



2019 AWP Conference & Bookfair
March 27-30, 2019
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon

Thursday, March 28 – Saturday, March 30, 2019
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sarah Lawrence College MFA Writing Bookfair Booth

Exhibit Hall of the Oregon Convention Center on Level One, Booth 6018

This year's bookfair showcases more than eight hundred presses, journals, and literary organizations from around the world—including Sarah Lawrence College.

Alum Events

Thursday, March 28, 2019

9:00 – 10:15 AM

PANEL
DISCUSSION R127

D131-132, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

How to Win a Writing Fellowship. (Thaddeus Rutkowski, Ava Chin, Janet Kaplan MFA '95, Tim Keane, Pedro Ponce) Most writers have applied for a fellowship to finance their work, but relatively few actually receive grants. What's the secret to securing a substantial amount of money to support one's writing? Past winners of National Endowment, Fulbright and state funding describe putting together a manuscript, writing an artist's statement, and getting recommendations. We will also describe the process from the inside. Writers who have served on fellowship panels will reveal how they made their decisions.

READING R131.
D137-138, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Lit Your City: How To Build Strong Writing Communities & Run Reading Series. (Tracey Levine, Annie Liontas, Penina Roth, Rafael Alvarez, Quincy Scott Jones MFA '15) Reading series exist to share ideas, build community, and bridge the gap between the writer and non-writer. They enrich the experience of writers in the community, but also expose the larger population to the importance of writing and hearing diverse voices. Panelists are writers who have worked on series or have in some other way ingeniously

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

brought the word to their city. Each participant will discuss the mission and development of their series or project, as well as the pitfalls and successes.

PANEL
DISCUSSION R132.
D139-140, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

We're Here and We're Queer: LGBTQ Women Tell Their Stories. (Imogen Binnie, Chelsey Johnson, **Nicole Dennis-Benn MFA '12**, SJ Sindu, Patricia Smith) Queer people—and queer women especially— have long been marginalized in literature. What are the stories being told about queer women? And who is doing the telling? Four authors with very different backgrounds discuss their books and characters, the stereotypes they fight against, and the truths and lives they reveal. What are the various identities queer women navigate in real life and on the page? What untold stories remain hidden?

PANEL
DISCUSSION R145.
Portland Ballroom 256,
Oregon Convention
Center, Level 2.

Be Your Own Agent. (Natalie Shapero, Holly Amos, Christopher Soto, **Leah Umansky MFA '04**, Vi Khi Nao) Some poets are represented by literary speaking agents who arrange events, manage logistics, and set fees and conditions. And then there's everybody else. This panel, aimed at both emerging and established writers, discusses how to advocate for oneself. Four poets share experiences with touring and with running institutional and independent readings; the discussion demystifies booking and negotiation, offering concrete advice on how to know what to ask for and how to get it.

10:30 – 11:45 AM

READING R146.
A103-104, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Readings from the Chapter One project. (Sandy McIntosh, Mary Mackey, **Denise Duhamel MFA '87**, Geoffrey O'Brien, Jason McCall) Marsh Hawk Press presents readings from its Chapter One publishing project, featuring the memoirs of outstanding poets from diverse backgrounds, recalling the ways by which they found their start as writers.

PEDAGOGY R150.
B110-112, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

The Oh Shit Moment: Issues of Social Justice & Identity in the Writing Classroom. (**Rachel Simon MFA '03**, **Olivia Worden MFA '15**, **Seth Michelson MFA '02**, **Melissa Febos MFA '08**, **Syreeta McFadden MFA '07**) What can you do in the moment a student shocks your class by introducing the language of racism,

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

sexism, classism, colorism, cissexism, ableism, or victim blaming? This panel will offer practical steps to address the uncomfortable moment and ways to use it as an exercise in critical thinking. We will offer texts, and assignments that will open a productive dialogue on the subjects of social justice regardless if you are in a majority white classroom, an HSBCU, or progressive liberal arts school.

PANEL
DISCUSSION R168.
E146, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Animation and Poetry: A Marriage, a Rebirth. (July Westhale, David Perry, Julius Dobos, Joseph Fortuno, **Soma Mei Sheng Frazier MFA '00**) The Sundance Channel was one of the first premium networks to air animated poetry. Now, this titillating marriage of forms is gaining visibility. But bringing poetry from the page to the screen requires strategy, skill, and technology. Undergraduate students and faculty from a top polytechnical college offer collaborative strategies—and explain how they've partnered with 2015–2017 US Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera and others to adapt poetic work.

