

<https://globalracialjustice.rutgers.edu/>

Poets and Scholars Summer Writing Retreat

July 13-23, 2021 (online)

“We are not asking for seats at the table. We are building tables.”

Rutgers, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice

The Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice (ISGRJ) 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 Retreat. 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. 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.

Application

To apply as an auditor only, click [here](#) for details and to register.

We are no longer accepting applications for contributing participants.

Felicia Rose Chavez

Keynote Speaker

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 (and add to!) a multi-genre compilation of contemporary writers of color, please visit www.antiracistworkshop.com.

Participants

Maria Hamilton Abegunde

Maria E. Hamilton Abegunde (Abegunde) is a Memory Keeper, poet, ancestral priest in the Yoruba Orisa tradition, healer, and full-spectrum community doula. Her most recent works address anti-Black racism and violence, genocide, sexual violence, contemplative practices, and healing in the US, Brazil, and Juba, South Sudan, and can be found in *North Meridian Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *FIRE!!!*, and *Keeper of My Mothers' Dreams*. She is the ritualist and commissioned poet for the Ancestral Masquerade Series. Abegunde is a Cave Canem, Sacatar, Ragdale, and NEH summer fellow. She is an assistant professor in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the founding director of The Graduate Mentoring Center at Indiana University Bloomington. Abegunde loves to dance, laugh loudly, do nothing, follow dragonflies, watch, and read science fiction, and sleep. She cooks a great feijoada with short ribs and ox tails.

Genji Amino

Genji Amino is a writer and curator based in New York. They are an Emerge-Surface-Be fellow at the Poetry Project, working with John Yau. They co-direct an annual poetics seminar in Northern New Mexico, founded in 2010.

Aishvarya Arora

Aishvarya Arora (she/her/hers) is an Asian American poet and community-based researcher from Queens, NY. In her writing, she complicates her family's stories to resist and dispel the American obsession with the successful Asian immigrant. Instead, her poems celebrate failure. Aishvarya spent a year in Delhi, India as a Fulbright Research Fellow studying participatory research methods and learning how to express her emotions in Hindi. Currently, she is an inaugural member of the Brooklyn Poets Mentorship Program. You can read her work in *harana poetry*. When Aishvarya isn't writing, she is usually cooking, tending to her plants, or reading tarot.

Katrina Byrd

A Jackson, Mississippi native, ALS Advocate and feather boa strutter, Katrina Byrd is a writer and playwright who received her MFA from Mississippi University for Women. Byrd's recent plays appeared at The Bechdel Group, Bay St. Louis Little Theatre and Vicksburg Theater Guild. Recently published at *Rigorous Literary Magazine*, *Limited Experience Journal* and *Writing Workshops Dallas*, Byrd is also a contributor to newly released *Redefining Liberal Arts Education*. After her best friend of twenty-three years died from ALS, Byrd joined I AM ALS, a patient centric group that focusses on ALS Advocacy, education and awareness. Byrd also loves animals, gardening and flouncing her feather boas.

Sylvia Chan

Sylvia Chan is an amputee writer, educator, and activist. Originally a jazz pianist from the San Francisco Bay Area, she lives in Tucson, where she teaches at the University of Arizona Writing Program and serves as court advocate for foster kids in Pima County and nonfiction editor at *Entropy*. She has been behind developing and teaching Black Lives Matter courses for seven years. In her publishing and foster care communities, she sustains spaces for domestic violence survivors and foster youth, and she works with foster youth who are disabled, Black, and involved in juvenile justice. Her debut poetry collection is *We Remain Traditional* (Center for Literary Publishing 2018), and her essays appear in *The Rumpus*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2019*. She is part of Zoeglossia, a fellowship of disabled poets. She's working on her foster care memoir and training her second Belgian Malinois for ADA compliance.

