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THE MFA PROGRAM for WRITERS at Warren Wilson College

2023 AWP Conference & Bookfair

Seattle, Washington
March 8–11, 2023
Seattle Convention Center



Join us at Bookfair
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Virtual Sessions

Available March 8 - April 8

V101. 50 Years of Fire: A Reading to Celebrate AGNI

Cyrus Cassells, Jamie Quatro, **Dzvinia Orlowsky** (poetry, 1991), Lia Purpura, Jennifer Alisa Drew

For fifty years, *AGNI* has published international literature that transforms, combusts, and burns bright. Join us for a virtual reading that celebrates *AGNI*'s legacy and envisions its future with some of our dynamic contributors. These poets, writers, and translators from across the globe will come together to give a reading and discuss their experiences with the magazine's intimate, rigorous editorial process.

V110. Ghosts, Portals, and Other Worlds: The Surreal in Contemporary Fiction

Matthew Lansburgh, Joy Bagio, **Laura van den Berg**, Kevin Brockmeier, Jennifer Pullen

Writers of literary fiction often find the boundaries between the possible and impossible in their work disintegrating in strange, unexpected ways. What gives rise to this shift, and how do we navigate the surreal in our lives and work? How can models like Toni Morrison, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, and George Saunders guide us? What techniques can help bring the speculative to life in a compelling and convincing manner? Acclaimed authors who've explored these questions will share insights and advice.

V118. The Path through the Swamp: Revision Strategies and Processes

Matthew Lansburgh, Joy Bagio, **Taymour Soomro** (new faculty), Vu Tran, Alyssa Songsiridei

Many writers believe that revising one's work is the most challenging task writers face. What are the myriad ways we, as writers, approach revision? How do we get through the scariest, most daunting "swamps" of rough drafts? Are there maps, guideposts, and coping mechanisms we can use to get from point A to B and beyond? Five acclaimed writers discuss their revision processes and share tips, strategies, and approaches for revising stories and novels—and making our work as strong as it can be.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

T116. Writing about Culture and Place: Techniques for Vibrant and Ethical Worldbuilding

Hannah Bae, **Krys Lee** (fiction, 2008), Jung Yun, Michael David Lukas, Chet'la Sebree

Rooms 347-348, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

This multigenre panel of writers, who have set their work across three continents, will discuss techniques for writing about culture and place, with an emphasis on bringing worlds to life on the page in imaginative and ethical ways. Among some of the questions that we will address: how can we authentically set our work in a culture, particularly if it isn't our own? And what liberties can we take when representing real places and people, or creating entirely fictional cultures and landscapes?

T127. The Ghazal and Its Homes through Time

Deema Shehabi, **Shadab Zeest Hashmi** (poetry, 2009), Aadeba Shahid Talukder, Persis Karim, Zeina Hashem Beck

Terrace Suite I, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Originally a popular form of love ode in ancient Arabic, the ghazal was embraced by Persian poetics and later found its way into numerous Persianate cultures, most notably Urdu. For two millennia, the ghazal has remained intact in spirit, form, and sensibility, with a few important shifts in formal mechanics as it transitioned from Arabic to Persian. In this panel, five women poets with a background in Arabic, Urdu, and Persian, will discuss the ghazal's history and read some of their own ghazals.

T129. **Grieving in the Asian Diaspora**

Chris Santiago, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Victoria Chang (poetry, 2005), *Sejal Shah*
Signature Room, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

This panel shines a light on the difficult—and sometimes hidden—work of grieving. Can writing help us process grief? Is grief specific to families, to cultures, to languages? A distinguished panel of writers whose work includes award-winning novels, memoirs, poetry collections, short stories, essays, and books on craft discuss the process of grieving as adoptees, as the children of immigrants, as citizens of a troubled country, and as inhabitants of a planet in the midst of irreversible change.

10:35 – 11:50 a.m.

