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# Eduardo Halfon

Writer

## Guatemala

Born in 1971 in Guatemala City  
Studied Industrial Engineering at North Carolina State University

### PROJECT

## Story and History

I'm a storyteller. I write stories. And although all of the stories I've written and published over the last twenty years are fiction, they're also strongly rooted in my own personal experience and in my family's history.

My maternal grandfather was a Jew from Poland, from Lodz, who survived the Holocaust. I started to write his story of survival in my novel "Der polnische Boxer" (the German translation was published in 2014, by Hanser), but couldn't truly write about his experience without seeing for myself his hometown of Lodz, his cell in the infamous Block 11 at Auschwitz, and the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen where he was interned for several years. In 2011, I received a Guggenheim Fellowship to continue writing his story. I've since been to Poland, seen his house, lived in his hometown, and walked around some of the concentration camps where he was a prisoner. Thus, I was able to continue writing his story in my subsequent books "Signor Hoffman" (Hanser, 2016) and "Duell" (Hanser, 2019).

I am currently working on the story of my paternal grandfather's kidnapping in 1967 by the Guatemalan guerrilla. And as I follow my grandfather's footsteps in his exodus from Beirut to Guatemala, and then throughout the ordeal of his kidnapping, I inevitably have to enter the long and complicated history of the Guatemalan civil war. My time at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin will be dedicated to researching and writing these stories.

### Recommended Reading

Halfon, Eduardo. *El boxeador polaco*. Valencia: Pre-Textos, 2008. English: *The Polish Boxer*. New York: Bellevue Literary Press, 2012. German: *Der polnische Boxer*. Munich: Hanser, 2014.

- . *Monasterio*. Barcelona: Libros del Asteroide, 2014. English: *Monastery*. New York: Bellevue Literary Press, 2014. German: *Signor Hoffman*. Munich: Hanser, 2016.

- . *Duelo*. Barcelona: Libros del Asteroide, 2017. English: *Mourning*. New York: Bellevue Literary Press, 2018. German: *Duell*. Munich: Hanser, 2019.

COLLOQUIUM, 10.05.2022

## Story and History: Writing About a Kidnapping

In my colloquium, I'll be talking about the process of writing—and then reading from—my new book, *Canción*, which I finished while here at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and which will be published in September.

Halfon, Eduardo (2021)

"Si yo quería entra al mundo literario, tenía que matar y quemar cierta parte de mí, para que algo luego surgiera de las cenizas"

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=181531737X>

Halfon, Eduardo (München,2019)

Duell : Roman

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=167756315X>

Duelo

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=167756315X>

Halfon, Eduardo (Soveria Mannelli,2014)

Il pugile polacco

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1796737364>

El boxeador polaco

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1796737364>