Zach Czaia

Zach Czaia is a poet and high school English teacher living in Saint Paul, MN. He is grateful to be part of such a vibrant reading and writing community in the "Twin Cities" of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Besides spending many hours nerding out on all things poetry, in his free time he also loves playing basketball, trying (and often failing) to cook new recipes, and getting out into Minnesota's many beautiful lakes, parks, and trails with his wife Cristina, and their medium sized golden doodle Dasha.

Ravi Howard

Ravi Howard is the author of two novels, *Like, Trees, Walking* and *Driving the King*. His short fiction has appeared in *Salon*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Saw Palm*, *Alabama Noir*, and *Gulf Coast*. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Atlanta*, and *Gravy*, and he has recorded commentary for NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has received fellowships and awards from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has taught creative writing with Callaloo, Hurston-Wright Foundation, Kimbilio, and Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. He currently teaches fiction writing at Florida State University.

Jordan Honeyblue

Jordan Honeyblue is a writer from Baltimore, Maryland. In 2018, she received her B.A. from Morgan State University. She recently graduated with her MFA in Poetry from the University of Kentucky. Beginning this June, she will serve as a fellow in Harvard University's LabXChange Program, where she will write and develop content for Antiracist Science Education. Jordan's writing explores what it means to be a *healthy* Black girl and woman in America. Her thesis manuscript entitled "Heartwork," zeroes in on the Black feminine heart, its capacity and mesmerizing strength, while interrogating why heart disease is plaguing and killing Black women at such alarming rates. Poetry by Jordan Honeyblue has also appeared in the *New Orleans Review*. When Jordan is not writing she enjoys spending time with her family but especially her nephews, taking polaroid pictures, and reading in different parks around the Chesapeake Bay area.

Kassy Lee

Kassy Lee is a writer, poet, and teacher. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan and a BA in Comparative Literature & Society from Columbia. She has received fellowships from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program, Vermont Studio Center and Cave Canem. Her most recent chapbook *The Period of Warring States* was published by Another New Calligraphy in 2017. Her first chapbook *zombia* was published by dancing girl press in 2014. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Kweli*, the *Columbia Review*, *Apogee*, and *Narrative*. Her essays have appeared in *Michigan Quarterly Review* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She has taught creative writing workshops to veterans, incarcerated youth, K-12 students, and undergraduates at the University of Michigan. In her free time she loves to dance, try new recipes, garden, and play board games.

Cate Lycurgus

Cate Lycurgus's poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Best American Poetry 2020*, *American Poetry Review*, *Tin House*, *Boston Review*, *Best New Poets 2019*, and elsewhere. She has also received scholarships from Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences and was named one of *Narrative's* 30 Under 30 Featured Writers. Cate lives south of San Francisco, California, where she interviews for *32 Poems* and teaches professional writing. A long-time caregiver, Cate also loves long-distance running, seasonal cooking, and trees of all kinds. She's especially interested in the ways both faith and environment influence and intersect with the pursuit of justice.

Malik Mathes

Malik Mathes, a senior at Rutgers University-New Brunswick majoring in American Studies with minors in Urban Studies and Creative Writing. Mathes was initially drawn to creative writing and poetry specifically because it allowed him to express himself in ways that he never imagined before. Outside of writing, Mathes interests include hiking, spending time with his Husky Zora, reading, playing and coaching soccer, and he is currently working on a project in his hometown East Orange that will hopefully establish a cost-free soccer club for the children of his city

Thea Matthews

Originally from San Francisco, California, Thea Matthews is a Brooklyn-based poet, author, and educator of African and Indigenous Mexican descent. She earned her BA in Sociology at UC Berkeley, where she studied and taught June Jordan's program Poetry for the People led by Aya de Leon. She writes on the complexities of humanity, grief, and resiliency. Her debut poetry collection *Unearth [The Flowers]* was published June 2020 by Red Light Lit Press and is listed as part of the Best Indie Poetry of 2020 by *Kirkus Reviews*. She has work in *The New Republic*, *Atlanta Review*, *The Rumpus*, and others. Currently, Thea Matthews is an MFA Poetry candidate at New York University. She enjoys taking long strolls through Prospect Park, visits to contemporary art museums; and listening to mourning doves as well as sparrows. She loves to drink coffee. Dance. Listen to disco, house, synth wave, and rock 'n roll.

