectura of the Ateneu Barcelonès. He has been Director of the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes since 2007. He regularly contributes to the newspapers *La Vanguardia* and *Avui*. He has been literary critic on several Spanish newspapers and journals. He is the author of the essay *Fahrenheit 212. Una aproximació a la literatura catalana recent* (La Magrana, 1989). He has participated as Writer-in-Chief in the creation, in 1999, of the quarterly publication *Idees. Revista de temes contemporanis*. As an editor, he has been Literary Director of Edicions Proa (Grup Enciclopèdia Catalana), between 1987 and 1998, and Head of Publications at the Fundació Joan Maragall.

Salah Jamal

Doctor, historian, writer and gastronomist

Born in 1951 in Nablus (Palestine), he is a doctor of medicine and surgery and holds a degree and a doctorate in History and Geography from the Universitat de Barcelona. He has been a speaker in diverse courses, doctorates and masters in several Spanish

universities and lecturer in diverse disciplines: immigration, gastronomy, medicine or politics. Frequent contributor to diverse media, he has taught several courses and workshops on gastronomic culture. He has written several books, including *Aroma árabe, recetas y relatos* (2000), awarded with the prize for best work in its category in the Spanish language and the best book in the world on foreign cuisine (*The World Cookbook*. Fair Périgueux-France 9-12 Nov. 2000), *Catalunya en quatre pinzellades* (2001), *La resistència de la economia palestina* (2003), *Palestina, ocupació i resistència*, (2001) and his latest novel *Lluny de l'horitzó perfumat* (2004).

Salam Kawakibi

Political scientist

He has followed his studies at the Université d'Alep and at the Institut d'Études Politiques d'Aix en Provence. Currently, he is the coordinator of a research programme on the reform of the security system in the Arab countries within the Arab Reform Initiative in Paris. He is founding member of the Centre arabe pour l'éducation aux droits de l'homme et au droit international humanitaire as well as the Centre Al-Kawakibi pour les transitions démocratiques. Researcher associated to several European research centres such as CIDOB (Barcelona) and ARI (Paris), he contributes to the European programme CARIM on the issue of immigration in the Mediterranean. Moreover, he regularly writes in the specialised Arabic, French and English press and has contributed to several works in these three languages.

Dean Komel

Philosopher

Born in 1960 in Bilje, Slovenia. He studied Philosophy and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Ljubljana and took his doctorate on the theme of a hermeneutic critique of the anthropological orientation in contemporary philosophy. He is Professor of Contemporary Philosophy and the Philosophy of Culture at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Ljubljana. He is additionally President of the Phenomenological Society in Ljubljana and is on the editorial board of a number of journals for philosophy and culture (*Phainomena*, *Nova revija*, *Orbis Phaenomenologicus*, etc.). His most recent books are *Resnica in resničnost sodobnosti* (*Truth and the Reality of Contemporaneity*, Faculty of Philosophy, Ljubljana, 2007) and *Smisao posredovanja* (*The Sense of Mediation*, Demetra, Zagreb, 2007).

Celia Lowenstein

Film director and psychologist

Her background is in Psychology and Genetics and she has also maintained her career in dance. For over two decades, Celia Lowenstein has directed films whose subjects range from science to music and art to the world of ideas. She has collaborated, made films about and worked with well-known scientists, writers, politicians, choreographers and musicians from around the world, who include David Attenborough, Rudy Giuliani, Ed Koch, Lea Anderson, Bill T. Jones, Paul Bowles, Gilberto Gil, Paolo and Daniel Jobim,

Youssou N'Dour and Caetano Veloso. Her work is commissioned by the BBC, Channel 4, Arte, ZDF, PBS, Bravo, Discovery, Channel 5, Animal Planet and NOVA. In 2003-2005 she was awarded a grant from The Christensen Fund to set up a World Music Initiative to draw attention to the relationship between music, epic poetry, religion (rites of passage, worship), people, food, politics and landscape.

Joseph Maïla

Political scientist

Professor of Philosophy and Political Sciences. He was Dean of the Université Catholique de Paris and of the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at the same university. He has founded and directed the Centre de recherche sur la paix and the Institut de formation à la médiation et à la négociation in Paris. He is member of the writing team of the journals *Esprit* and *Etudes* and co-founder of *Cahiers de l'Orient*. Consultant for UNESCO, he has conceived the Centre International des Sciences de l'Homme de Byblos. He is consultant of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and Vice-President of the Université de la Paix. His research focuses on the sociology of conflicts and their resolution, the Middle East conflicts, international relations and Islam. Of special note among his publications are *Le conflit israélo-arabe* and *De Manhattan à Bagdad. Au delà du Bien et du Mal*.

