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## IWAL International Writers at Leeds

**International Writers at Leeds** is a new programme of public events with visiting writers from around the world. Organised by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the **University of Leeds** in partnership with **Leeds Library and Information Service**, its aim is to bring foreign writers to Leeds for free bilingual public readings. Where possible writers will be accompanied by their English translators and signed books will be available to buy at the end. The readings will be introduced and chaired by specialists from the university and will end with a discussion and the chance for the audience to ask questions. It is hoped that this will be a great opportunity for literature lovers from Leeds, Yorkshire and beyond to meet writers from Europe and the rest of the world.



*International Writers at Leeds* began with a launch event on Monday 19th November 2012 at **Leeds Central Library** with the acclaimed **Swiss-German** writer **Christian Kracht**.

The author read from the original German text of his novel **Imperium** and four students from Leeds University's School of modern languages provided both lively and proficient translations of the sometimes challenging text before Christian Kracht took questions from the

**Imperium**, for which he received the 2012 Wilhelm Raabe Literaturpreis. offers a fictionalised account of the historical figure of August Engelhardt, who sets sail for the Bismarck Archipelago (now Papua New Guinea) to start a community of cocoivores – radical vegetarians who existed on a diet of coconuts. Written in the third-person, the narrator looks backwards and forwards in history, linking Engelhardt's story to wider events and to other figures in twentieth-century history.

The event, which was Christian Kracht's first in the UK was attended by some 75 students, academics and the general public and was very well received. It was followed by a reception in the Tiled Hall cafe.

The next event in the series will bring Italian crime writer **Massimo Carlotto** to the same venue on 6th February 5.30pm-8pm. For further information or to sign up to the email notification list, please email [iwal@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:iwal@leeds.ac.uk)

Welcome to the latest issue which reports on **The International Writers at Leeds programme & '2013: The European Year of Citizens'**



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### WebLinks



<http://www.christiankracht.com>

European Year of  
Citizens  
2013

## 2013 is the 'European Year of Citizens'

"It's about Europe. It's about you. Join the debate"



2013 has been officially named "The European Year of Citizens". 20 years after the introduction of EU Citizenship, the year will focus both on what has already been achieved for citizens and on meeting citizens' expectations for the future. The decision by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal by the European Commission was published in the Official Journal today. Events throughout the European Year will explain how people can directly benefit from their EU rights and which policies and programmes exist. The European Year will also stimulate an EU-wide debate with citizens about what the European Union should look like in the future and which reforms are needed to improve their everyday lives.

*"After 20 years of EU citizenship, much has been achieved. It is time to reflect on where we stand and what the future should bring," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU-Commissioner responsible for Justice and Citizenship. "People expect concrete results from Europe, and with cheaper roaming charges, better rights for crime victims and easier shopping online for consumers, that is exactly what we are delivering. We want to keep delivering on citizens' rights and this is why we are dedicating a full year to those at the heart of the European project – our citizens. The European Year of Citizens is an opportunity for us to listen and learn from you what you want and how we can build the European Union of the future together."*

The European Year of Citizens coincides with the 20th anniversary of the introduction of EU Citizenship, when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. 2013 will also be the year when the Commission adopts its next EU Citizenship Report (see the 2010 report: IP/10/1390), which will present further targeted EU initiatives to remove the remaining obstacles that hinder citizens from fully enjoying their rights. One year before the European elections 2014, it is also the right moment for a broad debate about the future.

To prepare the ground for the European Year, the Commission held a broad public consultation between 9 May and 9 September 2012 asking citizens what problems they have encountered in exercising their rights as EU citizens (see IP/12/461). The contributions, which are currently being analysed, will feed into the Citizenship Report to be published on 9 May 2013.

As part of the Year, politicians have started holding debates with citizens directly about the future of Europe. Such debates will be held all across the Union over the course of 2013. Everyone will be free to join the debates:

[http://ec.europa.eu/european-debate/interactive\\_map/estonia/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/european-debate/interactive_map/estonia/index_en.htm)

The first debates have already taken place in Spain, Austria and Germany and many more are still to come.

The European Year of Citizens will be officially launched by a debate with citizens in Dublin on 10 January 2013, coinciding with the start of the Irish presidency of the Council.



### WebLinks

<http://europa.eu/citizens-2013/>