PANEL
DISCUSSION R177.
Portland Ballroom 253-
254, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 2.

Behind the Curtain: The Editors Speak. (Christian Kiefer, Oscar Villalon, Allison Wright, Emily Nemens, **Karissa Chen MFA '12**) The submission process can be daunting and mysterious. Most of us use an online submission system and then patiently wait—sometimes for more than a year—before receiving a canned rejection. So what can the average writer do to be a better submitter of their work, to catch an editor's eye, to get past the slush pile? This diverse panel assembles some of the top literary magazine editors in the country to answer your questions about the submissions process and what goes on behind the scenes.

12:00 – 1:15 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION R182.
A105, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Poetic Strategies for Raising the Dead. (Owen Lewis, **Kamilah Aisha Moon MFA '06**, Ben Purkert, Kate Daniels, Laure-Anne Bosselaar) The dead often walk in and out of poetry as if they were still alive. How do poets achieve a seamless transit between worlds? Five poets will discuss their own and others' techniques for realizing resurrection on the page. Also considered: the many purposes for bringing back the dead. How do poems enable us to mourn and commune with those not here? We will examine poetry's

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

role in shaping our public and private histories, allowing us to rewrite those histories and new meaning to the past.

PANEL **DISCUSSION R187.**

B114, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Literary Citizens of the World: The Practical Side of Writing Abroad. (Emily Robbins, Jennifer Kronovet, **Jennifer Steil MFA '96**, Moira Egan, Elisabeth Jaquette) What does it mean to be a US writer abroad in the era of Trump? More practically: how do you find grants to go abroad? Once there, how do you engage with the literary community and act as a good literary citizen, even across language barriers? How do you stay connected and make sure your work stays relevant in the US? Five writers who have led successful writing careers in the US while living and working abroad share their thoughts on these and other questions.

PANEL **DISCUSSION R190.**

B117-119, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

When Your Characters Just Stand There Smoking & Staring: Translation & Invention, Sponsored by ALTA. (Russell Valentino, **Curtis Bauer MFA '99**, Gregory Pardlo) Novelist and translator Maureen Freely once noted that when translating an Orhan Pamuk novel set in Istanbul, the characters in her own Istanbul-set novel just stood there smoking, looking at her, while his had plenty to say. In translating his characters' words, she found her own. This panel explores translation as prompt and liberation for when one's own words refuse to come. Each panelist provides a reflection and offers examples of how translating has enabled and inspired new work.

PANEL **DISCUSSION R197.**

D136, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

The Minor is Major: Talking about the Creative Writing Minor. (John Hoppenthaler, **Sharan Strange MFA '95**, Amber Flora Thomas, Wayne Thomas, Erin Murphy) Creative writing remains a tested avenue to attract and benefit students in a well-designed English department. The minor can preserve CW as an area of study, attract new majors, and, most importantly, act as a springboard for student success in a variety of ways. This panel, with teachers and administrators from an HBC, a state university, and a private university, offers ideas and answers questions about the creation, value, population, assessment, and fine-tuning of a quality CW minor.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

1:30 – 2:45 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION R228.
D131-132, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Writing the Rift: Left Coast Poetries, Left Coast Poetics. (Dean Rader, **Brynn Saito MFA '08**, Tess Taylor, Jennifer Foerster, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo) We call it "the West," but it's only the West if you come from the East. To some, it's North; to others, East; to others, simply home. How do the particular histories, crises, fault-lines, and violence of the far side of the continent play into our forms? This panel convenes west coast poets to explore the necessary work of forging a poetics of place in a place of recent arrival. Each poet will ask: what does it mean to write the left coast now?

3:00 – 4:15 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION R263.
C124, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

What's Craft Got to Do With It?: On Craft, Race, and the Black Imagination. (Dianca London Potts, Jessica Lanay Moore, **Dennis Norris II MFA '12**, Jeni McFarland, Cole Lavalais) In an age when Black authors are on the rise, why is craft still dismissed as "bougie" or adjacent to whiteness? Why are Black narratives analyzed primarily through a sociological or anthropological lens rather than one of literary craft? Why do so many readers and writers still resist the merit of craft when it comes to Black literature? This dialogue examines, confronts, and unpacks the creative and cultural implications and potential of craft within the contemporary Black literary canon.

