2018 AWP Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 8, 2018

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

R175. Structuring the Novel: Methods, Approaches, Ideas
Florida Salon 6, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Janet Fitch, Lindsey Drager, Christian Kiefer, Matthew Salesses, Derek Palacio)
The methods of structuring book-length fiction are as numerous as they are difficult, especially in an era where the very idea of the "novel" is being called into question. Bringing together a diverse group of panelists with very different methods of structure, this panel strives to offer concrete answers to your structuring questions. What method might work best for the novel you are writing? How best to move forward? To outline or not to outline? How much to plan?

R190. The Historical Women: Reimagining Past Narratives Through the Contemporary Female Perspective
Room 15, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Chanelle Benz, Amelia Gray, Min Jin Lee, Megan Mayhew Bergman, Lidia Yuknavitch)
"Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul," said Coretta Scott King during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. What can we learn from reimagined female historical narratives? What is their timely relevance in the current political climate? This panel will also discuss the craft of shaping a nonfiction tale to a modern day story, and how to create female characters that break barriers and make a history of their own.

R195. Destruction and Creation: Addiction, Recovery, and Writing
Room 22, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Kelly Thompson, Melissa Febos, Rob Roberge, Vanessa Martir)
The addiction story, though centuries old, is a breaking one. Five authors who write from the edges present addiction perspectives and offer their approaches, both practical and emotional, to writing about addiction and recovery and the role addiction plays in their creative lives. The addiction myth operates in profound ways both historically and presently in the lives of writers. How do vocation and addiction intersect? How do we write in and through addiction spaces, images, and narratives?

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm

R209. Empathy in the Writing Classroom
Meeting Room 4, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Katharine Beutner, Andrea Lawlor, Mairead Case, Kristiana Kahakauwila)
This panel will connect creative writing pedagogy with our present political moment, in which calls for empathy and connection across differences proliferate. Experienced writer-teachers will address the functions and risks of empathy in the classroom and other writing spaces—we’ll discuss specific practices meant to spur empathy among students, but will also complicate the conversation by considering the ways that empathy can fail as a teaching tool and a tool for social change.

R226. The World Grows: New Directions in Environmental Writing
Room 18 & 19, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Ross Gay, Camille Dungy, Pam Houston, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Diana Owen)
Through writing and art that explore the connection between nature and culture, Orion inspires new thinking about how humanity might live on Earth justly, sustainably, and joyously. This panel brings together an award-winning and diverse group of Orion authors who will read original work and discuss new directions in environmental writing, a genre that has become increasingly urgent in today's world.

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

R256. The Poem’s Country: Place and Poetic Practice
Room 17, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Philip Metres, Shara Lessley, Bruce Snider, Joan Kane, Sandra Lim)
For all of its virtual connection America is as divided as ever. Negotiating this contradiction as it manifests on our home-screens and in our hometowns has become an essential subject for 21st century writers. Sharing essays from the newly published anthology, “The Poem’s Country,” a diverse group of American poets discusses how and why they write about the Middle East, displaced Native communities of Alaska, cosmopoetics, gay rural America, and even invented landscapes of their own making.
4:30 pm to 5:45 pm
R274. Stranger and Truthier Than Truth: Fiction in the Age of Trump
Ballroom A, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Manuel Gonzales, Helen Phillips, Kelly Link, Marie-Helene Bertino, Toni Jensen)
There’s an increasing movement to combat the turbulent political climate with nonfiction essays and personally revealing hot takes. However, fantasy worlds can act as society’s mirror just as acutely. Part of resisting can be frivolity and a refusal to eschew whimsy. In a post-fact world, the most equipped soldiers can be those who deal in making it up. Award-winning fiction writers will talk about why the "lie" of fiction matters now, and how fiction can be truer than truth.

Ballroom B, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Sherwin Bitsui, Alison Granucci, Rajiv Mohabir)
The layering of cultures; the complex wonder of the natural world; the riddle of faith; the deep resonance of mythology: what better place for these dimensions to wrestle and converse than in the poetic realm? The urgency inside the poems of Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Rajiv Mohabir, and Sherwin Bitsui offer a complicated empathy with the world, one that grapples with loss and is tinged with sorrow: even beauty can hurt. Yet their language, resplendent with song, also sings into being a world of joy.

R289. Here Comes the Flood: Research and Writing in the Anthropocene
Room 20 & 21, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Julia Spicher Kasdorf, C. S. Giscombe, Lisa Sewell, Joan Kane, Brian Teare)
In the next century, three-quarters of those living in Tampa will suffer costal flooding driven by climate-changed rises in sea level. How can we use our concerns—for earth, humans, and animals—to transform anger and anxiety into new writing and cultural change? What is a writer’s responsibility to the future? the past? Five poets will share projects that confront values of place, race, and memory; extraction and extinction. Join us in conversation about sustaining our work and commitments.

