

# READ! FEST 2021 RETURNS WITH NEW PROGRAMMES, RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND INTERACTIVE LITERARY TRAILS TO REINVIGORATE THE LOVE FOR READING

24 June 2021

ANNEX C

## Programme Highlights in Read! Fest 2021

DATE, TIME	PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION
Friday, 25 June, 8pm – 9.30pm, Online	<p><b>In Conversation with Elif Shafak</b> Speaker: Elif Shafak (UK) Moderator: Bridgette See</p> <p>In a time of polarity, noise, and division in society and social media, how can empathy and listening help to allay angst and anxiety? Covering themes of storytelling, empathy, language, commuting between cultures and multiple identities or multiple belongings based on the book <i>How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division</i> by Booker Prize nominee Elif Shafak, join us for an in-depth conversation between the author and writer/producer, Bridgette See in this Read! Fest special.</p>
Saturday, 26 June, 11am – 1pm, Online	<p><b>The Myth of the Lazy Native, Decolonization Discourse and Autonomous Knowledge</b> <i>Mitos Pribumi Malas, Wacana Penyahjajahan dan Ilmu Mandiri</i> <b>*Programme will be conducted in Malay.</b> Speaker: Professor Syed Farid Alatas</p> <p>In this keynote address, Professor Syed Farid Alatas will talk about how the book <i>The Myth of the Lazy Native</i> can be understood as being part of a larger effort to develop discourses that will replace Eurocentric discourses which had served the colonial powers and the interest of the ruling class in the post-colonial period. Identifying this problem leads to the call to establish autonomous knowledge in the Malay world.</p>
Saturday, 26 June, 2pm – 3.30pm, Online	<p><b>Understanding the Impact of AI through Science Fiction</b> <i>从科幻小说看 AI 的未来冲击</i> <b>*Programme will be conducted in Chinese.</b> Speaker: Chen Qiufan (China) Moderator: Zhou De Cheng</p> <p>In Chen Qiufan's collection of science fiction novels, he discusses the impact of artificial intelligence technology on the society. Science fiction offers a prediction on the future of mankind and it is closely related to our lives. The author will share his writing journey on the significance of reading science fiction, analyse the pros and cons of technological development, and suggest how we can adapt to the changes brought about by technology.</p>

<p>Tuesday, 29 June, 7pm – 8pm, Online</p>	<p><b>The Way through the Woods: A Conversation with Long Litt Woon</b>  Speaker: Long Litt Woon (Norway)  Moderator: Bridgette See</p> <p>After her husband Eiof's unexpected death at 54, Long Litt Woon struggled to imagine a life without her partner and anchor for 32 years. Adrift in grief, she signed up for a beginner's course on mushrooming—a course the two had planned to take together—and found, to her surprise, that the pursuit of mushrooms rekindled her zest for life. Join moderator Bridgette See as she talks to Long Litt Woon about her book, <i>The Way Through the Woods: On Mushrooms and Mourning</i>.</p>
<p>Wednesday, 30 June, 8pm – 9.30pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Is There Still Hope? Deliberating a Humanistic Vision of the Technological Society</b>  <b><i>Masihkah Ada Harapan? Mempertimbangkan Visi Kemanusiaan Masyarakat Teknologi</i></b>  <i>*Programme will be conducted in Malay.</i>  Speakers: Hazman Baharom (Malaysia), Idris Rashid (Singapore), Okky Madasari (Indonesia)</p> <p>Digital technologies – social media platforms, mobile technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data – are increasingly dominating not just the individual and social space but the economic and political spheres as well. The panel will attempt to make sense of all this, with each speaker sharing his/her thoughts on the problems, challenges, and possibilities in this era of tech revolution.</p>
<p>Saturday, 3 July, 10am – 11am, Online</p>	<p><b>Staying Creative in Chaotic Times: A Conversation with Austin Kleon</b>  Speaker: Austin Kleon (US)  Moderator: Angee Neo</p> <p>The world is crazy and creative work is hard. How do we keep going? Austin Kleon, author of the bestselling trilogy – <i>Steal Like An Artist</i>, <i>Show Your Work</i>, and <i>Keep Going</i> – will share his strategies for finding inspiration in everyday life and building creative resilience. Learn how to establish and maintain a creative habit; how to overcome perfectionism and anxiety; and the importance of unplugging and play in this talk moderated by illustrator Angee Neo.</p>

<p>Saturday, 3 July, 6pm – 8pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Meet The Author : Kabilan Vairamuthu</b> <b><i>*Programme will be conducted in Tamil.</i></b> Speaker: Kabilan Vairamuthu (India)</p> <p>Meet our featured author, Kabilan Vairamuthu. He will share about his featured novel, Meinigari, short stories, Ambarathooni and other titles. He will also share about his writing experience.</p>
<p>Monday, 5 July, 7pm – 8pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Cultured Flavours and Fermentation</b> Speakers: Tan Ding Jie, Petrina Loh</p> <p>Learn the whys and hows of lacto-fermentation in this dialogue between a food scientist and a chef. They will share pro-tips on fermentation techniques to create interesting flavour profiles and extend the shelf life of foods. You might even get to see their cultured collections!</p>
<p>Saturday, 10 July, 10am – 11am, Online</p>	<p><b>Use Social Media like a Pro</b> Speaker: Dr Natalie Pang</p> <p>Despite social media's engineered addictiveness, it remains an important tool for connection and networking. How do we extract value from social media without falling victim to its traps? In his book Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World, Cal Newport suggests we use social media like professionals in the marketing world. Join this workshop to learn how you can use social media strategically through practical tips straight from a social media expert!</p>
<p>Saturday, 10 July, 3.30 – 4.30pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Finding (Re)purpose: Work and Life in a Changing World</b> Speakers: Gerard Sasges, Ng Shi Wen</p> <p>In what has been dubbed "Industry 4.0", new technologies and the restructuring of political economies have transformed the way we live and work. Yet, how we should adapt to these changes remains unclear. In this talk, Gerard Sasges and Ng Shi Wen share accounts of working people in Singapore who have experienced major change, shedding light on how seemingly impersonal global processes play out in everyday life, and how to adapt and find (re)purpose in a changing world.</p>

<p>Sunday, 11 July, 6pm – 8pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Meet The Author: Cho Dharman</b>  <b><i>*Programme will be conducted in Tamil.</i></b>          Speaker: Cho Dharman (India)</p> <p>Meet our featured Author, Cho Dharman. He will share about his books and writing experiences. You will discover interesting anecdotes about him.</p>
<p>Saturday, 17 July, 2pm – 3.30pm, Online</p>	<p><b>Why read women's literature?</b>  <b><i>*Programme will be conducted in Chinese.</i></b>          Speaker: Wu Xiaole (Taiwan)          Moderator: Guo Linjing</p> <p>Women's literature portrays the situation that women experiences and captures their inners feelings, allowing readers to enter the female world and explores the unique charm and ideas of a women. In this sharing session, writer Wu Xiaole shares her work "But it's really not for me" and discuss women's issues in the book. Let's explore the importance of female literature, and discuss whether men should read women's literature.</p>