Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Retreat July 13-23, 2021 (online)
“We are not asking for seats at the table. We are building tables.”
Join us for ten days of presentations, talk-backs, and a radical experiment in reimagining the traditional writing workshop as an open forum of mutual accountability.
This inaugural writing retreat invites applications from writers of all disciplines, genres, and backgrounds who are committed to antiracist writing practices. Participants must commit to all ten days. Registered auditors may log-in to view morning lectures and talk-backs, and may observe the afternoon experimental workshops, at their convenience. There is no fee for participation. Stipends of $250 are available for selected Camden, N.J., residents and/or Rutgers undergraduates admitted as contributing participants. 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. Retreat members will be invited to participate in the professional, social, and intellectual life of the institute throughout the academic year.

Application guidelines
To apply as an auditor, please submit a letter of application to isgrj@oq.rutgers.edu explaining your interest in the retreat
To apply as a contributing participant, please submit a one-page letter of application explaining your interest in the retreat and your interpretation of its stated goals, a manuscript of no more than 10 pages, and three references. See details below.
The deadline has been extended to May 15, 2021
Please submit all application materials to isgrj@oq.rutgers.edu
These materials will include:
1. Letter of application explaining your interest in the retreat and your interpretation of its stated goals.
2. 10-page maximum manuscript.* This should be a current draft of the manuscript intended for discussion. This draft may be revised prior to discussion.
3. Names of three references with contact information for them.
*Applicants seeking to audit do not need to submit a manuscript.

Key Note Speaker
Felicia Rose Chavez
Felicia Rose Chavez is an award-winning educator with an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Iowa. She is the author of The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom and co-editor of The BreakBeat Poets Volume 4: LatiNEXT with Willie Perdomo and Jose Olivarez. Felicia’s teaching career began in Chicago, where she served as Program Director to Young Chicago Authors and founded GirlSpeak, a feminist webzine for high school students. She went on to teach writing at the University of New Mexico, where she was distinguished as the Most Innovative Instructor of the Year, the University of Iowa, where she was distinguished as the Outstanding Instructor of the Year, and Colorado College, where she received the Theodore Roosevelt Collins Outstanding Faculty Award. Her creative scholarship earned her a Ronald E. McNair Fellowship, a University of Iowa Graduate Dean’s Fellowship, a Riley Scholar Fellowship, and a Hadley Creatives Fellowship. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, she currently serves as Creativity and Innovation Scholar-in-Residence at Colorado College. For more information about The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop, and to access
add to! a multi-genre compilation of contemporary writers of color, please visit www.antiracistworkshop.com

Retreat Faculty
Airea Dee Matthews
Airea D. Matthews’ first collection of poems is the critically acclaimed Simulacra, which received the prestigious 2016 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. Matthews received a 2020 Pew Fellowship, a 2016 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award, and was awarded the Louis Untermeyer Scholarship in Poetry from the 2016 Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Matthews earned her MFA from the Helen Zell Writers’ Program at the University of Michigan. She is an assistant professor at Bryn Mawr College where she directs the poetry program. Airea is currently training to be a yoga teacher.

Gregory Pardlo
Gregory Pardlo’s collection Digest (Four Way Books) won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Other honors include fellowships from the New York Public Library’s Cullman Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts for translation. His first poetry collection Totem won the APR/Honickman Prize in 2007. He is Poetry Editor of Virginia Quarterly Review and Director of the MFA program at Rutgers University-Camden. His most recent book is Air Traffic, a memoir in essays. He lives in Brooklyn where he cooks for his wife, daughters, puppy, and rabbit.

Presenters
Marc Doty
DaMaris Hill
Jonah Mixon-Webster
Laura Raicovich
Patrick Rosal
Rachel Zolf

Respondents
An Duplan
Teri Cross Davis

Steering Committee
Adam Fitzgerald
Naomi Jackson
Akil Kumarasamy
Airea Dee Matthews
Gregory Pardlo
David Ramirez