Erin McCoy

Erin L. McCoy is a student in the University of Houston's Ph.D. program for literature and creative writing and holds an MFA in creative writing and an MA in Hispanic studies from the University of Washington. She won second place in the 2019–2020 Rougarou Poetry Contest, judged by CAConrad, and her poem, "Futures," was selected by Natalie Diaz for inclusion in *Best New Poets 2017*. Her poetry and fiction have been published or are forthcoming in *Narrative*, *Bennington Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Pleiades*, *DIAGRAM*, *West Branch*, and other publications. She is acquisitions editor for Seattle-based independent publisher Entre Ríos Books and an assistant poetry editor for *Gulf Coast*. In her free time, Erin enjoys hiking, reading Spanish-language literature, and traveling. She's visited about forty-five US states and twenty-five countries, and has spent extensive time in Malaysia, Russia, and Spain. She is from Louisville, Kentucky.

Nathan Moore

Nathan Alexander Moore (she/they) is a Black genderfluid transfemme writer, scholar, and dreamer. She is interested in critical and creative methods to explore the nuances of Blackness, queerness, and temporality – usually through the lens of Black speculative arts and genre fiction. They hold a master's degree from SUNY Buffalo where they studied creative writing and Black literature and cultures. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Austin in the department of African and African Diaspora Studies. Their work has previously been published or is forthcoming from *Pulse/Pulso: In Remembrance of Orlando* from Damaged Goods Press, P-QUEUE, *ode to Queer* and Peauxdunque Review. Her poetry chapbook, *small colossus*, is forthcoming from above/ground press. They also love cooking, naps, comics, and laughing.

Adrienne Oliver

adrienne danyelle oliver is a poet-educator, hip-hop scholar from Little Rock, AR currently based in the SF Bay Area. Her previous work has appeared in *Storytelling, Self & Society* (Wayne State University Press 2018), *Patrice Lumumba: An Anthology of Writers on Black Liberation* (Nomadic Press, 2021) and *Write Now! SF Bay's Anthology Essential Truths: The Bay Area in Color* (Pease Press, 2021). Some of Adrienne's favorite authors include Maya Angelou and Toni Morrison. When she is not writing, Adrienne is reading or watching documentaries. She most recently watched *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America*, a fast new favorite and fuel for her own mindful cooking journey. She also leads a monthly healing writing circle for Black women.

Lesley Provost

Lesley Provost lives and works in the territory of the St'at'imc Nation in the rugged interior of British Columbia. Her writing tends to explore issues around the feminine experience and realities related to class and life at the lower end of the economic scale. She attended the Whistler Writer in Residence workshop in 2018. Many moons ago she hosted a long-running open mic series in Toronto and was a founding member of an art collective that produced poetry zines for nine years. A sommelier and wine educator, Lesley has won an unusual number of prestigious tasting competitions (some days things just

all come together). While she is currently engaged primarily in writing fiction, she finds time to study the art of perfumery, assist with her teenage daughter's busy thrift / eco-artisan store and hike with her pitbull-cross rescue, Juno, the cowardly lion of dogs (except when it comes to bears).

Gabriel Pulido

Gabriel Pulido is a third year Higher Education PhD candidate at the Pennsylvania State University. He is interested in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, in education. Born and raised in Sacramento, California, he first became involved with creative writing in the youth poetry slam scene. During his time at the University of California, Santa Cruz he utilized what he learned in the classroom to fuel his creative writing endeavors. Gabriel's academic and creative writing often intersect and find a home at the center of healing. When not working towards obtaining his PhD, Gabriel competes and coaches at national poetry slam competitions which is just an excuse to travel, see friends, and build community. His favorite places are found near bodies of water. Gabriel considers himself a conjurer of joy, compassion, and resilience, as he uses both creative and academic writing to work towards liberation.