T140. **The Week-Long Fiction Course: Best Practices for Conference Workshops**

Charlotte Wyatt, Lan Samantha Chang, Peter Ho Davies, Andrea Bewick, Angela Pneuman
Rooms 347-348, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

While many craft guides and articles address fiction workshop pedagogy, few address the difference between successful semester-long workshops and successful week-long programs or conferences. In this panel discussion, accomplished instructors who work in both MFA classrooms and conferences will discuss how they successfully foster effective, inclusive workshops in the intense environment of short-term programs.

T142. **Turning 30! A Four Way Books Anniversary Reading**

Rigoberto Gonzalez, Allison Benis White, Victorial Redel, Yesenia Montilla, Nathan McClain (poetry, 2013)
Room 430, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

To celebrate thirty years of independent publishing, Four Way Books gathers five writers who represent not just its own legacy of broad-ranging aesthetics but the depth and diversity of contemporary American literature itself. Featuring panelists from all around the country, readings will traverse genres, forms, subjects, and styles, showcasing the unique voices and literary dialogue that define the collective strength, lasting impact, and longevity of a small press from Tribeca founded in 1993.

T151. **Disrupting and Queering Appalachian Narratives**

David Hall, Carter Sickels, Mesha Maren, Neema Avashia, Jamie Lyn Smith
Terrace Suite I, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

In recent years, writers with rich and varied backgrounds, lived experiences, and perspectives have pushed back against narrow media portrayals of Appalachia, giving voice to the diversity of its literary landscape. This panel discussion will explore five Appalachian authors' strategies and experience in boldly queering and disrupting these narratives in their books about the region.

12:10 – 1:25 p.m.

T162. **The State of Vietnamese-American Poetics**

Joshua Nguyen, Paul Tran, Susan Nguyen, Kimberly Nguyen, Hieu Minh Nguyen (poetry, 2020)
Rooms 338-339, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

In this panel, Vietnamese-American poets discuss the legacy of Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American poetics and how they see themselves honoring, disrupting, and expanding the landscape of Vietnamese-American literature. Panelists will cite work from notable Vietnamese-American poets, discuss the influence of the Vietnam War, and how certain poetic forms help with carrying on Vietnamese traditions.

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

T183. **Eavan Boland: A Critical Legacy**

Christopher Kempf, Amaud Jamaul Johnson, Shara Lessley, Esther Lin, Bruce Snider
Rooms 328-329, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Perhaps no teacher has more profoundly shaped the investments of contemporary poetry than Eavan Boland, director from 1996 until her death in 2020 of the Stegner Program at Stanford and a frequent faculty member at the Bread Loaf and Sewanee writers' conferences. Comprised of former students, colleagues, and critics, this panel assesses Boland's legacy as a teacher and writer, focusing in particular on her enduring vision of what poetry can and should achieve in a contentious world.

T187. **From Novel to Screen**

Shawn Wong, Tammy Lynne Stoner, Carter Sickels, Johanna Stoberock
Rooms 335-336, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

It's the dream of most writers to see their work on the screen—be it silver or plasma. Luckily, as streaming expands, there's a growing need for content, especially when connected to intellectual property like, you got it, a book! This panel includes novelists at all stages of bringing their book to the screen—from filming a “proof of concept” to optioning a novel to seeing it become a film. Join us to chat about agents vs. managers, approaches to adaptation, options, production, and premieres.

T191. [Minding the Gaps and Mining Landscape in Linked Short Story Collections](#)

Ramona Reeves, Leslie Pietrzyk, Camille Acker, Rion Amilcar Scott, Toni Ann Johnson
Rooms 343-344, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Linked short story collections have become more popular, perhaps in part because of their hybrid nature. They can employ recurring themes, characters, and settings to situate readers in worlds that move beyond the borders of many short stories while stopping short of the breadth and propulsion of a novel. Minding the gaps, or the spaces, is key in writing linked story collections. How does space function between and within linked collections, and what stories does one choose to tell and why?