Ferran Mascarell

Cultural manager and audiovisual producer

A historian, he is currently an audiovisual producer and Delegate Councillor of RBA Audiovisual, first Vice-President of the Ateneu Barcelonès and Director of the Masters in Management of Cultural Institutions, Businesses and Associations at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. He has published diverse cultural studies and projects and the book *La cultura en l'era de la incertesa* (2005). He developed the initial project of the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona. He was Councillor of Culture, Councillor of the district of Gràcia, Councillor President of the Commission of Culture, Education and Social Welfare, Spokesman of the Government at Barcelona City Council and Minister of Culture (2003-06). Promoter of the Library Plan and the Cultural Facilities Plan of Barcelona, he was Director-Manager of the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona (ICUB) and founder of the journal *L'Avenç*.

JONAS MAŽEIKA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1971. He studied philosophy at Vilnius University, and in 1995 he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania as a secretary. From 1998 to 2001, he was Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Ukraine and then returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work in the Russian division. In 2003, he became Head of the Division of Central Europe Countries. In 2007, he worked as a Councillor in the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Poland and, since last year, he has been the Head of the Policy Analysis Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His work has always been focused on political, economic and social relations between European countries and Lithuania,

especially since the latter joined the European Union. He has also worked on the intercultural dialogue between Northern and Mediterranean countries.

Rachid Mendjeli
Narrator specialist

His artistic and intellectual work takes place within a multidisciplinary context. He is currently interested in the study of the staging of the body languages of the storytellers. The storytellers in Jama' al Fna square in Marrakech (Morocco) have provided him with a primary field of ethnographic and photographic study. This research work takes place within a comparative perspective on the practices of the work as a storyteller. The relations between the discourses of art, myth, politics and social sciences are at the heart of his epistemological and anthropological research on the forms of symbolic powers and dominations. His questions are located at the interstice of his artistic creations and his research, between the knowledge and the methods of research that epistemology, political sociology and ethnology offer.

Maria Elena Morató
Journalist and art critic

Born in Barcelona in 1958. A graduate in Information Sciences from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and a member of the International Association of Art Critics, she combines the disciplines of journalism and painting. As an art critic she has written articles for several newspapers and journals (*Semanario Reus*, *Avui*, *Batik*, *Artes Plásticas*, *Architectural Digest*, *Lateral*, *Quaderns de la Mediterrània*, *Danza Oriental*) and collaborated with diverse institutions (CIDOB Foundation, Barcelona City Council, Generalitat de Catalunya, University of Bologna) in exhibitions and conferences. She has published books in several publishing houses (La Gran Enciclopedia Vasca, Fundación de Historia y Arte Roger de Belfort, MAP, Tibidabo, Fur Printing & Dara Art Foundation, Electa, La Fábrica de Ideas). She was editor and director of the bilingual journal *Zaqafa-Cultura* and she currently studies cultural creation in North African countries.

Besnik Mustafaj
Writer

Besnik Mustafaj was born in Bajram Curri, Albania, in 1958. He studied French at the University of Tirana and, after the collapse of the communist dictatorship, was seconded as Albanian Ambassador to France. He was appointed Foreign Minister of the Republic of Albania in 2005. He is both a prose writer and poet. His poetry has appeared in collections such as *Fytyrë burri* (*Face of a Man*, 1987) and *Legjenda e lindjes sime* (*The Legend of my Birth*, 1998). Among his prose volumes are: *Vera pa kthim* (*The Summer of No Return*, 1989); *Gjinkallat e vapës* (*The Cicadas of the Heat*, 1994); *Një sagë e vogël* (*A Little Saga*, 1995); *Daullja prej letre* (*The Paper Drum*, 1996); and *Boshti* (*The Void*, 1998). He is also the author of essays and studies such as *Fletorja rezervat: shënime jashtë valixhes diplomatike* (*The Reserved Notebook: Notes from a Diplomatic Briefcase*, 1995) and *Midis krimeve dhe mirazheve: esse* (*Between Crimes and Mirages: essays*, 1999).

Enric Olivé
Historian

Born in Tarragona in 1949, he has a PhD in History from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is Professor of Contemporary History at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili de Tarragona, Director of the European Official Masters “Mediterranean Cultural Studies and Management of International Conflicts” and Director of the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean. Moreover, he is Executive Secretary of the Euromed Permanent University Forum, which encompasses 90 universities and institutions of the Euro-Mediterranean region. Between 1990 and 1993, he was the Director of the Tarragona History Museum (UNESCO Humanity Heritage). He has written the books *La pedagogía obrerista de la imagen* (1978) and *Els Moragas: història íntima d'una família de notables (1750-1868): privacitat i família en la crisi de l'Antic Règim a Catalunya* (1998).

