

2014 AWP Conference Schedule

Thursday, February 27, 2014

10:30 am to 11:45 am

R131. [Translation and U.S. Spanish-Language Poetry](#)

Cedar Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

(Kristin Dykstra, [Tina Escaja](#), Mariela Dreyfus, [Eileen Mary O'Connor](#))

Opening with a short reading, this panel will take up questions involving two groups of writers: Spanish-language poets residing in the U.S. and translators. Can translation help to build cultural communities that might not yet exist in reality? How might conditions differ from one place to another? How do poets perceive and seek out translators? What challenges do translators face? How and where can writer/translator teams create bilingual reading opportunities for all?

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

R164. [20 Things You Need to Know About Starting a Writers Group & 10 Things You Need to Know If You're Already in One!](#)

Room 2A, Washington State Convention Center, Level 2

([Miguel M Morales](#), [Jose Faus](#), Maria Vasquez Boyd, Gabriela Ybarra Lemmons)

Can a writing group fulfill its mission to foster and support writers while responding to community needs for mentors, advocates, and role-models? The Latino Writers Collective will explore the balance between artist and administrator. Learn how we developed our *Página* reading series, educational programs for at-risk and migrant youth, our in-school and after school programs, and how we created a press, all with no paid staff. Get tips and tools for success. Learn how to avoid the diva syndrome.

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

R220. [What's Luso Got To Do With It?](#)

Aspen Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

(Paula Neves, Jarita Davis, Melissa da Silveira Serpa, Marie Carvalho, Amy Sayre Baptista)

Issues of identity and inclusivity—in literature and life—will be addressed by members of Presence/Presença, a grassroots organization that provides a community for North American writers of the Portuguese and Lusophone diaspora. Hear about how to reach out to writers who might feel marginalized, as well as fundamental requirements for creating a not-for-profit arts organization to nurture writers within our community, a desired goal for this organization, will also be discussed.

R221. [The Write to Network: Women Writers Empowering Women](#)

Cedar Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

([Maria Maloney](#), Arisa White, [JP Howard](#), [Xanath Caraza](#), Erica Eller)

In this panel, four women in the writing industry and from diverse segments of the country, cultural backgrounds, and literary affiliations, discuss the ways in which women writers, editors, and publishers are networking to help promote and empower women writers across the publishing industry—from women-empowering virtual gatherings and poetry salons to chain reading series and grassroots community publishing.

R230. [The Narration of Identity and the Cuban-American Experience with Richard Blanco and Cristina Garcia, Sponsored by Blue Flower Arts](#)

Ballroom E, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Forrest Gander](#), [Richard Blanco](#), Cristina Garcia)

Richard Blanco and Cristina Garcia give a rare glimpse into their forbidden country, Cuba, through the literary voice of the American immigrant experience. Reading poetry, fiction, and memoir—and in lively conversation with Forrest Gander—they each illuminate the struggles of living in-between two cultures. Throughout their search for a cultural identity, they explore issues of language, gender, family, exile, and history—and discover what it means to truly become an American.

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

R262. [Four Novelists Celebrate Arte Público Press](#)

Room 602/603, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(J.L. Torres, [Alicia Gaspar de Alba](#), Manuel Ramos)

Arte Público Press began 35 years ago as a much needed outlet for Latina/o writers who had limited access to mainstream publishing. Since then, the press has published some of the most renowned, award winning Latina/o authors in the United States. Four novelists will read from their work recently published by APP and

discuss the press' influence on their careers and its impact on Latina/o literary production, followed by a discussion on the current state of publishing for Latina/o writers.

Friday, February 28, 2014

9:00 am to 10:15 am

F125. CantoMundo Fellows and Faculty Share their Stories of Teaching Latina/o Poetry

Room LL4, Western New England MFA Annex, Lower Level

([Norma E. Cantu](#), [Valerie Martinez](#), Barbara B. Curiel, Ruben Quesada, Diana Delgado)

Teaching Latina/o Poetry in the 21st-century demands specific strategies. The creative writing classroom is a space for innovation, discovery, and pertinent discussions on social change. Presenters will examine aspects of teaching writing and reading at the college level with a specific focus on Latina/o poetry and will include presentations on the interplay of pedagogical strategies and genres of Latina/o poetics as well as unique uses of traditional methods, and technology and social media.