Candida Rodriguez

Cándida Rosa Rodríguez was born in Brooklyn, N.Y, and was raised both in Cayey, Puerto Rico and Camden, New Jersey. She takes pride in her Afro-Boricua roots, although it has taken her a lifetime of self-discovery to return to them as well as the importance of her feminine powers. She has wandered from Brooklyn to Philadelphia and back to Camden; and it is there that her heart remains. She is also a visual artist exploring mixed media and a lover of mail art/postcard exchanges. She enjoys amateur photography and is a die-hard Star Trek fan. Her passion is in writing fantasy and science fiction but has found a home in the lyricism of poetry and is a happy member of Brigid's Writers House in Camden.

Gabriel Sacco

A candidate for a MFA at Mason Gross involved in a video process that includes reading/writing/speaking. He researches oral tradition, the parable, and sustainable affection. Sacco will be graduating in Dec. 2021. He teaches undergraduate Photo 1A at MGSA. Sacco is from Bridgewater, NJ and lives full time in Shelton, Connecticut with his partner and two cats. He grows native flowers such as the Blue Flag Iris, foxglove, yarrow, and various rhododendron and azalea among others. He finds and cultivate naturally propagated trees such as Kousa Dogwoods, NA Hemlock, the Great NA Beech.

Sanam Sheriff

Sanam Sheriff (she/they) is a queer poet and artist from Bangalore, India. She has received support from the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, The Watering Hole, Pink Door, and is a Pushcart Prize Nominee. Their work is published or forthcoming in Virginia Quarterly Review, The Academy of American Poets, The Offing, Vinyl Poetry & Prose, Black Warrior Review, Kweli Journal, and elsewhere. Sanam holds an MFA

in Creative Writing from Washington University in St. Louis. They are interested and invested in building queer, pleasure-plush and genderful futures, being in continuous conversation with art and its makers, playing basketball, loving borderlessly, living in resistance to shame, and preserving our imaginations by creating them. Poetry is her closest translation.

Bethany Swann

Bethany Swann (she/hers) is a PhD student in English at UPenn studying critical race theory and contemporary poetry/poetics. She holds an M.Div from Yale University and an MFA from Indiana University. Her chapbook *DIADEM ME* was published by Miel Press in 2014. She is regional co-chair of Kundiman northeast.

Norma Thomas

Dr. Thomas is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. She has had a long work history in the field of gerontology and academia, retiring from California University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work where she served as the MSW Program Director, but still works as an instructor for the Center For Social Work Education, Widener University. She has been honored to receive many community service awards, and serves on a number of local, state, national and international Boards and advisory boards. She founded, with her daughter, a venture called Story Joy to help Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities achieve their goals. She has engaged in gerontological research for a long time, and in documenting the history of African Americans in Fayette County Pennsylvania. In addition to serving on the advisory board for the Fayette County campus of Pennsylvania State University, she is a proud member of the Morgantown, West Virginia Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Black Social Workers, is a licensed clinical social worker in the State of Pennsylvania and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

Makshya Tolbert

Makshya Tolbert (she/they) is a black, queer writer, grower, and cook moved by Black memory and ecological possibility. Her practices consist of making things with food, clay and people. She recently completed a Fulbright fellowship in Bra, Italy, commemorating enslaved Black foodways through Black feminist study and practice. Her recent writing has appeared in *For The Culture Magazine*, *Gastronomica: The Journal For Food Studies*, and Volume V of the *New Farmers Almanac*. Makshya is currently making her way back to the Atlantic, where she will join the University of Virginia's MFA Program in Poetry as a first-year this fall. In her free time, she is elsewhere, where Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. calls 'that physical or metaphorical place that affords the space to breathe.'

