

Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Workshop
July 13–23, 2021 (online)

The Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice at Rutgers University (Rutgers–Camden Center), with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is pleased to announce its inaugural Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Workshop. This online workshop is an open-genre program for creative and/or academic writers committed to antiracist writing practices. The “poets and scholars” bracket intends to welcome a broad range of writers and thinkers from lyric poets to literary theorists. Participants will consider submitted manuscripts as occasions to reflect and explore possibilities for current and future work rather than view them as flawed objects in need of repair. Guided by a host of theoretical and ethical concerns—racial justice being chief among them—participants will discuss each other’s texts at the level of craft to develop new approaches to their own work that honor the independent selfhood of all readers, imagine equitable and inclusive futures, and gain a broad awareness of the social contexts, institutions, policies, and practices that often place these goals at odds.

Writers are invited to apply as contributing participants or as auditors only. To apply as a contributing participant, please submit a one-page letter of application explaining your interest in the workshop and your interpretation of its stated goals, a manuscript of no more than 10 pages, and three references. To apply as auditor only, please submit a letter of application explaining your interest in the workshop.

The Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Workshop will provide \$250 stipends for selected Camden residents and/or Rutgers undergraduates admitted as contributing participants. There is no fee for participation.

The Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice is committed to the creation of spaces for scholars and creative writers to be in conversation as both an aspect of their work and for the mutual exchange of knowledge within and throughout the university and its surrounding communities. Workshop members will be invited to participate in the professional, social, and intellectual life of the institute throughout the academic year.

Application Guidelines

By April 15, 2021, please submit all application materials to isgrj@oq.rutgers.edu. These materials will include:

- Letter of application explaining your interest in the workshop and your interpretation of its stated goals.
- 10-page maximum manuscript.* This should be a current draft of the manuscript intended for discussion. This draft may be revised prior to discussion.
- Names of three references with contact information for them.

*Applicants seeking to audit do not need to submit a manuscript.

Workshop Faculty

Airea D. Matthews's first collection of poems is the critically acclaimed *Simulacra*, which received the prestigious 2016 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. The collection explores the topics of longing and desire with power, insight, and intense emotion. *New Yorker* critic Dan Chiasson describes Matthews's experimental forms as "Fugues, text messages to the dead, imagined outtakes from Wittgenstein, tart mini-operas, fairy tales: Matthews is virtuosic, frantic, and darkly, very darkly, funny." For her writing, Matthews earned a 2020 Pew Fellowship as well as the 2017 Margaret Walker *For My People* Award. In 2016, she received both the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award and the Louis Untermeyer Scholarship in Poetry from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Callaloo*, *Gulf Coast*, *Best American Poets*, *American Poet*, *The Rumpus*, *Tin House*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Harvard Review*, and elsewhere. Matthews holds a B.A. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania as well as an M.F.A. from the Helen Zell Writers' Program and an M.P.A. from the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy, both at the University of Michigan. Matthews's current projects include a second book, which interrogates classical and contemporary ideas about class, and developing an arts commune in Sicily, Italy. A Cave Canem, Callaloo, and Kresge Literary Arts Fellow, Matthews is a founding member of the transdisciplinary art studio The Teeth Factory. She is an assistant professor and directs the poetry program at Bryn Mawr College, where she was presented the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award.

Born in Philadelphia, **Gregory Pardlo** is a graduate of Rutgers University–Camden. As an undergraduate, he managed the small jazz club his grandfather owned in nearby Pennsauken, New Jersey N.J. He received an M.F.A. from New York University as a *New York Times* Fellow in Poetry in 2001, and an M.F.A. in nonfiction from Columbia University as a Teaching Fellow in 2016. Pardlo is the author of *Totem*, winner of the 2007 *American Poetry Review*/Honickman Prize; author of *Digest*, winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize; and translator, from the Danish, of Niels Lyngsoe's *Pencil of Rays and Spiked Mace*. His poems and essays have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Playboy*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, the *New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, and two editions of *Best American Poetry*, as well as anthologies including *Angles of Ascent*, the Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry. He has received fellowships from the Cullman Center of the New York Public Library, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, as well as a fellowship for translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is poetry editor for *Virginia Quarterly Review* and is an associate professor of creative writing and director of the M.F.A. program at Rutgers University–Camden. His most recent book is *Air Traffic*, a memoir in essays.

February 26, 2021