Yolanda Onghena

Fundació CIDOB

Born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1950, she trained in art history, theatre and Euro-Arab studies. Currently she is responsible for the programme *Intercultural Dynamics* of the Fundació CIDOB, and since 1995 she has coordinated international seminars and publications that bring together the reflection, analyse and offer a global view of the debate on intercultural dynamics. Her works approach subjects such as transcultural relations, the intercultural in the discourses, tourism as an area of contact between cultures, among others. Moreover, she is the author of diverse articles: “Intercultural/Multicultural” (2007), “New Communication, New Interpretations. A challenge for cultural learning” (2006), “De lo identitario a lo intercultural” (2006), “Interculturalità e turismo sostenibile” (2005), “Dinámicas interculturales y construcción identitaria” (2005), among others.

Baltasar Porcel

Writer

Born in Andratx, Majorca, in 1937. Writer and journalist, he has published novels, short stories, plays, essays, biographies, travel books and numerous contributions in newspapers and magazines. His literary work reflects an eminently poetic and mythical, yet realistic and vital, Mediterranean world. Awarded with numerous prizes from Catalonia, Spain and other European countries, we point out the following works: *Les primaveres i les tardors* (1986), *Lola i els peixos morts* (1994), *Ulisses a alta mar* (1997), *El cor del senglar* (2000), *Onatges tumultuosos* (1996), *Cavalls cap a la fosca* (1995), *L'Emperador o L'ull del vent* (2001), *Les maniobres de l'amor* (2002) and *Olympia a mitjanit* (2004), among others. In 1989 in Barcelona Baltasar Porcel founded the Catalan Institute of the Mediterranean which he presided until the year 2000. His work has been translated into English, French (published by Éditions Actes Sud), Italian, German, Russian and Vietnamese.

Maria-Àngels Roque

Anthropologist

Historian and Doctor of Social Anthropology. Director of Studies of Mediterranean Cultures and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Quaderns de la Mediterrània* of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Among her research works as anthropologist the following stand out: *Valors i diversitat cultural a les societats d'Europa i del Magreb* (ed.)

(1998); *L'espace méditerranéen latin* (dir.) (1999); *Nueva antropología de las sociedades mediterráneas* (ed.) (2000); *Mujer y migración en el mediterráneo occidental* (dir.) (2001); *El Islam plural* (ed.) (2003); *La Société Civile au Maroc* (dir.) (2004); *Literatures i nous espais de comunicació a la Mediterrània* (co-dir.) (2004); *Antropologia Mediterrànea: pràcticas compartidas* (2005) and *Anthropologie du Quotidien* (2005). She has taught at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) and has been invited by diverse universities and centres of international research.

José Enrique Ruiz-Domènec

Historian and medievalist

Born in Granada, he is Professor of Medieval History and Director of the Institut d'Estudis Medievals at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Member of the Reial Acadèmia de Bones Lletres and of the Reial Acadèmia de Doctors de Catalunya, scriptwriter, director of documentaries for television and literary contributor to *La Vanguardia* in Barcelona. He is the author of hundreds of articles in international journals and over thirty books, among which *La memoria dei feudali* (Argot, 1984, Guida 1992); *La novela o el espíritu de la caballería* (Mondadori 1992 and 2000); *La ambición del amor. Historia del matrimonio en Europa* (Aguilar, 2003); *Palestina, pasos perdidos* (Destino, 2004); *El Gran Capitán* (Península, 2002 and 2007; Einaudi, 2007); *El reto del historiador* (Premi Ciutat de Barcelona for essay, Península 2006); *El Mediterráneo. Historia y cultura* (Península, 2003) and *Atardeceres Rojos* (Ariel, 2007).

Claudine Rulleau

Writer and journalist

Claudine Rulleau, born in Paris, worked in the field of theatre while following her studies of humanities and for two years she was the secretary of the writer Eugène Ionesco. After having moved from theatre to journalism, she worked on the newspaper *Paris-Presse l'Intransigeant* and the *Nouveau Candide*, translated several works from English and contributed to different journals such as *Constellation* and *France Pays Arabes*, among others. Literary director of Éditions Sindbad in Paris from 1980 to 1995, she has participated in the activities of the Fondation René Seydoux pour le monde méditerranéen, especially in the field of cultural exchanges between young people from the countries of the basin. Member of the writing team of the quarterly *Confluences Méditerranée*, she is the co-author with Paul Balta of several works among which the most recent is *La Méditerranée, berceau de l'avenir* (2007).