F126. Poetics of Science: Meetings of the Mind

Room LL5, Western New England MFA Annex, Lower Level

(Lila Zemborain, [Marta del Pozo Ortea](#), Leonard Schwartz, Zhang Er)

The historical divide between poetry and science has caused much damage to our culture, particularly after the project of the Enlightenment. However, poetry and science share a crucial endeavor: the understanding of the world. They also have a common language: metaphors (scientific theories provide nothing else but models of the world). This panel offers a poetry reading and a conversation with five poets whose work is informed by scientific concepts.

10:30 am to 11:45 am

F135. Poets on the Craft of Translation: A Conversation Between New and Established Translators

Redwood Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

(Gloria Munoz, [Jay Hopler](#), Kimberly Johnson, John Talbot, Jennifer Kronovet)

This diverse panel of new and established translators focuses on the challenges and advantages of translation in the MFA program and beyond. Panelists address strategies and theories of translation through the following questions: How to understand, maintain, and interpret the poetics of the source language? How is a translation affected by research? How poetic elements such as music, syntax, and rhythm are considered? How to negotiate and learn from the roles of poet and translator?

F137. Our Bodies at Work: Women, Liminal Space, and the U.S./Mexico Border

Room 2A, Washington State Convention Center, Level 2

([Sasha Pimentel](#), [Alicia Gaspar de Alba](#), [Emma Pérez](#), Carol Brochin, Abigail Carl-Klaasen)

Chicana, Mennonite, and Filipina writers and poets engage the parallel traumas of the Ciudad Juárez/El Paso border—which is femicide and war-ridden, but rich and permeable—with our own personal negotiations of culture, sexuality, identity, and art. We'll discuss literacies of transition: lesbianism, labor, immigration, and migration, and how, at the threshold between body and body, between country and country, and different kinds of war, we can arrive at the imaginal and the liminal.

F145. Family Trouble: Memoirists on the Hazards and Rewards of Revealing Family

Room 602/603, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Joy Castro](#), Ralph Savarese, [Sue William Silverman](#), [Faith Adiele](#), [Stephanie Elizondo Griest](#))

Writing and publishing memoir about family members can be a vexed process, rife with concerns about privacy, fairness, and exploitation. The editor of the new collection *Family Trouble: Memoirists on the Hazards and Rewards of Revealing Family*, together with four of its contributors, will discuss the challenges of writing about family members, share craft strategies, and offer ethical approaches for negotiating this difficult emotional and political terrain.

F147. Poetry, Fiction, & Gronkfest: Celebrating Five Years of What Books Press

Room 606, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Katharine Haake](#), Gronk Nicandro, [Lynne Thompson](#), Rod Moore, Ramon Garcia)

With its genre-bending list of bilingual poetry, eco-fabulist science fiction, magic journalism, and graphic narrative, What Books Press was founded to assert the imperative for serious writing that reflects the diversity of literary and political cultures emerging from Los Angeles, a center of art for the globalized world. This panel celebrates the press' first five years with readings of poetry and prose and a multimedia presentation by the visual artist Gronk, who makes all What Books art.

F157. Dwelling on the Edge: New California Writing 2013, Heyday/California Legacy

Room LL5, Western New England MFA Annex, Lower Level

(Kirk Glaser, [Juan Velasco](#), [Zara Raab](#), Alexandra Teague, [Steve Gutierrez](#))

Culturally and geologically, California rests on shifting ground. This third annual anthology continues asking what is unique in California literature by assembling fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from publications large and small. What emerges reveals the proximity of Latin America and Asia, whose cultures clash and mix with those of Europe and Africa in ruthless and enchanting landscapes that render people as nowhere else. Join renowned contributors reading from and discussing this anthology.

F164. [Are We Latino? The Hazards of Representation](#)

Room 305, Western New England MFA Annex, Level 3

(Daniel Borzutzky, Carmen Giménez Smith, Paul Martinez Pompa, Sandy Florian, [Rodrigo Toscano](#))

More and more, Latino literature is being canonized, often in celebration of the multicultural Americas. What happens, though, when writers who claim to be Latino don't write directly about their heritage? We might be told we aren't "really Latino" by peers, professors, and our own people. This panel starts a new dialogue about the poetics of identity politics in the academy and beyond. In the process, we share approaches to writing and teaching that question the "proper" embodiment of identity.

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

F179. [Chicana/o Noir: Murder, Mayhem and Mexican Americans](#)

Room 602/603, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Daniel Olivas](#), Lucha Corpi, Michael Nava, Manuel Ramos, [Sarah Cortez](#))

While many fans of noir fiction can tick off such names as Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, and Ross Macdonald, Chicana/o authors have emerged during the last several decades as expert practitioners of this very American literary form. Indeed, the line between literary and noir fiction has blurred virtually into extinction. The Chicana/o gumshoe is no longer new, but the panelists continue to stretch the form to include a more diverse universe of characters and subject matter.