T193. [Containing Multitudes: Asian American Writers Not Writing about Race](#)

Dominic Lim, Preeti Vangani, A.H. Kim, Rita Chang-Eppig, Vanessa Hua
Rooms 347-348, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Author Nicole Chung recently wrote in *The Atlantic* that Asian writers are expected to educate readers with their writing. Writers of color tend to be asked about racism rather than craft during events. We are Asian American writers who often don't write explicitly about race / racism, choosing instead to focus on other aspects of our experiences/identities. In this panel, we discuss the importance of recognizing and honoring the multitudes inside us even during a time of increased anti-Asian hate.

3:20 – 4:35 p.m.

T219. [Neurodiversity and Mental Health Difference across Genres](#)

Stephanie Heit, Nazifa Islam, Maya Beck, Addie Tsai (poetry, 2005)
Rooms 345-346, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Join us for an exploration of how lived experience of neurodiversity and mental health difference can translate into writing. What are the possibilities and constraints different genres and forms offer? Why do writers decide to use specific genres? How do multiple identities and practices inform and shape work? We will share our responses and writing that encompasses speculative fiction, found poems, choice-based game narratives, noir hybrid memoir, and retellings of horror novels.

T220. [Queer Identity in Poetry](#)

Subhaga Crystal Bacon (poetry, 1995), *Nickole Brown, Dustin Pearson, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo*
Rooms 347-348, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The letters LGBTQIA+ are a stand-in for the immense diversity in our community. What is poetry if not an expression either of or from our deepest sense of self? What does it mean to identify on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum? What does Queerness bring to and reveal about the journey of poets who so identify? How are we shaped? To what do we respond through the lens of our queerness? Join this panel of BOA Editions poets for a reading from and about their individual queerness.

T229. [No, Nope, Forget It!: Writers on Preferring Not To](#)

Jung Yun, Joseph J. Capista (poetry, 2016), *Lisa Page, Sasha West, Kate Reed Petty*
Rooms 445-446, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Saying “no” to unwanted distractions is hard for writers. So when we're mid-poem or revising a chapter, how do we protect time and energy for our work without estranging others or feeling guilty? How do we frame our “preferring not to” as artistic self-advocacy? Set boundaries and resist burnout? E.B. White declined “for secret reasons,” but this mixed-genre panel will divulge how we quash the boss, nix parcheesi night, gently refuse those pushy students, and know when to say “yes.”

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

F108. [They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets](#)

Christine Kitano, *Alycia Primohamed, Paul Tran, Manahil Bandukwala, Sarah Audsley* (poetry, 2019)
Rooms 328-329, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Blue Oak Press celebrates the publication of *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*, which explores the depth and diversity of contemporary work by Asian American women and nonbinary poets. It provides an artifact of the range of responses to both personal and political forces, including the Trump presidency, the COVID pandemic, and the recent rise in anti-Asian violence. Panelists will speak to the evolving stakes of what it means to write as an Asian American poet.

F121. [Celebrating 30 Years of Flash Anthologies: A Reading from Flash Fiction America](#)

Chauna Craig, Sherrie Flick, Rion Amilcar Scott, Veniat Blackburn, Terese Svoboda

Rooms 433-434, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Norton's newest flash anthology, *Flash Fiction America*, features seventy-three stories, all under 1,000 words, that build around the concept of the United States in contemporary times. In a country composed of an incredibly diverse range of people, places, beliefs, and experiences, how do we understand a distinctly American quality in today's flash fiction? Editors and contributors will read from selections and discuss themes and directions in American flash fiction.

F129. [The Sentence Is the Story: Reading, Writing, and Revising for Style and Sound](#)

Miciah Bay Gault, Matt Bell, Dantiel Moniz, Allegra Hyde, Alexandra Chee

Terrace Suite II, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Five writers enamored with sentences will discuss the pleasure and power of line-level reading, writing, and revision. We approach sentences in terms of musicality, mouth feel, the "felt quality" of sound, syntactic symbolism, and the physicality of sentences (musculature, torque, momentum). We'll talk about first and last sentences, the one-sentence paragraph, the way prose can evoke a story through close-focus description, and the underlying idea that poetic devices are also at work in prose.

10:35 – 11:50 a.m.