PANEL
DISCUSSION R277.
F150, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Image and Text: Crossing Media, Crossing Genre. (Joanna Luloff, Jena Osman, Matt Donovan, **Matthea Harvey SLC Writing Faculty**, Paisley Rekdal) Photographs, scientific illustrations, captioning, paintings. Poetry, documentary novels, lyric essays. How do the interactions between text and image allow poems, novels, essays, and memoirs to travel temporally, geographically, and generically? The writers on this panel discuss the ways they have put text and image into conversation in order to explore personal and public histories, identity, and memory as well as the porousness of genre.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

4:30 – 5:45 PM

**PANEL
DISCUSSION R299.**
C125-126, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Season of the Witch: Feminism, Ritual, and Independent Publishing. (Brooke Wonders, **Joanna C. Valente MFA '13**, Mary Biddinger, Annah Browning, Jessica Berger) Helen Oyeyemi writes of “witches who whistle at different pitches, calling things that don't have names.” What unnamed experiences might a feminist literary magazine or press want to summon? Join the editors of *Luna Luna*, *Grimoire Magazine*, *Transom*, and University of Akron Press as we discuss how ritual, folk practices, and symbols like the witch provide a way of speaking the unnamed, especially in the wake of the #metoo movement.

READING R318.
Portland Ballroom 253-
254, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 2.

The National Book Critics Circle Presents: Paul Beatty and Joan Silber. (Kate Tuttle, **Joan Silber '67 and SLC Writing Faculty**, Paul Beatty) Two National Book Critics Circle honored novelists—Paul Beatty and Joan Silber—read from their work and talk with NBCC President Kate Tuttle about inspiration, research, awards (Beatty also won the Man Booker; Silber, the PEN/Faulkner), evolving forms, writing about race, the unique challenges of writing in these times, and the imaginative process that shapes their originality. Consider this a dual master class in the art of fiction.

Friday, March 29, 2019

9:00 – 10:15 AM

PEDAGOGY F113.
A105, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

She-Radical: Emotional Ally vs. Emotional Labor. (Carolina De Robertis, **Soma Mei Sheng Frazier MFA '00**, Carson Beker, Ashley Davis, Nancy Au) QTPOC often shoulder the bulk of emotional labor in classrooms, boardrooms, in academic and other professional settings. How can QTPOC writers, artists, and educators thrive in their professional worlds, in ways that acknowledge the struggles of their colleagues and mentees, while simultaneously asserting and prioritizing one's own personal desires vital to nurturing one's craft? How can speculative fiction, poetry,

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

and translation inform the roles of mentors in interdisciplinary settings?

PANEL
DISCUSSION F120.

B116, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Dystopias and Utopias in Contemporary Asian American Literature. (Chaya Bhuvaneshwar, Jimin Han MFA '98, Thirri Myint, Anita Felicelli) Ted Chiang writes in *Story of Your Life*: "Despite knowing the journey and where it leads, I embrace it and welcome every moment." Despite Chiang's renown, little attention has been paid to dystopian and utopian visions in Asian American works, particularly by women. Four writers examine the speculative impulse present in literature that on its face is about contemporary political events, combining brief readings, a Q & A on cross-genre literary work and craft, and an audience writing exercise.

PANEL
DISCUSSION F126.

D133-134, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Money Moves & Recruitment Tools: Summer Writing Programs for High School Student. (Patricia Dunn MFA '98, Seth Michelson MFA '02, Tori Weston, Tania Pabon MFA '17, Sylvia Chan) More and more universities are offering college experience programs and workshops for high school students. Not only is it a way to bring in revenue during the "off time" between semesters, but it is also an effective tool for recruiting prospective students. This discussion-based panel will offer participants the opportunity to brainstorm ideas for summer programs, gain strategies for working with administration challenges, budgets, space restrictions, and faculty recruitment.

10:30 – 11:45 AM

READING F149.

B110-112, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Fifty Years of First Books. (Sophia Starmack MFA '12, Ari Baniyas, Ada Limón, Sam Ross) The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a reading by former Fellows Ari Baniyas, Nick Flynn, Ada Limón, and Sam Ross, all of whom came to the Work Center before the publication of their first books. They'll also share memories of their seven months in Provincetown, and discuss the impact residencies and fellowships have had on the crucial early stages of their writing careers.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

READING F160.