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm

F200. [Once More Unto the Breach: A Multilingual Reading of War-Informed Literature in Translation](#)

Cedar Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

(Nancy Naomi Carlson, John Balaban, [Erica Mena](#), Marcela Sulak, Russell Scott Valentino)

Throughout the ages, war has inspired a diverse body of literature from all across the world. This panel, translating from Bosnian, French, Hebrew, Spanish, and Vietnamese, will bring to English the human experience of love and loss with a backdrop of war from such landscapes as the deserts of Djibouti to the beaches of Vieques Island, ranging in time from the rebellion leading to the start of the Nguyen Dynasty to the present-day conflict between Palestine and Israel.

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

F237. [Arriba Baseball!: A Collection of Latino/a Baseball Fiction](#)

Willow Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

([Kathryn Lane](#), Pete Cava, Thomas de la Cruz, [Robert P. Moreira](#), [Norma E. Cantu](#))

Arriba Baseball!: A Collection of Latino/a Baseball Fiction challenges established paradigms within literary baseball fiction, a genre traditionally sustained by works from predominantly white, male authors and one which has historically excluded women and writers of color. This reading will showcase five authors and their baseball short stories that both celebrate and complicate the American pastime through the prism of the Latino/a experience.

F247. [Natalie Diaz, Lucia Perillo, and Dean Young: Reading and Conversation, Sponsored by Copper Canyon Press](#)

Ballroom E, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Michael Wieggers](#), Dean Young, Natalie Diaz, Lucia Perillo)

Natalie Diaz, author of *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, joins two of contemporary literature's leading poets, Lucia Perillo and Dean Young, for a reading and conversation. Perillo is a Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award winner and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Young is the current Texas Poet Laureate, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and Griffin Poetry Prize. The event concludes with a conversation between the poets, moderated by the Executive Editor of Copper Canyon Press, Michael Wieggers.

F248. [A Memoir with a View: On Bringing the Outside In](#)

Room 602/603, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Sue William Silverman](#), [Lee Martin](#), Sonya Huber, [Joy Castro](#), Harrison Candelaria Fletcher)

Some critics label memoirs mere navel gazing. However, the memoirists on this panel will show why it's anything but. In memoir the "I" is a strong presence, guiding and shaping the narrative, but the broader perspective is that of someone gazing out a window rather than peering into a mirror. The "I" reflects an

image in a windowpane as we superimpose ourselves upon the wider world. We will explore ways in which personal stories engage with social, cultural, and political realities.

F255. [Found in Translation: How Translators and Authors Translate the Untranslatable](#)

Room 612, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([María-José Zubieta](#), Mariela Dreyfus, Daniel Alarcón, Jorge Cornejo, [Eileen Mary O'Connor](#))

The topic of untranslatability has been discussed by many theorists, but most of these reflections stem from one perspective only, namely, the translator's. This panel offers a multidimensional discussion between a Peruvian poet and a Peruvian American narrator and their respective translators, concerning the challenges of the untranslatable, a discussion made all the more relevant and poignant by the fact that both authors are fluent in the target language.

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

F276. [There She Goes Again: Women Writing Travel](#)

Room 400, Washington State Convention Center, Level 4

([Suzanne Roberts](#), Pam Houston, [Stephanie Elizondo Griest](#), Tracy Ross, Lavinia Spalding)

In this year's *The Best American Travel Writing*, three of the 19 essays were written by women. Why such disparity? Are women writing travel and adventure judged under a different set of aesthetics? If so, how does this translate into writing and publishing place-based narratives? These women panelists—memoirists, novelists, poets, and journalists—will discuss the challenges and joys, as well as the doubts and criticism they face in writing and publishing travel and adventure stories.

F287. [Submitting Translations: The Literary Magazine as the Back Door to Fame and Fortune](#)

Room 611, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(Minna Proctor, Carolyn Kuebler, [Thomas Kennedy](#), Josh Edwin, [Erica Mena](#))

Historically, literary translators are the wallflowers of publishing; they engage in labors of love within academia and set their sights on the limited prospects of book publication. Meanwhile, literary magazines, the champions of high art and no commerce, are eager to publish translations but don't know how to solicit, edit, and market translations. This panel will dismantle perceived obstacles of publishing literary translations through a practical discussion of submission and editing strategies.