F141. [Writing Social Justice with Grace, Beauty, and Power](#)

Jessica Goudeau, Mai Der Vang, Stephen O'Connor, Helen Benedict, Carolyn Ferrell

Rooms 345-346, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

In an age of endlessly distressing news, it can be difficult to make readers care about injustice, much less to write in an eloquent way that can move hearts. This panel of poets, novelists, and journalists will discuss how to write about urgent social justice issues such as racism, sexism, xenophobia, and the abuse of the powerless by the powerful. It will be a practical discussion about writing that eschews condescension and sensationalism and aims for elegance, beauty, and honesty.

12:10 – 1:25 p.m.

F163. [Stand \(or Sit\) and Deliver: Inviting Audiences into Poetry through Performance](#)

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, NourbeSe Phillips, Ilya Kaminsky, Alicia Jo Rabins (poetry, 2009), Joshua Nguyen

Rooms 335-336, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Creative writers use bodies and voices—pitch, volume, pacing—to shape tone. Writers may not all be actors, but if we can diversify and expand audiences through performance, why not call for more rehearsals? Panelists raise the curtain on backstage preparations to show how bodies' gestures, sounds, sizes, and movements can deepen the audience's connection to an imaginative world. Working within constraints, panelists model the small and larger techniques to gift an embodied lyric experience.

F177. [Through a Literary Lens: Craft Techniques to Get You Published in Mainstream Publications](#)

William Dameron, Estelle Erasmus, Vanessa Hua, Hattie Fletcher, Dawn Raffel

Rooms 445-446, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Many creative nonfiction writers grapple with making the jump from literary journals to mainstream publications, and underestimate their ability to bring their work to a broader audience. A panel of bestselling authors, journalists, columnists, instructors, memoirists, and editors will discuss using craft techniques such as objective correlative and metaphor to carry emotion, narrative voice, and scene-setting. Panelists offer advice: craft, pitching and editing tips that led to publication, book deals, and acclaim

F179. [From From: Graywolf Press Writers on Origin and Dislocation](#)

Anni Liu, Monica Youn, Manuel Muñoz, Sojan Louise, Lars Horn

Terrace Suite I, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

This panel borrows its title from Monica Youn's new poetry collection, which in turn alludes to the question "But where are you from from?" often posed to those assumed to be from elsewhere. Here, writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction published by Graywolf consider their complex and variable answers. They discuss how they engage with race, heritage, transience, and migration in their work, and the ways they destabilize the notion of singular origins for our language and our bodies.

F180. ["Memory that Pricks the Skin": Five Asian Women Poets Writing About History](#)

Marianne Chan, Jessica Stark, Emily Yoon, Tiana Nobile (poetry, 2017), Cynthia Dewi Oka (poetry, 2019)

Terrace Suite II, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Poetry is a vital genre for engaging with archive and reckoning with historical events that have been forgotten or ignored. In this panel, five Asian women poets explore how their work grapples with public and personal histories. Writing on a range of subjects—from war to colonization to ecological violence—these poets will read their work and discuss poetry as a space to challenge dominant narratives and find healing within reflection and documentation.

1:45 -3:00 p.m.

F186. [The Twenty-First Century Horror Novel](#)

Juan Martinez, Erika Wurth, Addie Tsai (poetry, 2005), *Stephanie Feldman*

Rooms 328-329, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The novel has thrived as a vehicle for scary stories since the time of Ann Radcliffe and Mary Shelley, and after three centuries, horror is returning to the mainstream. What elements of the genre have persisted, and how has horror evolved? How are contemporary writers reimagining horror? What essential work do horror tropes perform in this particular historical moment? Four novelists discuss the aesthetics and politics of fear.

F193. [The Small Press Author's Guide to Cultivating Community and Publicity](#)

Gloria Munoz, JD Scott, Sheree Greer, Lindsay Merbaum. Yanyi (new faculty)

Rooms 340-342, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Small presses make huge contributions to the literary community, but they're often understaffed and underfunded, leaving debut authors to be their own publicists. In addition to marketing tips, authors will talk about community-building efforts and how satellite events can support creative work. From mixing book-themed cocktails and organizing readings to pitching educational guides and running newsletters, attendees will learn imaginative ways to cultivate community while building up your book.