6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
University of Tampa Presents Brock Clarke and Patricia Smith: A Reading
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery, R.K. Bailey Arts Studio, 310 N Boulevard, Tampa FL 33606
Cost: Free
The University of Tampa’s Low-Residency MFA presents a reading by Brock Clarke and Patricia Smith. Clarke is the author of multiple novels and story collections, including The Arsonist’s Guide to Writers’ Homes in New England and Exley. Smith’s recent poetry collections include Incendiary Art and Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah. The Scarfone/Hartley Gallery, on UT’s historical campus, is located downtown, just a short walk from the Convention Center. A book-signing will follow the reading. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday, March 9, 2018
9:00 am to 10:15 am
F113. Writing That Raids the Real: Research in Three Genres
Florida Salon 4, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Clinton Crockett Peters, Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Toni Jensen, Phong Nguyen, Kathryn Nuernberger)
All writers reconstruct the world. Often we use imagination, but mining science, family history, interviews, or Project Muse can add context and metaphor. Panelists with books in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction discuss ways to investigate, including how to determine what research might be productive, such as interviewing George W. Bush, hanging around fracking sites, following arsonists, or milking libraries. They offer practical advice for crafting distinctive writing using factual materials.
10:30 am to 11:45 am
F141. Defining Native Poetics, Genre, and Criticism
Grand Salon D, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Charlotte Gullick, Darlene Naponse, Gerald Himmelreich, Michaelsun Knapp, Terese Mailhot)
Alumni from the Institute of American Indian Arts will discuss indigenous poetics, exploring the connection between literary elders and our own current work, with a particular focus on form. The panel will offer readings from our key influencers and explicate the connection to our own writing. This question will be at the core of the panel: looking at influence, how do we acknowledge our language and way of life in our creations?

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm
F278. The Poetic Treatment: Contemporary Applications of the Ancient Art of Bibliotherapy
Meeting Room 4, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Katherine Litwin, Maggie Queeney, Mairéad Case, Nora Segar, Jennifer Foerster)
Reading for therapeutic purposes has been practiced since antiquity, but how does this manifest today? Four practitioners detail their work introducing poetry outside of academic spaces, where reading and writing become a means of self-care. Drawing upon experiences with inmates, palliative-care patients, sexual assault survivors, and youth engaging in social protest, these facilitators explore the therapeutic potential of reading, discussing, and writing poetry in time of extreme stress.

F291. We Remain: Resurgent Indigenous Belonging
Room 15, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Margo Tamez, Kimberly Blaeser, Juan Guillermo Sanchez)
Engaging the call for Indigenous poets to engage, claim, and interrogate Indigenous memory, this poetry reading will address the poetics and the politics of Indigenous memory, collective memory, Indigenous poetic consciousness, and the persistence of Indigenous peoples' relationships and artistic traditions embedded within a shared history of resistance to destructive practices of dominant groups. This reading engages difficult knowledge, place, space, restorative justice, and healing.

F292. Bullets into Bells: Poets and Citizens Respond to Gun Violence in the U.S.
Room 16, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Alexandra Teague, Matthew Olzmann, Dana Levin, Wayne Miller, Brian Clements)
In this reading from the new anthology Bullets into Bells: Poets and Citizens Respond to Gun Violence in the U.S. (Beacon, December 2017)—the first to gather contemporary poets writing about gun violence, along with responses from gun-violence-prevention advocates and victims—five poets will share work from the anthology. The panelists will also show brief video clips of their poems’ accompanying responses, and answer questions about the role of poetry in this pressing social conversation.

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Sinking Ground, Rising Voices
CAVU, 1601 N. Franklin Street, Tampa, FL 33602
Cost: Free
Url: https://www.facebook.com/events/1747276058672168/
Burrow Press, Catapult, Electric Literature, and The Rumpus proudly present Sinking Ground, Rising Voices! With readings from Marie-Helene Bertino, Ben Gwin, Lisa Ko, Alicia Mountain, Safiya Sinclair, and Javier Zamora. Sponsored by Submittable and Aevitas Creative Management. Doors open at 7 p.m., readings begin at 7:30 p.m., music and mingling to follow.