F293. [Place and Ethnicity in Literary Nonfiction](#)

Room LL5, Western New England MFA Annex, Lower Level

(Allen Gee, Geeta Kothari, [Ruben Martinez](#), Neela Vaswani, Mark O'Connor)

What occurs when ethnicity intersects with writing about varying locales? This diverse panel will discuss several of the issues that arise when writers contemplate and examine different spaces, such as rural borders, other countries, the suburbs, or urban neighborhoods. We'll speak to what extent protest can figure into one's work, how we portray specific immigrant cultures and communities, and share observations we've made about assimilation and alienation in America.

F295. [Using the Gifts of the Region in an Era of Globalization](#)

Room 202, Western New England MFA Annex, Level 2

(Keya Mitra, Tiphonie Yanique, [Shann Ray Ferch](#), Cristina Henriquez, [Matthew Burgess](#))

This panel features five authors, writing about regions as distinct as the Virgin Islands, Panama, New York, India, and Montana, who have effectively incorporated what Flannery O'Connor refers to in *Mystery and Manners* as the gifts of the region in their work through inclusion of local color, dialect, and history. These writers will explore how writers convey the complexity of territories transformed by colonization, globalization, cultural hybridity, and power struggles.

F297. [Tribute to Margarita Donnelly and Calyx, One of the Nation's Oldest Feminist Presses](#)

Room 302, Western New England MFA Annex, Level 3

(Marianne Villanueva, [Angela Narciso Torres](#), Margarita Donnelly, [Frances P Adler](#), Alicia Bublitz)

This Tribute event honors Margarita Donnelly for her thirty-six years as Director and Managing Editor of Calyx, the first feminist press on the West Coast. *Calyx Journal*, begun in Corvallis, Oregon in 1976, and Calyx Books in 1986, are known for discovering women writers early in their careers and opening the eyes of mainstream publishers. Four prominent writers, published early on by Calyx, celebrate one of publishing's literary treasures and consider the continued importance of Calyx today.

Saturday, March 1, 2014

9:00 am to 10:15 am

S119. [Beyond Pessoa, the New Landscape of Portuguese American Literature](#)

Room 608, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(Luis Gonçalves, Paula Neves, [Millicent Borges Accardi](#), Amy Sayre Baptista, [Carlo Matos](#))

In recent years, there has been a surge in the visibility of Portuguese American literature. From early immigrant tales of fishermen, whalers, carpenters, and factory workers, to modern day poetry and fiction about ethnicity, politics, and identity, this panel will discuss the landscape of Portuguese American writing in the 21st century.

S124. [New America](#)

Room 615/616/617, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(Wang Ping, [Joan Silber](#), Jason England, Carlos Hernandez, Holly Messitt)

We frequently see celebrations of American diversity through readings of individual ethnic or identity literature. This panel will gather contemporary fiction writers from *New America: Contemporary Literature for a Changing Society* to celebrate the diversity of American literature by featuring a polyglot of voices from across the spectrum that reflects a range of experiences and backgrounds and frames a contemporary American literature that is at once inclusive, substantial, and well-written.

10:30 am to 11:45 am

S134. [New Kids on the Block: Emerging Latino Voices Engage in Discourse on Poetry, Community, and Craft](#)

Aspen Room, Sheraton Seattle, 2nd Floor

(Francisco Aragon, Lauren Espinoza, Nayelly Barrios, Lauro Vasquez Rueda, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo)

Latino/as are underrepresented in writing programs. The Letras Latinas Poets Initiative aims to create space for those Latino/as enrolled in MFA programs in order to dialogue with one another in online roundtable forums, as well as at weekend retreats. This panel consists of four poets who are part of this initiative's inaugural cohort. They will discuss what participation has meant to them and seek to publicize the program to prospective participants at the conference.

S155. [Hyphenated Poets: Ethnic American Writing Against Type](#)

Room 615/616/617, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(Kaveh Bassiri, [Barbara Jane Reyes](#), Cathy Park Hong, Farid Matuk, Solmaz Sharif)

While immigrant poets have long sought to recover and celebrate their ethnic identity, a new generation is problematizing the notion of identity and what it means to be American. These poets respond to socially constructed types that marginalize them to fulfill diversity quotas, and they seize the English language to interrogate the myth of American essentialism. In this reading and discussion, we will hear four writers respond to these challenges with poetry.

