

Sarah Lawrence College

GRADUATE WRITING

FALL 2025

LITERARY COLLOQUIUM

Notes for students:

All in-person craft talks and readings are open to the public and the whole SLC community, unless otherwise noted, and are generally followed by book sales and signings by the authors.

Masterclasses are only open to current MFA Writing students and have limited space. Priority is given to students within genre, as well as second-year students and students who have not yet taken a masterclass. RSVP and confirmation from Maddie are required to participate. Please see each event below for dates to RSVP.

Please also see each event for colloquium credit eligibility. Students enrolled in 2 credits of colloquium are required to attend a minimum of 6 events each semester. Students enrolled in 1 credit of colloquium are required to attend a minimum of 4 events each semester. Students are expected to maintain their own attendance records.

See weekly e-mails for any updates, changes, zoom links, and reminders of RSVP details.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 9

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Lumina Journal First Fall Meeting & Info Session

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim Living Room

Any current MFA students interested in getting involved with [Lumina](#), the annual digital literary journal run by an all-volunteer team of our graduate writers, are welcome to attend this info session and first meeting of the fall. Managing Editors Max Thibault and Tyson Berardo will lead some ice breakers, discuss all the open positions, share the link to the application for open staff positions, and answer any questions. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be available.

Wednesday, September 10

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Faculty/Student Happy Hour Reading

Open to current MFA Writing community and their guests

Slonim Living Room

Pizza and refreshments at 6:00 PM (BYOB); reading starts at 6:30 PM. Our faculty reader will be **Meredith Talusan**. Look for an email the week before to sign-up for a spot to read and include your genre in your email. Readers are limited to 5 minutes each (or you get the cowbell).

Thursday, September 11

2:00 - 3:00 PM

The Reading Hour

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim Living Room

The Reading Hour provides an informal opportunity for MFA students to unplug and read quietly in community. Coffee and tea will be available. All are welcome to catch up on assigned reading for classes or to read something for pleasure.

Friday, September 12

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Assembly

RSVP required; current MFA Writing students only

Zoom

Join a small group of MFA writing students and Director Paige Ackerson-Kiely for an hour-long conversation about your writing. Bring a one-page selection to share at the session. Work will not be critiqued or evaluated; rather you'll read a page, we'll all ask you questions, and you'll have the opportunity to think out loud about your writing process and your current projects. This should be thought of as a low-stress, community-building event.

This meeting will be held over Zoom. The link and passcode will be emailed the day beforehand.

RSVP required. Space is limited to 4 students per session and fills up quickly. Sign up [here](#). Please only sign up for one Assembly per semester to allow other students a chance.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Tuesday, September 16

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Faculty Colloquium: Marie Howe, with Victoria Redel

In-person event; open to the public

Slonim Living Room

Join us for a spotlight on faculty member Marie Howe, author of the recent *New and Selected Poems* for which she received a Pulitzer Prize, who will be in conversation with faculty member Victoria Redel.

Victoria Redel: BA, Dartmouth College. MFA, Columbia University. Author of four books of poetry and six books of fiction, including *I Am You* (2025). For her collection of stories, *Make Me Do Things* (2013), Redel was awarded a 2014 Guggenheim fellowship for fiction. Her novels include *The Border of Truth* (2007) and *Loverboy* (Graywolf, 2001/Harcourt, 2002), which was awarded the 2001 S. Mariella Gable Novel Award and the 2002 Forward Silver Literary Fiction Prize and was chosen in 2001 as a Los Angeles Times Best Book. *Loverboy* was adapted for a feature film, directed by Kevin Bacon. *Swoon* (University of Chicago Press, 2003) was a finalist for the James Laughlin Award. Her work has been widely anthologized and translated and has appeared in numerous publications, including *Granta*, *Harvard Review*, *The Quarterly*, *The Literarian*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Elle*, *BOMB*, *More*, *NOON*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. SLC, 1996–

Angie Kim is the New York Times bestselling author of *Happiness Falls*, a Good Morning America and B&N book club pick, Virginia Literary Award winner, and Oprah Daily's #1 novel of 2023. Her debut, *Miracle Creek*, won the Edgar Award and was named one of Time's 100 best mysteries and thrillers of all time. A Korean immigrant who moved to Baltimore in middle school, Kim attended Stanford University and Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. Her novels have been translated to over 20 languages and are currently in development for film/TV adaptation. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Southern Review*, *New Letters*, and *Vogue*.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, September 18

2:00 – 3:00 PM

The Reading Hour

In-person; current MFA Writing students only
Slonim Living Room

The Reading Hour provides an informal opportunity for MFA students to unplug and read quietly in community. Coffee and tea will be available. All are welcome to catch up on assigned reading for classes or to read something for pleasure.