Elizabeth Van Ginneken

Elizabeth Estella Van Ginneken is a poet and author of creative nonfiction. She graduated with highest honors from Columbia University and completed her MFA coursework at New York University, where

she has taught creative writing and was the recipient of the Starworks Fellowship. Her poem, *Park Avenue, Paterson*, was awarded second place in the 86th Annual *Writer's Digest* poetry competition, in which she also placed fifth, and she has twice been featured as "Poem of the Week" in *Narrative*. Her work has appeared in *Mangrove, NewPo, Surgam*, and others and she was the subject of a New York Times editorial. Elizabeth is currently at work on her forthcoming manuscript, a constellation of poems on horses, fame, love, mice, floriculture, and her dance with a rare, late stage cancer. Too, she is co-producing a documentary based on her cross-cultural adoption, appendix cancer, and serendipity. Elizabeth is an adjunct professor in the English Department at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, NJ, where she resides with her partner and daughter. Beyond writing, she enjoys flower gardening, horology, and fine art curation.

Raksha Vasudevan

Born in India and raised in Canada, Raksha Vasudevan is a nonfiction writer, economist and former aid worker. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The New York Times, Guernica, The Believer* and more. She lives in Denver, where she enjoys hiking and camping with her dog, frequenting the Asian Pacific market, and overwatering her plants.

Arvo Villards

Arvo Villars is the winner of the BOMB Poetry Contest 2020 Judged by Simone White. She was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize by Gulf Coast. She is a Cave Canem Fellow and a member of the NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program. Her poems have appeared in the *Journal of Poetics Research*, [PANK], Hobart, *The Southampton Review*, *FailBetter*, *Strange Horizons*, *ANMLY*, and more.

Keith Wilson

Keith S. Wilson is an Affrilachian Poet and a Cave Canem fellow. He is a recipient of an NEA Fellowship, an Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, and an Illinois Arts Council Agency Award, and has received both a Kenyon Review Fellowship and a Stegner Fellowship. Additionally, he has received fellowships or grants from Bread Loaf, Tin House, the MacDowell Colony, Vermont Studio Center, UCross, the Millay Colony, and James Merrill House, among others. His book, *Fieldnotes on Ordinary Love (Copper Canyon)*, was recognized by the New York Times as a best new book of poetry.

Allyce Yang

Allyce Yang (they/them, she/her) is a poet and writer from New York. She was born to immigrants from China and graduated last month from Minerva Schools at KGI with a degree in History and a thesis in poetry. As part of their university program, they have lived and studied in San Francisco, Seoul, London, and Buenos Aires. Other than English, she also speaks Mandarin, Spanish, and Korean. Allyce's goals include refashioning cultural and social traditions into sources of personal and collective freedom and building international solidarity against racial capitalism. She is looking for freelance opportunities in

editing and writing as she works on her portfolio for MFA applications next year. Her favorite writers are Aria Aber, Elena Ferrante, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

Jade Yeung

Yeung (she/they) is a queer Toishanese American writer from Brooklyn, NY. She has received support from Community of Writers and Fine Arts Work Center. Her writing has appeared in *Lammergeier* and Indolent Book's *A River Sings* series. Currently Jade is pursuing an MFA at Rutgers University-Newark where she's a Trustees Fellow. This summer she'll be a Teaching Artist for NJPAC's City Verses Summer Camp. She's a proud alum of Hunter College, the High School of Art and Design, and many free public art programs in NYC, all of which shaped her commitment to anti-oppressive practices. She enjoys boba, bachata, and bacon-egg-and-cheeses.

Saaret Yoseph

Saaret E. Yoseph is a writer and multidisciplinary artist with over ten years of diverse content and media experience that spans film, poetry and creative non-fiction. Her work has been featured by HuffPost, The Rumpus, The Root, CNN, The Washington Post, and The Ethiopian Reporter. Saaret's writing and visual art examines identity, migration and memory across the African diaspora. In 2014, she premiered RED LINE DC, a short documentary examining gentrification and graffiti. Since then, she has partnered with various artists and organizations to lead and collaborate on narrative projects, including Meridian Hill Pictures and Google Cultural Institute. Saaret has a Master's in Communication, Culture & Technology from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's in English and Africana Studies from the University of Maryland - Baltimore Co. She's currently writing and developing several projects, including a debut collection of poetry and a loosely-autobiographical feature script set in DC and its sister city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Kamelya Omayma Youssef

