

Resources for Reading Groups

A key focus of the CAPONEU project has been to produce materials on political novels for community reading groups and to organize book clubs across Europe. This collection brings together resources and reports on those activities which will be useful for anyone who runs or attends a reading group.

Audience: Reading Groups

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How to Start a Reading Group

These tips were developed in conversation with people who have experience of facilitating book groups in different kinds of settings. They're intended to offer guidance, but not to be prescriptive – please feel free to pick and choose the ideas that work best for your group. As one experienced facilitator reminded us, there's no fixed destination your group needs to arrive at, so it's ok to have a format that is quite open. Click the button below to download the guidelines.

Reading Group Resources

How to Start a Reading Group

By: Sarah Colvin, Tara Talwar Windsor

Questions for Reading Groups

These questions were developed in conversation with experienced facilitators who support reading groups in different kinds of settings and with different kinds of readers. Please feel free to pick the questions you think might work with your group. Click the button below to download the questions.

Questions for Reading Groups

By: Sarah Colvin, Tara Talwar Windsor

Recommended Novels

Browse our CAPONEU novel profiles for inspiration on books to read with your book group and for helpful summaries written by experts on the novels. We have selected some as examples but there are plenty more to explore!

Natasha Brown

Assembly

Presented by: Polina Mackay

Cancer

Racism

United Kingdom

Intersectional Politics

Sharon Dodua Otoo

Adas Raum

Ada's Room

Presented by: Kyung-Ho Cha

Colonialism

An Gorta Mór

Slavery

Great Famine (Ireland)

Holocaust

Serhiy Zhadan

Ворошиловград (Voroshylovhrad)

Voroshilovgrad

Presented by: Sarah Colvin

NoViolet Bulawayo

Glory

Presented by: Sarah Colvin

Authoritarianism

Uprising

Anti-fascist resistance

Collective Memory

Public Event: Art and Authoritarianism: Resistant Fiction in an Age of Post-Truth

Watch the recording of this evening for readers and book groups with Professor Sarah Colvin, which took place on 4 November 2025 at Jesus College Cambridge. Click the button below for access to the video.

Caponeu event

Art and Authoritarianism: Resistant Fiction in an Age of Post-Truth

Public Event: What's Novel about a Novel? Storytelling and Travelling Knowledge

In March 2024, the Cambridge CAPONEU team hosted a public event with the author Shida Bazyar, in conversation with Miriam Schwarz and Tara Talwar Windsor in conversation with Shida Bazyar. The event focused on Bazyar's novel *Sisters in Arms* and explored how knowledge is treated and transported in Bazyar's novel, taking its characters, readers and even its author on epistemic journeys. Click the button below to access a recording of the event.

Video

What's Novel about a Novel? Storytelling and Travelling Knowledge

By: Miriam Schwarz, Tara Talwar Windsor

Workshop Report: The Political Novel

in Reading Groups

This workshop brought together experts in the delivery of community and prison reading groups and was designed to enable and inform the production of free downloadable resources for book clubs are now available on the CAPONEU online platform. Read more about the workshop by clicking the button below.

Caponeu event

The Political Novel in Reading Groups & What's Novel about a Novel? Storytelling and Travelling Knowledge

CAPONEU Book Clubs

Read more here about the book clubs hosted by the CAPONEU teams in Zagreb and Berlin!

Caponeu event

Book Club Politics and Literature: Literary Work and Work Collectives

Caponeu event

The Feminist Book Club - Season 2 (2024/2025)

Caponeu event

The Feminist Book Club

Caponeu event

The Feminist Book Club - Season 1 (2023/2024)

Caponeu event

Book Club Politics and Literature: Novels for the New Century

Caponeu event

Book Club Politics and Literature: Everyday Life Under Authoritarianism