F208. [Insiders and Outsiders: Following, Bending, and Breaking Literary Traditions](#)

Lauren Alwan (fiction, 2008) *Thais Miller, Karen Tei Yamashita, Toni Jensen, Sandy Marchetti*

Terrace Suite II, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Writers often draw from multiple literary heritages, navigating diverse literary customs. Working within a set cultural tradition can offer connectedness and coherence, however, literary canons have also been consistently used to exclude many bodies. How do writers of intersectional identity work within, bend, and break set traditions? Writers of multiple genres who directly engage with diverse cultural traditions discuss their influences and strategies for wrestling with literary legacies.

3:20 – 4:45 p.m.

F222. [Without End: Honoring Adam Zagajewski](#)

Cate Marvin, Jennifer Grotz, Srikanth Reddy, Ilya Kaminsky, Nina McConigley

Rooms 345-346, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The unexpected passing of renowned Polish poet Adam Zagajewski in March of 2021 reverberated painfully throughout the intricate and far-ranging network of American poets and writers. It is difficult to reconcile ourselves to his loss due to the depth of his impact: poets and prose writers alike were shaped by his steady and eerily perceptive mentorship. This tribute gathers students, friends, and colleagues of the poet to honor his pivotal role in our individual and collective literary lives.

F224. [PR in a \(Nearly\) Post-COVID Age](#)

Courtney LeBlanc, Jennifer Martelli (poetry, 1995), *Susan Rich, Kelli Russell Agodon*

Rooms 427-429, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

This panel will show you easy hacks for promoting your book in a world in flux. What can make a profound difference in just five minutes a day? Or fifteen? Or thirty? How can you measure success? Each author has published several books and has successfully gotten their books included in festivals, author events, and into bookstores. How can you make this fun instead of gruesome? We will show you.

F227. [Everything All at Once: Readings & Conversation with Four Alice James Books Poets](#)

Joseph Legaspi, Ina Carino, Aldo Amparan, J. Estanislao Lopez (poetry, 2019), *Janine Joseph*

Ballroom 1, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

Four principal poets debut new collections from Alice James Books and discuss the expansive nature of storytelling in poems. Expressing individuality via internal and external landscapes; disabling hierarchies; examining lineage and familial influences; and uncovering how personal and collective histories collapse—and inform and obscure our memories, languages, and selves—the poets communicate collective visions of our myriad borders and query origins with an approach akin to transillumination. This event will be livestreamed. ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided.



Join us at The Westin Seattle!

for a private AWP reception/reunion for our program's faculty, alumni, and students

Friday, March 10 8:00-11:30 p.m.

1900 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101 – within easy walking distance from the Convention Center

The Puget Sound Room

Cash bar and light refreshment

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

S112. More Than a Stepping Stone: The Unique Freedom, Risk, and Beauty of Chapbooks

Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Stalina Villarreal, Nandi Comer, Priscilla Wathington (current student), Summer Farah
Rooms 335-336, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Chapbooks are often seen as a stepping stone to a first book, but previously this has been a form for historically marginalized communities, nontraditional poetics, and other kinds of cultural outliers. From the Black Arts Movement to the '90s slam scene, the chapbook lives as a form in its own right. These five writers of color discuss the chapbook's freedom to create physical artifacts that are not beholden to the dominant publishing industry's math, genre borders, or censorship.

S116. Feature, Not Flaw: Gatekeepers Discuss Support for Unconventional Stories

Tammy Lynne Stone, Sarah Cypher (fiction, 2019), Jeremy Schraffenberger, Chelcee Johns
Rooms 343-344, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The road to bringing a manuscript to its audience can be a gauntlet of good and bad advice from workshop groups, lit mag staff, and industry pros. But “good” writing is culturally subjective. This panel joins a Ballantine editor, MFA teacher, publisher of *Gertrude* literary journal, and indie editor with 20 years' experience to discuss ways to help writers without shutting them down. This panel is for writers, teachers, editors, critics, and all who want to enable a more vibrant literary culture.

