

HAMID SADR

ABOUT



As the closing event of the IN/DIFFERENCE conference, award winning Austrian writer Hamid Sadr will read from his novel *Der Gedächtnissekretär*.

Venue: Millstream Common Room

Date: Saturday 10th November

Time: 18.15 – 19.15

The reading will be in German and English, and will be followed by a reception with Austrian wine and finger food.

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Life

Hamid Sadr (born 12 December 1946 in Teheran, Iran) began writing as a pupil in grammar school. Following the publication of several short stories, his first book, *Die Geschichten der Gasse* (The Stories of the Street), appeared in the year 1966. His second book, *Die Geschichten der müden Tauben* (The Stories of the Tired Pigeons) appeared 1967, whereupon he became a member of the newly founded Writers Association in Iran. During military service in the south of Iran, he worked on writing his first novel, *Streik der Nachtfalter* (Strike of the Moth), which first appeared (1969) while he studied chemistry in Austria. With the forbiddance of the Writers Association in Iran, he took over the task, as foreign correspondent for the Association, to engage himself for its legalization. His political exile actually began, however, with activity in the Iranian Student Movement and in the opposition Mossadegh-Movement overseas.

The publication of the novel, *Der Kork auf dem Wasser* (The Cork on the Water), and the continuation of the novel, *Streik der Nachtfalter*, became difficult because of the general tightening of the censorship measures. And then, shortly before the Islamic Revolution, the appearance of a complete edition was planned by the respected publishing house □Amirkabir□, this publishing house was seized by the Islamic Revolution Guardsmen and the complete edition no longer appeared.

In the year 1979, following the abolition of the Women's Movement, the ban of secular newspapers and all non-Islamic parties, and the bloody cleansing by the State of the secular powers, he refused, as one of the few oppositionists to the Shah regime, to travel to his homeland. He relocated his place of residence from Vienna to Paris, that had become the center of the new opposition, and became a member of the board of the □National Movement of the Iranian Resistance□, which was founded by Schapur Bakhtiar (the last Iranian Prime Minister before Khomeiny's seizure of power). Parallel, he worked with the film maker, Jacques Rivette (*Exterieur Nuit* (Cannes 1980), *Polar und Mauvais Garçon*) and Samuel Fuller (*Street of no Return*).

Following the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar in Paris by the agents of the Islamic Republic (1991), he returned again to Vienna and tried to write his novels in German. The first novel written in German, *Gesprächszettel an Dora* (Conversation Note to Dora), about Franz Kafka's last months of life in Vienna, appeared 1994. The success of this work encouraged him to write the second novel, which under the title, *Der Gedächtnissekretär* (The Memory Secretary), was published 2005 by the Deuticke Publishing House. The cycle, □Wahlheimat□ (Adopted Country), was completed with the third novel, *Der Vogelsammler von Auschwitz* (The Bird Collector from Auschwitz), (not yet released). The fourth novel by Hamid Sadr (Work in Progress) is a Persian-novel and carries the working title, □Gestern vor der Abreise□ (Yesterday before Departure).

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Works

In Persian:

IN / DIFFERENCE: Current and Historical Perspectives on Cultures in Contact is a conference of the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Modern Language, Literary and Cultural Studies.

The conference takes place at the University of Limerick, 9-10 November 2007.

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- [Registration form](#)
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- [Abstracts](#)
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- [Hamid Sadr Reading/Lesung](#)
- [Poster](#)
- [Conference photographs](#)

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**Austrian Embassy
Dublin**



Die Geschichten der Gasse (The Stories of the Street,) 1966
Die Geschichten der müden Tauben (The Stories of the Tired Pigeons), 1967
Streik der Nachtfalter (Strike of the Moth) (Part 1), 1969 (novel)
Korken auf dem Wasser (The Cork on the Water), 1975 (short novel)
Streik der Nachtfalter (Strike of the Moth), 1975- 1979 (Part 2- Novel)
Im Spiegel der 37 Tage (In the Mirror of the 37 Days), 1983
Ruhig Hund! Ruhig! (Quiet Dog! Quiet!), 1984
Der Brief (The Letter), 1996

In German:

Gesprächszettel an Dora (Conversation Note to Dora), 1994 (Roman)
Der Gedächtnissekretär (The Memory Secretary) (First chapter in the anthology, *Querlandsein* (To be Across Country), 1995
Der Gedächtnissekretär (the third chapter of the same novel in the anthology, *Die Fremde in mir* (The Stranger in Me), 1999
Der Gedächtnissekretär (The fourth Chapter in der anthology, *Grenzgänger* (Border Crosser), 2002
Fahrrad (Bicycle), in der anthology, *Kleine Fibel des Alltags* (Small Everyday Primer), 2002
Der Gedächtnissekretär, (the entire novel), 2005
Entwurf eines Briefes an (Draft of a Letter to) in der anthology, *Ungefragt* (Unasked), 2005
Gestern? (Yesterday?), in the anthology, *Die Fantasie und die Macht* (The Fantasy and the Power), 2006

Translations

From the Persian

Die Geschichte der müden Taube (into German), 1990
Die Geschichte der Gasse (into German), 1975

From German

Gesprächszettel an Dora (into Czech) Title: *Lásky Do?e*, 2000
Gesprächszettel an Dora (into Persian) Title: *Yaddashthaii baraye Dora*, 2003

Articles, Essays (German)

Information über den zehnjährigen Bestand eines noch nicht legalisierten Schriftstellerverbandes im Iran (Information about the 10 year existence of an illegal writers association), (Student's Body, Graz), 1978
So nicht, Hans Magnus! (Not Like That, Hans Magnus!), (feature in the *Arbeiterzeitung*), 1991
Keinen Kampf der Kulturen (Not a War of the Cultures), (guest article in the *Handelsblatt*), 2006
(Hitler-)Träume eines religiösen Fanatikers? (Hitler-) Dreams of a Religious Fanatic?), (guest commentary in *Die Presse*), 2007

Honours, Prizes, Awards

Book of the Year (Iran) 1967
 State Award for Literature (Austria) 1996
 Work-Award of the Office of the Federal Chancellor 1997
 State Award for Literature (Austria) 1999
 2nd Prize for Literature, *Schreiben zwischen den Kulturen* (Writing between the Cultures), 2001
 State Award for Literature (Austria) 2000
 Bruno Kreisky-Award 2005
 Canetti-Award for the Political Book 2006
 Austrian State Fellowship for Literature 2007

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