D135, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Ahsahta Press 45th Anniversary Reading. (Stephanie Strickland MFA '78, Cody-Rose Clevidence, Heidi-Lynn Staples, C. Violet Eaton, Susan Tichy) Current Ahsahta Press authors celebrate the 45th year of the press with readings from their new books. Ahsahta started out as a (re-)publisher of historically significant poetry of the West, expanded to contemporary Western poetry, and in 2000 became a publisher of surprising and artful experimental work. A small press with a significant voice, Ahsahta remains committed to making relevant, boundary-pushing work accessible to the average poetry reader.

PEDAGOGY F169.

F149, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

The Multimodal Classroom: Embracing Creative Writing in the 21st Century. (Saul Lemerond, **Billie Tadros** MFA '12, Leigh Camacho Rourks, Ephraim Sommers) The first creative writing workshops came into being well before televisions were available to the general public. Since then, the number of creative modalities has proliferated far beyond the page, and we now live in a world with the likes of podcasts, memes, comic books, web-series, and slam poetry. This panel will discuss the value of challenging students to produce work on non-traditional modes as well as discuss the functionality of using nontraditional modalities as teaching tools.

PANEL DISCUSSION F177A.

Portland Ballroom 256,
Oregon Convention
Center, Level 2.

Reinventing the Wheel: The Tradition of Innovation in Poetry. (Kazim Ali, Jenny Johnson, **Traci Brimhall** MFA '08, Vandana Khanna, Blas Flaconer) Sidney famously writes, "And others' feet still seemed but strangers in my way" ("Astrophel and Stella"). However, one would only need to read Homer, Virgil, and Dante, the letters between Wordsworth and Coleridge or Moore and Bishop, to recognize the long tradition of poets mentoring and inspiring other poets. The poets will challenge the notion that tradition and innovation are at odds by revealing how specific poems influenced them and led them to better understand different poetic elements.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

12:00 – 1:15 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION F197.
D137-138, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Literary Communities for the Rest of America. (Kristen Radtke, Sara Ortiz, Molly Rose Quinn MFA '12, Lois Kim) As many writers and artists get priced out of major cities, leaders from literary centers across the country are building communities away from the coasts—often in places that have been long overlooked. Directors and coordinators from thriving institutions and festivals share their experiences of growing literary communities outside traditionally “cultural” cities, and discuss how they serve their communities.

1:30 – 2:45 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION F224.
B116, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

My Brother, My Antagonist: Memoirists on Developing Family Members as Characters. (Mike Scalise, Jennifer Hope Choi, Justin St. Germain, T Kira Madden MFA '12, Allie Rowbottom) Complex family relationships drive many writers to memoir, but translating those relationships to the page vividly, fairly, and sensitively can be just as complex. This panel of memoirists shares stories, craft tips, and frank advice about the tough, tricky, and surprising process of turning their closest family members into rich, fully-dimensional characters, and what happened to those relationships once they did.

PANEL
DISCUSSION F232
D136, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

#SonnetsSoWhite?: Poets of Color on Race and Traditional Verseforms. (Chad Abushanab, Erica Dawson, T.J. Jarrett, Cortney Lamar Charleston, Jee Leong Koh MFA '05) Writing in received forms has long been considered a particularly white tradition, and poets of color who write in form are too often seen as engaging in a mode largely exclusive to white writers. Our panel challenges this notion and asks poets of color to discuss how traditional verseforms factor into their personal and poetic identities. The aim is to restructure the conversation around the politics of form by celebrating it as a powerful poetic device fully accessible to writers of color.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

PEDAGOGY F238.

E146, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

I'm Unprepared: Navigating Trauma in Writing

Classrooms. (Rachel Simon MFA '03, Olivia Worden MFA '15, Adam Falkner, Juan Morales, Arhm Choi Wild) In the age of “trigger warnings” and #MeToo classrooms are frequently spaces that hold acknowledged and unacknowledged trauma. This reality can leave educators at a loss for how to identify and manage behaviors related to and masking trauma. This panel will provide tools for how to support both students and colleagues through these challenges in the writing classroom.

PANEL

DISCUSSION F250.

Portland Ballroom 256,
Oregon Convention
Center, Level 2.

