



ROOTS IN THE FUTURE

Italy Guest of Honour 2024
Frankfurt Book Fair

SPEAKERS

PRESS CONFERENCE

28 MAY 2024

JUERGEN BOOS

Director of the Frankfurter Buchmesse

Juergen Boos trained as a publisher at Herder Verlag (Freiburg) in the early 1980s and has degrees in both Marketing and Organisational Theory. He has held management positions at Droemer Knauer Verlag (Munich), Carl Hanser Verlag (Munich), as well as Springer Science and Business Media (today Springer Science) and John Wiley & Sons (Weinheim).

He became President and CEO of the Frankfurter Buchmesse GmbH (Frankfurt Book Fair) in 2005 and is President of LITPROM (Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature) and Managing Director of LitCam (Frankfurter Buchmesse Literacy Campaign).

On 20 November 2013, he was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art. In January 2017, Juergen Boos received an honorary degree from the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

In February 2018, he was conferred the cultural distinction of "Chevalier des Arts et des Letters" (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) at the French embassy in Berlin.

Furthermore, he is holder of the Spanish Order Isabel la Católica, Encomienda de Numero since October 2022 and of the Ribbon of Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit since February 2023.

He is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award and a member of the Akademie Deutscher Buchpreis (German Book Prize Academy).



Credits: Frankfurter Buchmesse / photographer Marc Jacquemin

ARMANDO VARRICCHIO

Ambassador of Italy to Germany

From 16 June 2021 Ambassador of Italy to the Federal Republic of Germany

March 2016—June 2021 Ambassador of Italy to the United States of America and accredited to The Bahamas and Jamaica

June 2013—March 2016 Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Italian Council of Ministers and Personal Representative (“Sherpa”) at the G7/G8 and G20 Summits

May 2009—June 2013 Ambassador to Serbia in Belgrade

August 2006—June 2009 Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Italian Republic

August 2002—July 2006 Head of the Economic Office at the Italian Embassy in Washington

September 1999—August 2002 Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the European Commission and Personal Representative (“Sherpa”) at the G7/G8 Summits

October 1998—September 1999 Head of Cabinet of the Minister for European Affairs

September 1996—October 1998 Adviser for relations with Europe and Asia at the Office of the Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the Italian Council of Ministers

October 1992—August 1996 First Secretary (European Council and General Affairs Council, Ecofin, Home Affairs Council and Justice Council) at the Permanent Representation to the European Community

May 1988—October 1992 Chief Economic Officer at the Italian Embassy in Hungary

March 1986—May 1988 Training at the Diplomatic Institute and Second Secretary to the Directorate-General for Personnel



He has followed European and transatlantic issues in particular and dealt with the most delicate international dossiers, focusing especially on security issues. As a G7 and G20 Sherpa at both national and European level, he has discussed the most important global concerns of the time, particularly with regard to economic and financial issues.

As a young diplomat, he experienced the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union.

Born in Venice, he graduated with Honours in International Relations from the University of Padua. He embarked on a diplomatic career in 1986 at the age of 24, reaching the rank of Ambassador in 2014. Previously, after fulfilling his military obligations in the Carabinieri Corps, he worked in the private sector as Assistant to the Finance Director of the Marzotto Textile Group.

He has been married to Micaela Barbagallo since 1987 and is the father of Federico and Umberto. Varricchio has a passion for literature and cinema and plays a variety of sports. He is a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic and has also been awarded a number of international honours.

MAURO MAZZA

Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Government

Mauro Mazza was born in Rome in 1955. He has been a professional journalist since 1979 and has published numerous papers on literature, television and political culture. Mazza is also the author of three novels: *L'albero del mondo* (The World Tree) (2012), *Il destino del papa russo* (The Fate of the Russian Pope) (2016), and *Diario dell'ultima notte. Ciano-Mussolini, lo scontro finale* (Last Night Diary: Ciano-Mussolini, The Final Battle) (2021). He has won the Acqui Award, the Riviera delle Palme Award and the Semeria - Casinò di Sanremo prize for his work. His latest book is *Lo Stivale e il Cupolone. Italia-Vaticano una coppia in crisi* (The Boot and the Dome: Italy-Vatican, a Couple in Crisis) (2022).

