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**For immediate release**

## **Writers' Centre Norwich announces winners of the 2016 Emerging Translator Mentoring Programme**

Writers' Centre Norwich has just announced the eight writers who have gained places on the coveted Emerging Translator Mentoring Programme. The winners were announced at the British Library on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September as part of International Translation Day.

The winners are:

- **Jennifer Arnold** (Catalan) – paired with mentor Peter Bush
- **Marta Eidsvag** (Norwegian) – paired with mentor Don Bartlett (in conjunction with the Harvill Secker Young Translators' Prize)
- **Francisca McNeill** (Arabic) – paired with mentor Paul Starkey
- **Somrita Urni Ganguly** (Bengali) – paired with mentor Arunava Sinha
- **Scotia Gilroy** (Polish) – paired with mentor Antonia Lloyd-Jones
- **Agnel Joseph** (Hindi) – paired with mentor Jason Grunebaum
- **Yelena Karl** (Russian Drama) – paired with mentor Sasha Dugdale
- **Kate Lambert** (Finland Swedish) – paired with mentor Sarah Death.

Mentee biographies are listed in the 'Notes to Editors' below.

Announcing the winners, Writers' Centre Norwich Programme Director Jonathan Morley said:

'Translation is the lifeblood of English literature. From Chaucer and Shakespeare to George Eliot, Samuel Beckett and TS Eliot, the greatest authors in

English have consistently translated foreign literatures to refresh and enhance their own writing in endlessly interesting ways.

We are therefore delighted to be supporting a new cohort of emerging literary translators – their pioneering work will help generate both the new writing and the new readerships of the future.

Across this year's eight languages and 85 applications, judging was both a luxury and a torment in that we had to decide between an exceptional range of candidates. The winners' project proposals and their samples of work-in-progress were, without exception, very strong indeed.

And this year the fierce competition for Arabic, Bengali and Hindi mentorships in particular clearly demonstrates the impact that the UK's buzzing translation sector can have on the world stage.'

Emma Langley, Relationship Manager, Literature (International) at Arts Council England, said:

'We're pleased to be able to support the Translator Mentorship Programme. Over the past six years we have seen the important role it plays in professional development for emerging literary translators. This mentorship scheme is unique and invaluable in supporting new translators to navigate the practicalities of a career in translation and life in the publishing industry.'

Founded by Daniel Hahn in 2010 and previously administered by the BCLT, the Writers' Centre Norwich Translation Mentoring Programme aims to develop successive new cohorts of literary translators into English, particularly for languages whose literature is currently under-represented in English translation.

The scheme matches up experienced translators with emerging translators for a six-month period during which they work together on practical translation projects, developing their craft through working on a chosen text or texts. The mentor acts as an adviser to the mentee on aspects of life as a professional translator; such as time management, meeting deadlines, managing finances and understanding contracts, and as an advocate for their mentee with publishers in search of literary translators.

The evidence of the scheme to date suggests that participation in the scheme represents, in itself, a significant professional development for mentees, with publishers seeing the mentoring cohort as a reliable source of high quality emerging translators.

The Emerging Translator Mentoring Programme supported by Arts Council England, Finnish Literature Exchange, the Harvill Secker Young Translators' Prize, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

**/ENDS**

## Notes to Editors:

### 1. About Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN)

WCN is a literature development organisation based in England's first UNESCO City of Literature, Norwich. WCN is interested in both the artistic and social impact of creative writing, and works with writers, readers and diverse communities on a wide range of ongoing and one-off projects and events. Writers' Centre Norwich is currently developing a National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall to open in 2018 as a major cultural venue for the city. [www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](http://www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk)

2. Press enquiries to Andrew Burton at [andrew.burton@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](mailto:andrew.burton@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk) / 01603 877177

3. A photo gallery of hi res images showing the winning mentees is available at <http://alicethecamera.zenfolio.com/britishlibrary> – please contact Andrew Burton for copies. Credit photographer Alice Boagey

### 4. Mentees' biographies

Jennifer Arnold is a literary translator from Catalan and Spanish. She is currently at the end of a PhD in Translation Studies and Catalan at the University of Birmingham where she also tutors on undergraduate and postgraduate modules in translation, and Spanish and Catalan language and literature.

Marta Eidsvåg (born 1990) is a translator and writer from Trondheim, Norway. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the department of Language and Literature at NTNU in Trondheim, and works as a freelance translator, primarily for scholars within the humanities. She also writes essays, poetry and fiction.

Somrita Ganguly is a Doctoral Researcher at the Centre for English Studies (CES), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and a Project Fellow under the University Grants Commission of India - Special Assistance Programme at CES. She is a published author and recipient of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund Award and the Sarojini Dutta Memorial Prize. She is passionate about translating fiction from Bangla and Hindi to English. Her interests range from street art to the politics of

language and representation.

Scotia Gilroy is from Vancouver, Canada. She's a graduate of Simon Fraser University, where she studied English literature. During her studies she became fascinated by Polish literature, and after finishing her degree she moved to Krakow, Poland, in order to learn Polish and become immersed in Polish culture. For the past five years she has worked as a translator for many Polish publishing houses and cultural institutions, including Znak, Foksal, Wydawnictwo Literackie, the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, the Polish Book Institute and the National Museum in Krakow.

Agnel Joseph is a literary translator who translates from Korean and, more recently, Hindi. He has won the LTI Korea Award for Aspiring Translators (2013) and *The Korea Times'* Modern Korean Literature Translation Award (2013). He works at the Literature Translation Institute of Korea as program officer and editor of the Korean *Literature Now* magazine. He is currently translating Korean writer Park Min-gyu's omnibus collection *Double*. He tweets as @AngelMisspelled.

Yelena Karl (Saratov, Russia). MS degree Water Purification. Lived in the USA, Germany, and England since 1996 with her American husband and bilingual children. Works as a freelance translator, Russian language tutor. Avid reader of Russian and English books. Attended two translation summer schools by Robert Chandler and Oliver Ready.

Kate Lambert has a BA in Swedish and History, an MA in Translation and spent four years in the 1990s teaching English conversation to silent Finns. She has since been translating from Finnish and Swedish on topics ranging from head lice to 16th century shipwrecks and is delighted that the mentorship gives her the chance to combine knowledge of Finnish culture and the Swedish language in literary translation.

Francisca McNeill is a Linguistics student and founder of the creative linguistics and translation company BOOM Linguistics. Through the Arabic mentorship she is hoping to introduce an important author to Britain and to promote translation, linguistics and language learning. Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @linguafrancisca.