Me Too: Writing Your Way Through (and Out of) Childhood

Sexual Abuse. (Nickole Brown, Laure-Anne Bosselaar, Dorianne Laux, Richard Hoffman, **Kamilah Aisha Moon MFA '06**) How to write the fragmented, charged, often shameful memory of childhood sexual abuse in a way that isn't mired in self-pity, rage, or the standard-issue language of confession? And how to excavate a history half- or mis-remembered, as early trauma often is? What are the pitfalls when writing becomes therapy and when publishing becomes public? Five poets discuss their struggles with these questions as both writers and teachers to make poems that demonstrate the courage to heal.

3:00 – 4:15 PM

PANEL

DISCUSSION F254.

A103-104, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Between the Margins and Mainstream: Liminal Spaces of

Jewish American Literature. (Jacob Appel, Molly Antopol, Alicia Jo Rabins, **Aaron Tillman MFA '98**, Erika Meitner) For many American Jews, being “Jewish” is not a religious nor an ethnic signifier; Jewish Americans have diverse conceptions of marriage, gender, culture, and spiritual practice. While Jewish identity remains, it is not easily classifiable in social or literary spheres. How does this anomalous position play out in contemporary Jewish American literature? This panel of Jewish-identified writers and performers will address how they and others have grappled with an increasingly elusive identity.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

READING F258.

B110-112, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Commonplace Live: A Reading Featuring Guests of Rachel Zucker's Podcast.

(Rachel Zucker, **Ross Gay MFA '98**, Adam Falkner, Sabrina Mark, Gabrielle Calvocoressi) This reading features Ross Gay, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Sabrina Oran Mark, and Adam Faulkner, former guests of Commonplace, a podcast Rachel Zucker started in 2016. A series of intimate and captivating interviews by Rachel Zucker with poets and artists about quotidian objects, experiences or obsessions, Commonplace conversations explore the politics, phobias, spiritual practices, and other extraliterary forms of knowledge that are vital to an artist's life and work.

4:30 – 5:45 PM

READING F303.

D133-134, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Innovations in Southeast Asian Narratives.

(**Jee Leong Koh MFA '05**, Gina Apostol, Alfian Sa'at, Laurel Fantauzzo) News from the other side of the Pacific. Short shorts that provide a prismatic look at a Malay-Muslim community. The weaving of reportage and film criticism to investigate the murder of two young film critics. The dueling of two different film scripts in a novel about a massacre. Three authors read and discuss their work.

Saturday, March 30, 2019

12:00 – 1:15 PM

PANEL

DISCUSSION S203.

F150, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Two-Country Careers: Writers on Living and Writing in More than One Place.

(**Aviya Kushner**, Cole Swensen, **Curtis Bauer MFA '99**, Xu Xi, Martha Cooley) Writers who divide their time between two countries are crucial bridges between America and the world. Immersed in two literary cultures, two languages, and sometimes two ethical systems, writers who go abroad and return and leave again often enter a state of disorientation—and perhaps, skepticism of seemingly basic truths—which is important for creative work. Panelists who spend part of each year abroad discuss how a two-country life affects writing, reading, and translating.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

1:30 – 2:45 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION S214.
B110-112, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Furious Flower Presents Black Poets on Poetics. (Lauren K. Alleyne, Frank Walker, Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon, Erica Hunt, **Ross Gay MFA '98**) What makes a great poem? What does one bring to the making of a poem as a Black writer, and does it matter? This panel asks these questions of poets who are contributors to the third Furious Flower anthology, *Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry*. This groundbreaking collection gathers for the first time essays on poetics by Black poets, showcasing a diversity of approaches to poetic craft. The poets read from their essays and discuss their poetics.

PANEL
DISCUSSION S221.
C124, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Teaching Outside the Academy: The Case for Writers' Centers & Conferences. (Jennifer Franklin, **Martha Rhodes SLC Writing Faculty**, Tree Swenson, Chris Campanioni, Fred Marchant) Earning an MFA is a wonderful opportunity but not everyone has the resources and/or time to follow this route to becoming a published writer. Hear from leaders in the field as they offer the benefits and challenges of teaching and learning outside the Academy. Join the directors of two of the oldest writers centers in the country, teachers from two of the most established manuscript review and poetry conferences, and writing instructors as they discuss experiences within and outside of academia.

PANEL
DISCUSSION S239.
Oregon Ballroom 203,
Oregon Convention
Center, Level 2.