Katarina Runesson

Coordinator of the National Museums of World Culture

She received a Bachelor Degree in International Administration and Political Science from the Växjö University (Sweden) and she has done courses in Diplomacy and International Rights (Universidad Americana de Managua, 2001), Conflict Resolution (Harvard University, 2002-03), and two Masters in Globalization Studies (Lund University, 2003-04) and Human Rights Studies (Göteborg University, 2003-04). Since November 2004 she has worked as International Coordinator of National Museums of World Culture in Göteborg, managing the Swedish network of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, bringing together 50 Swedish organizations in cooperation with 36 countries.

She also coordinates MuSEA, a Sida-funded cooperation between cultural heritage institutions in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Carmen Sammut

Journalist

She lectures in International Communications at the University of Malta. Her current research interest revolves around journalism and democratization processes in the Mediterranean and also immigration and communication. She holds a PhD in Media and Communications from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and an MA, PGCE and BA from the University of Malta. Dr Sammut also has ample experience as a media exponent having worked as a journalist with Public Broadcasting Services and later as a freelancer with a number of channels. She works closely with journalists' organizations like the Institute of Maltese Journalists, where she is a member of the Ethics Committee and also sits on the Board of Studies. She regularly features in the media as a communications analyst. Her book *Media and Maltese Society* (2006) was published by Lexington Press.

Rebecca Simpson

Writer and translator

Born in England in 1960, she studied literature and theatre. As a writer, she has participated in the creation of many works of the group Cambridge Experimental Theatre (1982-86). She has written the plays *New Jerusalem* (1985), *Joana I de Castella* (1994) and the opera libretto *Juana* (2001). She has translated into English the works of Federico García Lorca *El Público* and *Bodas de Sangre* and the libretto of *Saló d'Anubis* by Toni Rumbau and the play *Vacants* by Lluïsa Cunillé. As an actress, she has worked with Cambridge Experimental Theatre on works by Shakespeare and works of her own creation. She has directed the plays *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen (2000, Teatre Grec de Barcelona) and *Punk Snot Dead* (Teatre Malic, 2002). In 2003, she was the narrator of *Façade* by Edith Sitwell and William Walton, and the scene director of the opera *Sávitri* by Gustav Holst. She is also the creator of the method of body work and personal development *A través del cos*.

Yana Sistovari

Artistic director and writer

Born in Athens and raised in Cairo, she is the founder and Artistic Director of the London-based international theatre company Thiasos. She has produced and directed a staging of the chorus of Euripides' *Medea*. She has also directed Aristophanes' *Wealth* in the style of *Karaghiozi*, Aristophanes' *Peace* with songs and dance inspired by folk traditions of modern Greece, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aeschylus' *Persae*. Her recent publications include *Chorus and Dance in the Ancient World*, *Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Theatre* (ed. J.M. Walton and M. McDonald, Cambridge University Press, 2007) and *Gardzienice's Magic - Flogging a Dead Rat in The Ancient Dancer in the Modern World* (ed. F. Macintosh, Oxford University Press, 2009). Her lectures and performances include: death ritual in Shi'ism and in ancient Greek tragedy, funeral processions and lamentation, ancient Greek Dance or satiric dance in ancient Greece.

Simona Skrabec

Translator and literary critic

Born in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in 1968, she is Doctor of Literary Theory from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She works as a translator and literary critic, between Slovenia and Catalonia, where she settled in 1992. She started working in literary translation many years ago and has translated diverse works by the most important Slovenian and Serbian authors into Catalan (Makarovic, Jancar, Kis, Pahor, Mozetic) and of Catalan authors into Slovenian (Calders, Foix, Moncada, Todó, Cabré, Ferrater). She is the author of the books *L'estirp de la solitud. El sentit tràgic en la narrativa breu de les literatures centreeuropees* (Barcelona, IEC, 2002), with which she obtained the Premi Josep Carner for Literary Theory 2001, and *L'atzar de la lluita. El concepte d'Europa Central al llarg del segle XX* (Valencia, Afers, 2005).

Gianluca Solera

Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures

He was born in 1966 on the shores of Lake Garda, Italy, but he carries the name of a Sephardic family related to the Diaspora of the 15th century. He studied Urban and Regional Planning at the Institute of Architecture of Venice, and completed his academic career in Paris, Berlin and Birzeit. For ten years (1995-2004), he was political advisor to the Greens/European Free Alliance in the European Parliament. In 2005 he joined the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, where he currently coordinates the Network of Networks. He published, among others, *La città sostenibile (The Sustainable City: Analyses, Perspectives and Proposals for an European Urban Ecology)* (1994), *Di città in città. Poesie sull'Europa (From Town to Town: Poems about Europe)* (1995) and *Muri, lacrime e zatar (Walls, Tears and Zatar: Voices and Life Stories from Palestine)* (2007).