Kamelya Omayma Youssef is a poet, teacher, literary worker based between New York and Dearborn/Detroit, with roots in Lebanon. She is the author of *A book with a hole in it*, forthcoming in 2022 with Wendy's Subway. Her poems and lyric essays have been published or are forthcoming in the *The Margins*, *Mizna*, *Poem-a-Day*, the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, the *Cordite Poetry Review*, at the Poetry Project, *Bird's Thumb*, several Arab American anthologies, an exhibit catalog, and on the theater stage. Currently, she is an MFA candidate working on a new manuscript at NYU, where she also taught a course on writing through the apocalypse. During off hours, she hangs with her cat named Djeje (chicken), jogs along the river while listening to self-help podcasts, develops her bellydancing skills, hikes, cooks, Marie-Kondo's, hangs out with her dozens of cousins and their babies, organizes events with her friends, among other things.

Retreat Faculty

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. Aireia is currently training to be a yoga teacher.

Naomi Jackson Naomi Jackson is the author of a novel, *The Star Side of Bird Hill*; it was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and longlisted for the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize, the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and the International Dublin Literary Award. Jackson's writings have appeared in *Harper's*, *The Washington Post*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Poets & Writers*, and *The Caribbean Writer*. She is the recipient of residencies and fellowships from Bread Loaf, MacDowell Colony, Djerassi, Hedgebrook, the University of Pennsylvania's Kelly Writers House, Camargo Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, and Bronx Council on the Arts.

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

Damaris B. Hill

DaMaris B. Hill is the author of *A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing: The Incarceration of African American Women from Harriet Tubman to Sandra Bland*, *The Fluid Boundaries of Suffrage and Jim Crow: Staking Claims in the American Heartland*, *Vi-zə-bəl \Tekschərs\ (Visible Textures)*. Hill is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky.

Jonah Mixon-Webster

Jonah Mixon-Webster is a poet. His debut collection, *Stereo(TYPE)*, received the PEN America/Joyce Osterweil Award and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry. He is the recipient of a Windham Campbell Prize for Poetry and fellowships from Vermont Studio Center, Center for African American Poetry and Poetics, and the PEN Writing for Justice Program.

Laura Raicovich

Laura Raicovich is a writer and curator who published *Culture Strike: Art and Museums in an Age of Protest* in June 2021. She recently served as Interim Director of the Leslie Lohman Museum of Art, and

previously was Director of the Queens Museum, and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at the Bellagio Center.

Patrick Rosal

Patrick Rosal is an interdisciplinary artist, poet, and awardee of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, and the Fulbright Research Program. He has performed and read his work widely across four continents and at hundreds of venues throughout the United States. *The Last Thing: New and Selected Poems* is forthcoming in 2021.

L. Lamar Wilson

L. Lamar Wilson's documentary poetics animates *Sacrilegion* (Carolina Wren Press, 2013) and *The Changing Same*, a collaboration with Rada Film Group (POV Shorts, 2019), which streams at American Documentary and airs on PBS. His poems often center communities like Burden Hill in his Florida Panhandle hometown, Marianna.

Rachel Zolf

Rachel Zolf has published five books of poetry, with a selected poetry, *Social Poesis*, released in 2019. Zolf's *No One's Witness: A Monstrous Poetics* appears from Duke University Press in Fall 2021. They live in Philadelphia and are an Artist in Residence at the Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing at the University of Pennsylvania.

Respondents

Terri Cross Davis

Teri Ellen Cross Davis is the author of a more perfect *Union*, the 2019 Journal/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize winner and *Haint*, awarded the 2017 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. A Cave Canem fellow and member of the Black Ladies Brunch Collective, she's the Folger Shakespeare Library Poetry Coordinator.