From Which We Spring: A Tribute to Los Angeles Iconoclast Poet Wanda Coleman. (Amber Tamblyn, Kevin Young, **Jeffrey McDaniel '90 and SLC Writing Faculty**, Mahogany Browne, Patricia Smith) "A yearning to avenge the raping of the womb/from which we spring." Five poets discuss the art, life and legacy of poet Wanda Coleman, known as the unofficial poet laureate of Los Angeles. Wanda passed away unexpectedly at the age of sixty-seven, but her ferocious and firey voice charged generations of writers. Hear these five influential authors read some of her most provocative and captivating work while discussing the life of one of America's most potent yet unknown black feminist writers.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

3:00 – 4:15 PM

PEDAGOGY S251.

B115, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Glitter! Legos! Origami—Oh My! Artistic Play in the Creative Writing Classroom.

(Alison Pelegrin, Traci Brimhall MFA '08, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Oliver Bendorf, Brynn Saito MFA '08)
How can teachers integrate artistic play to foster a sense of experimentation? How can experiments that seem like crafts and games short-circuit the fear of risk, encourage play instead, and push student writers to reach beyond the walls of the classroom into a larger community of writers? How can teachers inspire students to take ownership of their learning experiences through hands-on work that feels like play? Do scented markers and glitter really help to get ideas to the page?

**PANEL
DISCUSSION S254.**

C123, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

The Other Side of the Story: The Trouble with Writing About Real People.

(Sophia Shalmiyev, Chris Kraus, Melissa Febos MFA '08, Lacy M. Johnson, Kiese Laymon) Joan Didion claimed that “writers are always selling somebody out” even as they strive for honesty and self-scrutiny. As a writer crafts each sentence to best articulate their point of view, they inevitably face a conflict with the subjects of their stories, which may inhibit the process, spur retaliation, and threaten relationships. We will explore the personal, artistic, and legal implications of choosing to write about family, friends, lovers and public figures, and offer strategies for coping.

READING S271.

F152, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Hedgebrook Voices Rising.

(Amy Wheeler, Shobha Rao, Hannah Tinti, Rahna Reiko Rizzuto, Victoria Redel SLC Writing Faculty)
Hedgebrook's global community of women authoring change comes together for readings of alumnae work across genre, generation, and geography. Come celebrate Hedgebrook's thirtieth anniversary, enjoy hearing work by women writers in its community, and join a conversation about the movement for equal voice in the cultural conversation.

AWP Alum and Faculty Conference Events 2019

4:30 – 5:45 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION S299.
E145, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 1.

Literary Sexual Abuse: From Silence to Safety. (Annie Finch, Shaindel Beers, Cathy Linh Che, Genevieve Pfeiffer MFA '15, Wendy Scott)
Staggering numbers of writers—mostly women—have had our confidence wounded, educations cut short, voices distorted or stifled, and manuscripts left unfinished or unpublished due to sexual harassment from writing teachers, colleagues, editors, publishers, and role models. How do we survive literary sexual abuse? Should we speak or stay silent? How can we reclaim our voices? This panel focuses not on retaliation, but on transformation, enacting a creative community where all are free to heal.

PANEL
DISCUSSION S310.
Portland Ballroom 255,
Oregon Convention
Center, Level 2.

You Are Enough: How to Find Your Own Voice in the Age of Diversity. (Annie Hwang, Danya Kukafka, Nicole Dennis-Benn MFA '12, Rakesh Satyal, Monica Odom) With the push for #ownvoices, more traditionally marginalized writers than ever before are seeing their stories published. But the movement also has writers worried about whether their voices are truly diverse “enough” for the current marketplace. Panelists will discuss questions like: Is there enough space in the market for my story? Am I ____ enough to tell this story? How can a writer tell their own story in their own voice and still find success in the marketplace?

8:30 – 10:00 PM

READING S319.
Oregon Ballroom 201-
202, Oregon
Convention Center,
Level 2.

A Reading by Marie Howe, Adrian Matejka, and Mai Der Vang, Sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. (Jennifer Benka, Marie Howe SLC Writing Faculty, Adrian Matejka, Mai Der Vang) Join the Academy of American Poets for an evening reading by Academy of American Poets Chancellor Marie Howe, Indiana Poet Laureate Adrian Matejka, and 2016 Walt Whitman Award winner Mai Der Vang. Executive Director Jennifer Benka will introduce the event. Founded in 1934, the Academy of American Poets is the nation’s largest membership-based organization promoting contemporary poets and poetry.