S125. The Other World in This: An Image Journal Reading

Scott Cairns, Joyelle McSweeney, Sarah Stone, Fady Joudah, Shane McCrae
Rooms 443-444, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Poets, novelists, and essayists from *Image* journal upend our assumptions about religion. Rather than escaping the world or evading humanity, writing that grapples with spiritual struggle is deeply attuned to the hopes and heartbreak of this world. Precisely because it doesn't shy away from enduring themes of religious devotion, such writing probes the depths of human complexity and the visceral experience of being embodied. We will highlight such work across multiple genres.

S126. Speak, Memory: The Power and Politics of Retrospection Narration

Alix Ohlin, Natalie Bakopoulos, Beth Nguyen, VV Ganeshananthan, Nina McConigley
Rooms 445-446, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

The act of telling a story is one of asserting agency and authority—all the more so when a narrator comes from a position where that agency and authority have been questioned or denied. Retrospective narrators set their own terms, offer testimony, reshape memories, and process trauma. This panel will discuss retrospective narration as an act of reclaiming control for and by characters who are outsiders, have been disenfranchised, or whose stories have been written over by a more powerful voice.

10:35 -11:50 a.m.

S138. ATTENTION! Writing with ADHD

Lisa Van Orman Hadley (fiction, 2009), Patricia Caspers, Denise Delgado (fiction, 2010), Daniel Jenkins (poetry, 2018), Chloe Martinez (poetry, 2009)
Rooms 340-342, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

Based on demographic estimates, more than 600 AWP attendees likely have ADHD. While we may struggle to write around brain-based differences affecting attention, memory, mood, sensory processing, and more, neurodivergence also brings singular gifts—like associative thinking and hyperfocus—that enable deep creative immersion into real and imagined worlds. Here, genre-diverse writers with ADHD share strategies around process and the writing life, along with the unexpected ways it shapes their work.

12:10 to 1:25 p.m.

S173. [New Poetry from Graywolf Press](#)

Tom Sleigh, Courtney Faye Taylor, Stephanie Burt, Monica Youn
Rooms 443-444, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Five extraordinary poets read from their collections recently published by Graywolf Press, a leading independent publisher based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Wide-ranging in their form, subject matter, and career stage, these writers' recent works interrogate the responsibility and complicity of the poet as witness, explore myths both new and ancient, and discover new ways of approaching documentary, elegy, and enduring political questions of our time.

S174. [The Inside Connection: The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Linked Story Collections](#)

Jonathan Escoffery (new faculty), *Leigh Newman, Lydia Conklin, Jean Chen Ho, Maurice Ruffin*
Rooms 445-446, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

Writing a linked story collection has its particular challenges (and joys!). We'll look at the craft questions associated with the process, such as the range of wildly different techniques used to build such a collection (for example: a single character who appears in all the stories versus thematic connections versus a single setting or time period); the issue of story order; the search to find a title, and the pressure to turn such a collection into a novel (or not).

S180. [Mutant, Monster, Misfit, Myself: Writing the Disabled / Chronically Ill Body, Sponsored by AWP](#)

Sandra Beasley, Paul Guest, Rosebud Ben-Oni, Jenn Givhan (poetry, 2015), *Jeannine Hall Gailey*
Ballroom 2 & 3, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

Five disabled and/or chronically ill writers of poetry and memoir talk about how their body influences the way they write, their subject matter, even how they impact their genres and efforts towards publicity. How do we claim / activate our disability or illness? What do we disclose? We'll discuss how our work has changed over time, how our relationships with disability have changed, how we accommodate or resist the gaze of abled readers, and how disability / illness manifests in genre, line, metaphor. This event will be livestreamed. ASL interpretation and live captioning will be provided.

1:45 to 3:00 p.m.