Veronika Stabej

Head of EuroMed and National Coordinator for the Francophonie

She has a Degree in Languages and Literature (English and French) from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 1989, she worked at the International Executive Development Centre, Ljubljana. In 1991, she was Director of the Open Society Fund Slovenia for the Soros Foundation, which aims to promote open societies by shaping government policy and supporting education. From 1992 to 1997, she was Spokesperson and Head of Public Relations Department, Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia. From 1997 to 2001, she was Minister Plenipotentiary and later Chargée d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Paris. From 2002 to 2006, she was Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Canada. In 2006, she became Head of Public Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Slovenia, and since 2007 she has been Head of EuroMed and National Coordinator for the Francophonie.

Alex Susanna

Writer and poet

Born in Barcelona in 1957, he has been Professor of Catalan Literature at the Universitat de Tarragona (1982-1992), Director of the publishing house Columna (1985-1999), Director of Culture, Institut Ramon Llull (2002-2004), and currently directs the Fundació Caixa Catalunya in La Pedrera. He is a poet and prose writer. As a poet, he has published several books: *Memòria del cos (The Body's Memory, 1980)*, *Els dies antics (The Ancient*

Days, 1982), *El darrer sol* (*The Last Sun*, 1985), *Palau d'hivern* (*Winter Palace*, 1987), *Les anelles dels anys* (*The Rings of the Years*, 1991), *Boscós i ciutats* (*Forests and Towns*, 1994), *Suïte de Gelida* (*Useless Poetry*, 2001) and *Angles Morts* (*Dead Angles*, 2007). As a prose writer he has published *Quadern venecià* (*Venetian Notebook*, 1989), *Quadern de Fornells* (*Fornells Notebook*, 1995), *Quadern d'ombres* (*The Shadows Notebook*, 1999) and *Quadern dels marges* (*The Margins Notebook*, 2006).

Carles Torner

Writer

Born in Barcelona in 1963, he is a poet, narrator and essayist. He is the current Director of the Department of Humanities and Science at the Institut Ramon Llull. He was in charge of the literary programme of Catalan culture as guest of honour at the Frankfurt 2007 Book Fair. From 1993 to 2004 he was the head of the international PEN and he presided the NGO association for a Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights. In poetry he has published *A la ciutat Blanca* (Premi Amadeu Oller 1984), *Als límits de la sal* (Premi Carles Riba 1984), *L'àngel del Saqueig* (1990) and *Viure després* (Premi de la Crítica 1999). The book *La núvia d'Europa* will be published this year. In prose, he has published the novel *L'estrangera* (1997) and the short stories and essays of *L'arca de Babel* (2005). Doctor of Education Sciences from the Université de Paris VIII, he has published *Shoah, una pedagogia de la memòria* (2002, French version 2001).

Salem Zenia

Writer

Born in Freha (Algeria) in 1962, he is a poet and writer in Berber language. In spring of 1980, during a period know as "Berber spring", he participated in several demonstrations as a member of the Students Committee. Then he studied journalism in the École Universalis in Liège, Belgium. He has followed the evolution of Berber claims, focusing his attention on cultural actions. In June 1989, during the second seminar of Berber Cultural Movement, he was one of the main writers of the report about Culture and artistic development. From 1990 to 1995, he worked as a journalist in the newspaper *Le pays/Tamurt*. He has published the bilingual poetry books *Les rêves de Ydir / Tirga n Yidir* (1993) and *Tifeswin / Primavera* (2004) and the novels *Tafrara* (1995) and *Lylil d wefru* (2003).

Monika Zgustova

Writer and translator

Born in Prague, in the eighties she settled in Barcelona. She has written a biography of Bohumil Hrabal, *Los frutos amargos del jardín de las delicias*. She has premiered and published a theatre adaptation and three fiction books of which *La mujer silenciosa* (2006), which received several important distinctions from Spanish critics, is the latest. She frequently contributes to *El País*, *La Vanguardia* and different Spanish and foreign cultural journals. She has translated more than forty books from Czech and Russian of writers such as Hrabal, Hasek, Havel, Seifert, Kundera, Dostoyevsky, Babel, Ajmátova and Tsvetàieva and has become a key figure in the introduction of Czech literature in Spain. She is the co-author of the Russian-Catalan dictionary. She has received many awards such as the Gratias Agit Award of the Czech State, the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona or the Premi de les Lletres Catalanes.