



Strictly embargoed until 10am BST, Thursday 7 July

# Judges announced for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize

#MBI2017  
#FinestFiction

The judges for the 2017 Man Booker International Prize are announced today, 7 July 2016.

Chaired by **Nick Barley**, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the panel consists of: translator **Daniel Hahn**; award-winning poet **Helen Mort**; Turkish author and academic **Elif Shafak** and Nigerian-born writer **Chika Unigwe**.

2017 is the second year of the newly evolved Man Booker International Prize, which was originally launched in 2005. The 2017 judging panel will be looking for the best translated fiction book of the year, selected from entries published in the UK between 1 May 2016 and 30 April 2017.

The 2016 prize was won by Korean author Han Kang and her translator Deborah Smith for *The Vegetarian*. The £50,000 prize was split equally between author and translator for the first time.

UK sales of *The Vegetarian* rose six-fold in the week after the prize was announced, rising to 900% of the pre-win weekly sale after three weeks. The effect of the prize on sales in Korea was stratospheric: the Korean edition of *The Vegetarian* had sold 20,000 copies in the decade following publication. Two weeks after the win the Korean publisher had had orders for almost half a million copies.

“One of the best things about the new Man Booker International prize was hearing it described as ‘a win for literary translation as a whole’, which seemed absolutely correct and wholly appropriate.” Deborah Smith, *The Irish Times*

“Novelists, poets, translators, linguists - and above all readers - the judges of the 2017 Man Booker International Prize have a particular enthusiasm, experience and discernment that will serve them well in the year ahead. They have an outstanding chair in Nick Barley, who has built the Edinburgh International Book Festival into one of the most wide-ranging and

inventive literary festivals in the world.” comments Fiammetta Rocco, Administrator of the Man Booker International Prize.

The ‘Man Booker Dozen’ of 12 or 13 books will be announced in March 2017 and the shortlist of six books in April 2017. The winner will be announced in May 2017.

The prize is sponsored by Man Group, one of the world’s largest independent alternative investment managers, which also sponsors the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Both prizes strive to recognise and reward the finest in contemporary literature.

## About the judges

**Nick Barley** moved to Scotland in 2003 to become editor of the cultural magazine *The List*, and he was 2005 PPA Editor of the Year. From 2006-2009 he was director of *The Lighthouse* – Scotland’s Centre for Architecture, Design and the City, where he commissioned a major Scottish Pavilion by Gareth Hoskins for the Venice Architecture Biennale. Since October 2009 he has been director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Innovations during his directorship include *Unbound*, a free evening mini-festival of literary performances; the 2012 Edinburgh World Writers’ Conference which took place in 17 cities worldwide; *Conversations with Ourselves*, a major academic project in partnership with Durham University exploring the role voice hearing in the writing process; and a Fringe First-winning promenade theatre production, *Letters Home*, co-produced with Grid Iron Theatre Company in 2014. He is a visiting lecturer at Edinburgh Napier University and President of the Word Alliance – an international network of the world’s leading literary festivals.

**Daniel Hahn** is an award-winning writer, editor and translator, with over 40 books to his name. His translations from Portuguese, Spanish and French include fiction from Europe, Africa and the Americas, and non-fiction by writers ranging from Portuguese Nobel laureate José Saramago to Brazilian footballer Pelé. He is a former chair of the Translators Association and the Society of Authors, and on the board of many organisations that work with literature and free speech. Recent books include the new Oxford Companion to Children’s Literature and the translation of José Eduardo Agualusa’s *A General Theory of Oblivion*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize 2016.

**Helen Mort** was born in Sheffield. Her first poetry collection *Division Street* (Chatto & Windus, 2013) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Costa Prize. Her second collection *No Map Could Show Them* (2016) is a Poetry Book Society Choice. She was a five-times winner of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award and a Poet in Residence at The Wordsworth Trust. In 2014, she was named as one of the Poetry Book Society’s Next Generation Poets.