He has also worked in television, as Deputy Director of Tg1 and later Director of Tg2, Raiuno and RAI Sport. In June 2023, Mazza was appointed Extraordinary Commissioner of the Government for the coordination of activities related to Italy's participation as Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2024.



INNOCENZO CIPOLLETTA

President of the Italian Publishers Association

Innocenzo Cipolletta has been Chairman of the Italian Publishers Association (AIE) since 28 September 2023. He is also President of Confindustria Cultura Italia, President of the Italian Association of Private Equity, Venture Capital and Private Debt (AIFI) and a Member of the Board of Directors of Laterza S.p.A.

An economist and university lecturer, Knight Grand Cross, he has previously held the post of President at the Association of Creative and Cultural Enterprises (AICC), Assonime, the University of Trento, the Italian National Railway, Ubs Italia, and the newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore*. In addition, he has been Commissioner of the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome and General Manager of Confindustria.

He has also worked as an officer and director at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the National Institute for Economic Study and Analysis (ISCO) earlier in his career.



Credits: Stefania Malapelle

STEFANO BOERI

Architect

Stefano Boeri is an architect and full Professor of Urban Planning at the Politecnico di Milano. He also heads up the Future City Lab at Tongji University in Shanghai.

He is Chairman of the Futuro delle Città Foundation and the Scientific Committee of Forestami, an urban forestry project in the metropolitan area of Milan. As President of Triennale Milano (since 2018), he is Commissioner of the 24th International Exhibition “Inequalities”, scheduled for 2025.

In addition to being a designer, Stefano Boeri is known for his research, visions and masterplans on the future of urban environments around the world, where he has been involved in designing regeneration and development plans for metropolises and major cities, including Shanghai, St Paul, Moscow, Geneva, Tirana, Eindhoven, Utrecht, Cancun, Riyadh, Cairo and in Italy Milan, Genoa, Cagliari, Padova, Taranto and many others.

Thanks to its "Green Obsession" design approach, Stefano Boeri Architetti was awarded the UN SDG's Action Award in the Inspire category in 2023.



GINEVRA LAMBERTI

Author

As the title of her second novel suggests, to tell the story of Gineva Lamberti, it is best to go backwards.

Her latest book, *Il pozzo vale più del tempo* (*The Well is Worth More Than Time* Marsilio, 2023), a story of the “of a world that has ended and become cruel, and of what can be rebuilt,” was preceded in the bookshops by *Tutti dormono nella valle* (*Everyone is Sleeping in the Valley*, Marsilio, 2022), a semi-autobiographical reconstruction of her parents’ relationship, from Veneto to the main Italian community for drug addicts, San Patrignano.

Perché comincio dalla fine (*Because I Start from the End*, Marsilio, Mondello Prize) appeared even earlier, in 2019; preceding it was *La questione più che altro* (*The Question More Than Anything*, Nottetempo, 2015), of which one chapter (*Il Carnevale/The Carnival*) was translated into German for the anthology *Venedig* (Wagenbach, 2017).

She was born in San Patrignano in 1985.



ANNA GIURICKOVIC DATO

Author

Although she herself questions it in her Instagram biography - (“Anna Djurickovic, formerly Đurickovic, then Giurickovic, then Dato, was born hesitantly, if she was born”), - the existence of Anna Giurickovic Dato is a certainty supported by several clues.

Some of them are of a merely anagraphic nature (Catania, 1989), while many others are of a professional nature. The latter include a doctorate in public law, a lawyer’s qualification, and the presence of two of her novels and a story in bookshops: *La figlia femmina* (*The Female Child*, (Fazi, 2017), translated in five countries including Germany, *Il grande me* (*The Big Me*, Fazi, 2020), and *La divoratrice* (*The Devouress*, Einaudi, 2023).

Not only that, but she has left her mark on newsstands by collaborating with magazines and newspapers, and on the screen as a film and TV author.