An Duplan

Anaïs Duplan is a trans* poet, curator, and artist. He is the author of upcoming book *I NEED MUSIC* (Action Books, 2021), and a book of essays, *Blackspace: On the Poetics of an Afrofuture* (Black Ocean, 2020). He founded the Center for Afrofuturist Studies, a residency program for artists of color, at Iowa City's artist-run organization Public Space One.

Yandon Israel

Yahdon Israel is a Senior editor at Simon Schuster and founder of Literaryswag, a cultural movement that intersects literature and fashion to make books accessible. He has written for Avidly, The New Inquiry, LitHub, Poets and Writers and Vanity Fair. He teaches creative writing at City College, and hosts the Literaryswag Book Club, a Brooklyn-based subscription service and book club.

Rosemarie Peña

Rosemarie Peña, MA, Ph.D., in Childhood Studies, is an adjunct professor of German Studies in the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver and is the founder and president of the Black German Heritage and Research Association (BGHRA) at bghra.org.

Arisa White

Arisa White is an assistant professor of English and Creative Writing at Colby College and a Cave Canem fellow. She is the author of *Who's Your Daddy*, co-editor of *Home Is Where You Queer Your Heart*, and co-author of *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, the second book in the *Fighting for Justice* series for young readers. She serves on the board of directors for Foglifter and Nomadic Press. arisawhite.com

Steering Committee

Mark Doty

Adam Fitzgerald

Naomi Jackson

Akil Kumarasamy

Airea Dee Matthews

Gregory Pardlo

David Ramirez

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an anti-racist workshop? How does it differ from a traditional writing workshop? We borrow the model of the anti-racist workshop that strengthens writers of color through “innovative reading, writing, workshop, critique, and assessment strategies,” from Felicia Rose Chavez’s book, *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom* (Haymarket Books, 2021). The anti-racist workshop asks writers to interrogate the positions from which they are speaking (both as writers and as critics in response to peers’ writings), and not to presume objectivity. In contrast to traditional writing workshops whose critiques respond to only what is “on the page,” the anti-racist workshop takes into account multiple ways of knowing and acknowledges the social and cultural context that shapes the act

of creating and sharing literature. This workshop also explores ways of making legible the contexts of which the writer may have been unaware in the process of creation. The anti-racist workshop centers marginalized identities and acknowledges that “craft” is itself a cultural construct. We envision this workshop as an open learning community.

Can only poets apply or attend?

No. Program participants are drawn from all disciplinary backgrounds throughout the humanities and beyond, including but not limited to writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, and literary scholars.

This program is named Poets & Scholars Summer Writing Retreat. How do scholars fit in?

This program seeks to resist the boundaries between creative and critical practice. The retreat will encourage mutual exchange and transdisciplinarity among poets and scholars. The name of the program acknowledges the truth that everyone who is engaged in crafting language is concerned with the language of craft. “Theory” as bell hooks tells us, “is liberatory practice.”

What is the format of the writing retreat?

The Poets & Scholars Summer Writing Retreat will meet virtually for ten days from July 13- 23, 2021. The workshops will be augmented by lectures that offer innovative and interdisciplinary frameworks to inspire new conversations around writing and racial justice. Each lecture will be followed by a moderated talk-back with featured respondents and Q&A.

I missed the application deadline. May I still participate?

Yes. In addition to presenters and our participant cohort, groups of writers, individual writers, artists, thinkers, and makers are invited to join us as registered auditors. Auditors may attend all workshops and lectures, and may offer questions and comment, movie theater-style, through the moderated chat function.

Do I have to pay to register or join the events?

No. All of the programs are free.

How do I register for the events?

Click [here](#) to register to the events as an auditor.

Where can I find the Zoom link?

Registered participants and auditors will be given the link in advance of the retreat.

Who is sponsoring this program?

Where can I find out more information about the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice? The Poets & Scholars Summer Writing Retreat is a collaborative effort of the creative writing programs throughout the Rutgers University community, including Rutgers Camden, Rutgers-Newark, and Rutgers-New Brunswick. The program is underwritten by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information about the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, visit our website at <https://globalracialjustice.rutgers.edu/>.