Saturday, March 10, 2018

9:00 am to 10:15 am
S120. Literary Publishing at the Community College: Preparing a New Generation of Writers and Curators
Room 5 & 6, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Jo Scott-Coe, James Ducat, Lloyd Aquino, Michaelsun Knapp, Marcos Corona)
Riverside City College's Muse and Mount San Antonio College's Creepy Gnome together have decades of experience providing highly diverse student staff with opportunities to design, edit, curate, and promote nationally recognized literary magazines. Panelists will outline best practices of applied learning and mentorship in literary publishing, with emphasis on empowering students at HSI (Hispanic Serving Institutions) to contribute to the literary marketplace and develop their artistic vision.
10:30 am to 11:45 am
**S148. Writing Bad Ass and Nasty Women**
Ballroom D, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Luanne Smith, Pam Houston, Kim Addonizio, Ann Hood, Bonnie Jo Campbell)
We long for empowered women, especially in today’s political climate. Writing such women, though, is not about capturing Wonder Woman on the page. At times, kicking butt, breaking laws, hearts, and balls is necessary for the work, but at other times, the woman simply stands her ground and wants control over her own choices and body. The writers on this panel have given us bad ass women in their writing and sometimes been surprised by the reception. What is bad ass today? No cuffs required.

**S156. Native American and Latino Fiction: Intersections in Narrative as Form and Force**
Room 12, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Erika Wurth, David Weiden, Desiree Zamorano, Natalia Sylvester)
This panel will examine the relationship between Native American and Latino fiction. Though categorized as immigrant literature, much Latino Literature has a strong indigenous background. From the Popul Vuh to traditional stories in North American Native Nations, the formal power of narrative or simply story has strongly influenced contemporary Latino and Native Literature. This panel will include Native North American and Latino writers for a fuller discussion of craft, indigeneity, and story.

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm
**S192. Facilitating Lightbulbs: Social Justice in the Writing Classroom**
Room 17, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Rachel Simon, Olivia Worden, Santee Frazier, Francine J. Harris)
Are you looking for texts that will open a productive dialogue on the subjects of race, class, sexuality, gender, environmental justice, citizenship, or rape culture in your writing classroom? Are you looking to signal a commitment to social justice in the composition classroom despite your audience or administration? Five social justice and writing practitioners will share their favorite texts and tools to open the conversation.

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm
**S208. Writ Large: Expansion in the Short Story**
Meeting Room 1, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Siân Griffiths, Eric Sasson, Caitlin Horrocks, Marie-Helene Bertino, Diane Cook)
William Strunk said, “Vigorous writing is concise.” Professors and craft books tend to agree, emphasizing the importance of cutting and concision. However, what’s good for the sentence is not always good for the story. Our panel suggests that sometimes a story benefits from more, not less. We examine ways to know if a story needs another dimension and in those instances, discuss strategies the writer might explore to help their stories find their best length.

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm
**S236. Getting the Word Out: How to Approach Book Promotion to Actually Reach Readers**
Florida Salon 1, 2, & 3, Marriott Waterside, Second Floor
(Johnny Temple, Melissa Febos, Jessica Greer, Cynthia Shannon, Lisa Grubka)
As a writer, all you want is for the writing to speak for itself. But readers, reviews, and book sales don’t magically appear the moment your book is published. Nobody reads a book they haven’t heard of, and most book promotion occurs months prior to the publication date. Learn what you need to do to get your book discovered by the right audience. Understand the timeline of book marketing, what questions to ask your marketers, and how to focus your efforts on what really matters.

**S259. The Dream Work of Poetry**
Room 22, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Bruce Beasley, Brian Teare, Dana Levin, Saskia Hamilton)
"The dream," says Jean Paul Richter, "is an involuntary form of poetry." Four poets known for their dreamlike forms discuss how the work of dreams and the work of poems overlap through such shared techniques as metaphor and metonymic substitution, hyperassociation, parataxis, puns, and other wordplays, radical condensation and juxtaposition, multiple meanings, homophones, allusion, resistance to paraphrasable meaning, and granting of permission for strange and jarring new ways of making sense.

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm
**S285. Not an Island: The Place of Literary Citizenship in the Writer’s Life**
Room 20 & 21, Tampa Convention Center, First Floor
(Christopher Soto, Gregory Pardlo, Pamela Uschuk, Melissa Studdard, Lidia Yuknavitch)
How can we lift others with our words and works? Literary citizenship can be as complex as running an
organization or as easy as donating a book to a student. Speaking from experience with Cave Canem, VIDA, PEN America, Lambda Literary, Undocupoets, and individual initiatives, panelists address topics such as community organizing, balancing activism and writing, choosing and implementing projects, good colleagueship and mentorship, the politics of saying "no," and writing as an agent of change.