**Elif Shafak** is an award-winning novelist and the most widely read woman writer in Turkey. She is also a political commentator and an inspirational public speaker. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 14 books, nine of which are novels, including *The Bastard of Istanbul* and *The Forty Rules of Love*. Her books have been translated into more than forty languages. Shafak is a TED Global speaker, a member of Weforum Global Agenda Council on Creative Economy and a founding member of ECFR

(European Council on Foreign Relations). She was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2010. She has been featured in major newspapers and periodicals around the world, including the Financial Times, the Guardian, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and La Repubblica. She has taught at various universities in Turkey, UK and USA. She holds a degree in International Relations, a Masters degree in Gender and Women's Studies and a PhD in Political Science. Shafak is on Twitter at @Elif\_Safak

**Chika Unigwe** was born in Enugu, Enugu State, Nigeria. She is the author of four novels, including *On Black Sisters Street* (2009, 2011 Jonathan Cape, UK and Random House NY) and *Night Dancer* (Jonathan Cape, 2012). Her short stories and essays have appeared in the New York Times, the Guardian, Guernica, Aeon and many other journals. Her works have been translated into several languages. A recipient of several awards and fellowships, she lives and works in the USA.

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### Notes to Editors

- The Administrator of the Man Booker International Prize is Fiammetta Rocco – Culture Editor of *The Economist* and *1834*. The Literary Director of the Booker Prize Foundation is Gaby Wood
- There is no restriction on the number of submissions per publisher but this will be kept under review and may change in future years
- Four Colman Getty handles PR, digital and event management for the prize and provides all events and administrative back-up
- The Man Booker International Prize website includes detailed information about all aspects of the prize and runs regular news bulletins: [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)
- The Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee, which advises on any changes to the rules and on the selection of the judges, represents all aspects of the book world. Its members are: Mark Chilton – Company Secretary and General Counsel of Booker Group plc; Jonty Claypole – Head of Arts, BBC; James Daunt – Managing Director of Waterstones; Jonathan Douglas – Director of the National Literacy Trust; Maggie Fergusson – writer and Secretary of the Royal Society of Literature; Adam Freudenheim – Publisher, Pushkin Press; Derek Johns – Author & Literary Agent; Peter Kemp – Chief Fiction Reviewer, *The Sunday Times*; Nigel Newton – publisher, Bloomsbury; Fiammetta Rocco – Culture Editor, *The Economist* and *1834* (Man Booker International Prize Administrator); Michal Shavit - publishing director, Jonathan Cape; Rosanna Konarzewski – Global Head of Communications and

Marketing, Man Group; Eve Smith – Secretary, the Booker Prize Foundation; Boyd Tonkin – writer and critic

- The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no 1090049) established in 2002, since when it has been responsible for the award of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, and for the Man Booker International Prize since its inauguration in 2005. The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are: Baroness Kennedy QC – Chair, former Chair of the British Council and Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford; Lord Baker of Dorking CH; Bidisha – writer, critic and broadcaster; Victoria Glendinning CBE – biographer; James Naughtie – broadcaster; Christopher Pearce – former Finance Director of Rentokil plc; Professor Louise Richardson – Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford; Ben Okri – writer and former Man Booker Prize winner. Jonathan Taylor CBE is President of the Foundation and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Sir Ronald Harwood and Baroness Neuberger are Vice Presidents
- Man Group has sponsored the Man Booker Prize since 2002. A leading alternative investment management firm founded in 1783, Man Group was recognised as a partner who mirrored the quality, integrity and longevity of the Booker Prize. The prize underscores Man Group's charitable focus on literacy and education as well as the firm's commitment to excellence and entrepreneurship. Together with the wider charitable activities of the Booker Prize Foundation, the prize plays a very important role in promoting literary excellence on a global scale that the firm is honoured to support
- Man Group is one of the world's largest independent alternative investment managers, and a leader in liquid investment strategies. Across its four investment managers (Man AHL, Man FRM, Man GLG and Man Numeric), Man Group has diverse hedge fund strategies and long only products spanning equity, credit, managed futures, convertibles, emerging markets and multi-manager solutions. At 31 March 2016, Man Group's funds under management were \$78.6 billion. The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange under the ticker EMG.L and is a constituent of the FTSE 250 Index. Man Group supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes. Further information can be found at [www.man.com](http://www.man.com)
- Booker is the UK's leading food wholesaler with over 170 branches nationwide. It serves over 350,000 independent businesses

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