S185. [Beyond the Trauma Plot: Reframing Trauma Toward a Poetics of Justice](#)

Eugenia Leigh, Vanessa Angelica Villareal, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Nathan McClain (poetry, 2013), *Janine Joseph*
Room 332, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

In recent years, the focus on personal trauma has narrowed the conversation, prioritizing individual experience over collective outcomes. Where trauma narratives romanticize suffering and offer easy redemption arcs, poetic innovation and craft deepen our understanding of the language of injustice. Five poets—whose works span collective and individual traumatic histories—will discuss the ways they innovate form and language toward more three-dimensional work in both poetry and personal narrative.

S194. [Show Me the Money: New and Creative Ways to Fund Your Writing Life](#)

Sara Connel, Aatif Rashid, Kurt Baumeister, Dionne Irving, Billy Lombardo (fiction, 2009)
Rooms 427-429, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

The fantasy for many writers is working for long stretches of hours in a room of one's own, totally immersed in the craft. But few writers actually write full time. (Maya Angelou worked as a fry cook and Wallace Stevens sold insurance.) This panel will discuss the challenges (particularly to women and writers of color), new solutions, and some surprising benefits of the necessity to earn income while preserving mental energy and stamina to bring forth the work.

S202. [Adoptee Representation Is a Human Rights Issue](#)

Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Alice Stephens, Anley Moon, Sarah Audsley (poetry, 2019), *Tiana Nobile* (poetry, 2017)
Room 447-448, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

This panel discussion examines the ways adoptees are represented across media in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, film, and television. Adoptee stories are often misrepresented as flat tropes which only drive the plot forward. Five adoptee writers identify common tropes across genres, illuminate the complex dynamics of adoption, highlight the human rights implications, advocate for adoptees to own their stories, and share tips for how nonadoptees can more accurately represent adoptees in their work.

S205. **God Talk: Poetics of Wonder, Awe, and Ecstasy**

Philip Metres, Kaveh Akbar, Victoria Chang (poetry, 2005), *Ajanae Dawkins, Chase Berggrun*
Signature Room, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 5

How do poets—contemporary and ancient, living and ancestral—engage with the divine, and what happens when our poems turn toward the Unsayable? Drawing upon inherited or chosen traditions as they face our living moment, poets Kaveh Akbar, Chase Berggrun, Victoria Chang, Ajanae Dawkins, and Philip Metres wrestle with language and the architectures of wonder, awe, and ecstasy offer a new way to consider poetic practice alongside spiritual practice—or poetic practice as a spiritual practice.

3:20 – 4:35 p.m.

S215. **Uprooted / Unrooted: Adopted and Donor-Conceived Poets Rewriting Family**

Lori Desrosiers, Stacey Balkum, Lee Herrick, Jennifer Givhan (poetry, 2015), *Leah Silvieus*
Room 337, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 3

The bonds that make “family” have always extended beyond its traditional definition; blood isn’t always thicker than water. Five poets redefine the notion of family, discussing their experiences with adoption-from-birth, late-discovery cross-cultural adoption, and donor-conception, and sharing how such experience has (or hasn’t) impacted the writing and/or publishing of creative work. To widen the discussion and make room for all families, this event will invite the audience to join in via Q&A.

S224. **Writing as an Act of Social Justice**

David Mura, Connie Pertuz-Meza, Hannah Eko, Stacie Evans, Cynthia Oka (poetry, 2019)
Rooms 435-436, Summit Building, Seattle Convention Center, Level 4

"Even in a pandemic, even in grief, I found myself commanded to amplify the voices of the dead that sing to me, from their boat to my boat, on the sea of time." –Jesyln Ward. How do we write amidst chaos? In the last few years—forever, really—writers pushed themselves to return to the page. In a world that is not always equitable and so rarely grants people justice—particularly writers from marginalized communities—creatives find the courage to make art.

Visit us – or volunteer for a shift – at our AWP Bookfair Booth: #627
Thursday-Saturday, March 9-11 from 9 am to 5 pm



Seattle 2014



Los Angeles 2016



Tampa 2018



San Antonio 2020



Philadelphia 2022