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

S189. [The Latino Short Story: Continuity, Innovation, and the Voices of Story Writing](#)

Room LL5, Western New England MFA Annex, Lower Level

(Fred Arroyo, [Lorraine Lopez](#), [Benjamin Alfré Sáenz](#), Jennine Capó Crucet, Daniel Chacón)

The short story is a vital American literary form. Through its continuity and innovation, the short story hears and reflects the individual and collective voices of culture and history. This panel of Latin@ short story writers, who have recently published collections, will consider the problems and possibilities—aesthetically, traditionally, ideologically, and culturally—of publishing short story collections, while also exploring the tensions and joys of publishing with smaller presses.

S193. [Outlaw Aesthetics and Publishing the Sprawl: How LA Indie Presses are Changing the Face of Publishing](#)

Room 302, Western New England MFA Annex, Level 3

([Neelanjana Banerjee](#), [Chiwan Choi](#), [Luis Rodriguez](#), Lisa Pearson, Teresa Carmody)

Think people in LA don't read? Wrong! Indie presses are not only flourishing in LA, they are working to create a vibrant literary metropolis from inside the sprawl. From Kaya's collaborative book booths to Writ Large's plans for an LA Literary Walk to Tia Chucha's literacy hub to the aesthetic conversations between artists and writers encouraged by both Les Fignes and Siglio, these presses are changing the culture of literary LA—and in the process, innovating new models for publishing.

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm

S202. [The Weight of Displacement: Latino Writings from the Heartland](#)

Room 2B, Washington State Convention Center, Level 2

([Jose Faus](#), Gabriela Ybarra Lemmons, [Miguel M. Morales](#), Maria Vasquez Boyd)

Middle of the Map-Latino Writers Collective members will read and discuss the challenges and success of writing from the Heartland, maintaining diversity of culture, and examining issues of displacement. Members capture individual experiences as political or social commentary, reflective, semi-autobiographical, humorous, or entertaining. Their craft reveals and examines the many facets of this unique cultural identity that includes

class, gender roles, sexual identity, and immigration status.

S213. [CantoMundo: 5th Year Anniversary Reading Celebrating Latina/o Poetics](#)

Room 611, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Celeste Guzman Mendoza](#), [Raina Leon](#), Urayoan Noel, Amalia Ortiz, [Benjamin Alire Saenz](#))

CantoMundo will celebrate its 5th Year Anniversary in 2014. Inspired by the culturally-rooted visions of Cave Canem and Kundiman, CantoMundo builds on the aesthetically, culturally, and linguistically diverse work of Latina/o poets. The reading will feature CantoMundo co-founders, faculty, and fellows.

3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

S238. [Race and Belonging: Navigating the MFA Program as a Writer of Color](#)

Room 602/603, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Sejal Shah](#), Eduardo C. Corral, Crystal Williams, Jon Pineda, [Tim Seibles](#))

How does one navigate the literary world as a writer of color? Often, the MFA and the publishing world exclude, exoticize, tokenize, and even deride the experiences of writers of color. This panel—with representatives from Kundiman, CantoMundo, and Cave Canem—will provide a place to air out and discuss systemic problems but also will serve as a space to discuss solutions.

S239. [From Silver to Gold: A Case Study in Planning for the Next 25 Years of a Regional Writers' Center and Its International Press](#)

Room 604, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

(Jo Ann Clark, Melanie Hulse, [Margo Stever](#), [Jim Tilley](#), [Sergio Troncoso](#))

How did a derelict railroad station in Sleepy Hollow become the internationally-renowned, regional hub for literary arts that is The Hudson Valley Writers' Center and its Slapering Hol Press? And how, after weathering leadership clashes, the economic collapse, and two hurricanes, does HVWC intend to thrive in the coming decades? By candidly addressing such questions, key HVWC constituents, including its founder, will share secrets—and cautionary tales—of their remarkable history and success.

4:30 pm to 5:45 pm

S277. [A Political Engagement: A Tribute to Jack Hirschman](#)

Room 615/616/617, Washington State Convention Center, Level 6

([Kimiko Hahn](#), [Luis Rodriguez](#), [Michael Warr](#))

Bronx born, Hirschman made California his home after UCLA fired him for 1970 anti-war activities. Known for the innovative form, the arcane, and for political engagement, the former San Francisco poet laureate has been compared to Whitman and Neruda. A prolific author and editor of *Art on the Line*, essays by writers that explore the political nature of poetry, he is a member of Union of Street Poets, a group that distributes leaflets of poems to people on the street.