

2025 Banff Mountain Book Competition Book Jury

David Chambre



David Chambre, born 1963, has always been passionate about climbing. While studying geography at the Sorbonne University in Paris, he first discovered the boulders of Fontainebleau and later the great alpine peaks of the Mont Blanc massif, including the Central Pillar of Frênay and the First Free Ascent of the Bonatti route on the Grand Capucin. During the 1980s, he was one of the first French professional rock climbers specializing in free climbing, free solos, and numerous French grade 8 routes. He eventually settled in Provence, where he shares his passion by writing historical reviews for mountaineering and climbing publications worldwide. In recent years he has published and translated a number of books with Éditions du Mont-Blanc, run by Catherine Destivelle, including:

- ***Il était une fois l'escalade - A graphic novel* (2nd edition, 2025)**
- ***Piolets d'or - Les plus beaux exploits de l'alpinisme moderne* (2nd edition, 2025)**
- ***Le 9^e Degré, Toute l'histoire de l'escalade* (4th edition, 2024)**
- ***Alain Robert - Libre et sans attache* (2024)**
- ***Escalade - Débuter et progresser en toute sécurité* (2023)**
- ***Paul Preuss, Lord of the Abyss by David Smart* (translation in French and foreword)**
- ***Paul Preuss, Lord of the Abyss by David Smart* (translation in French and foreword, 2020)**
- ***Crack Climbing by Pete Whittaker* (translation in French, 2020)**
- ***Haute-montagne - Les plus grands noms de l'alpinisme* (2019)**
- ***The 9th Grade, 150 years of free climbing* (2015)**
- ***Le 8^e Degré* (Denoël, 1987)**

Kate Neville



Kate Neville is an associate professor in Political Science and the School of the Environment at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Going to Seed: Essays on Idleness, Nature, and Sustainable Work* (University of Regina Press and Texas Tech University Press, 2024), which won the inaugural Sowell Emerging Writers Prize. Her previous book, *Fueling Resistance: The Contentious Political Economy of Biofuels and Fracking* (Oxford University Press, 2021), won

the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for the best book in international environmental politics. When not in Toronto, Kate can be found in a cabin at the BC-Yukon border.

Paul Scully

Paul Scully is the Director of the Kendal Mountain Book Festival, an interwoven part of the internationally renowned Kendal Mountain Festival held annually in Kendal, England. Since it's



inception in 2016, Paul has been at the helm and seen the Book Festival flourish, attracting a diverse array of authors and readers passionate about mountain literature, nature, the environment and outdoor adventures. Paul works with wonderful writers, publishers, artists, cultural organisations and the book festival patron and renowned writer Robert Macfarlane to create a space where people can connect with each other; experiencing events that entertain, surprise and move them. When not in the office you will find Paul running in the Lake District Fells.