Sunday, September 21

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

(Off-Campus) Brooklyn Book Festival

Brooklyn Borough Hall Area (north of Joralemon St, Brooklyn, between Court Street and Adams Street)

The Brooklyn Book Festival is held annually in the fall. This year's Festival Day and Literary Marketplace, Sunday September 21, will take place in person in Downtown Brooklyn as well as virtually. The festival attracts passionate book readers from all five boroughs and beyond with many readings, panels, and literary gatherings, some ticketed, though most free with RSVP. For full information about festival events and featured authors, visit <https://brooklynbookfestival.org/>.

This event is colloquium credit eligible. In order to receive credit, please plan on stopping by the Sarah Lawrence MFA Writing/Writing Institute booth #221 in the Literary Marketplace.

Tuesday, September 23

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Bobby Elliott: Towards a First Book

Hybrid event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Zoom livestream registration: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/ToFeIA3BQ96t_ZOIhGvXEw

Join us Tuesday, September 23rd for a conversation with award-winning poet and teacher Bobby Elliott (SLC undergrad alum 11') on writing and assembling first books of poetry. Exploring the ins and outs of the process, Elliott will examine what it takes to go from a strong group of poems to a full-length manuscript, how to begin thinking through questions of sequencing and structure and the importance of a sustained writing practice after the MFA. A full Q&A and book signing will follow.

Bobby Elliott's debut collection of poems, *The Same Man*, was selected by Nate Marshall as the winner of the 2025 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this September. Raised in New York City, he earned his B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and his M.F.A. from the University of Virginia, where he was

a Poe/Faulkner Fellow. His writing has appeared in or is forthcoming from *BOMB*, *The Cortland Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Poetry Northwest*, *RHINO*, and elsewhere. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and sons.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Tuesday September 23rd

5:30 – 6:30 PM

**(SLC Affiliated) Bobby Elliott and Rhoni Blankenhorn read poetry
with students Leni Rogers, Alex Rosenzweig, and Syd Walter
Heimbold 202**

Undergraduate Writing will host a reading with Bobby Elliott and Rhoni Blankenhorn, both SLC undergrad alums. Bobby Elliott's debut collection of poems, *The Same Man*, was selected by Nate Marshall as the winner of the 2025 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this September.

Rhoni Blankenhorn's debut collection of poems, *rooms for the dead and the not yet*, was recently published by Trio House press, winner of the Trio Award, judged by Jessica Q. Stark. Rhoni is a Filipina American writer, who recently has published work in *Narrative Magazine*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Mercury Firs*, *Honey*, and other journals. Students Leni Rogers, Alex Rosenzweig, and Syd Walter will open.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, September 24

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Megan Milks Fiction Masterclass: What Is This Thing Called 'Weird'?

In-person; current MFA Writing students only
Wrexham Sunporch

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **September 4 and 5** to RSVP. Space is limited. Priority will be given to fiction MFA students.

While the category of “the weird” is generally associated with horror and speculative fiction, weirdness exceeds these genres, serving up a certain kind of shivery, intoxicating strangeness wherever it shows itself. In this two-hour masterclass, we will explore the pleasures and delights of weirdness, asking what it can give to us as readers and how—and why—we might harness it as writers.

In the first hour, we'll first get our bearings with the term “weird”, asking what it is, what it has meant and can mean in literature, and how and why we might want to court weirdness as we write. In the second hour, we'll turn to generative writing exercises.

Megan Milks is the author of *Margaret and the Mystery of the Missing Body*, a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Transgender Fiction, and *Slug and Other Stories*, both published by Feminist Press in 2021. Their personal history of early online music fandom, *Tori Amos*

Bootleg Webring, was published in 2021. With Marisa Crawford, they co-edited the anthology *We Are the Baby-Sitters Club: Essays and Artwork from Grown-Up Readers* (Chicago Review Press, 2021). They live in Brooklyn and teach writing at The New School and in the Low-Residency Creative Writing MFA program at Pacific Northwest College of Art. Their next book, *Mega Milk: Essays*, is forthcoming in January 2026.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, September 24

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Megan Milks Fiction Craft Talk: New / Queer / Weird

Hybrid event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Zoom livestream registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/WZe8kEsTQDi-B9-FemU3oQ>

This craft talk will describe ""New Queer Weird"" as an aesthetic mode, and relates to a book project I'm working on with the writer Amber Dawn to highlight a recent strain of experimental-leaning queer fiction with weird/Weird elements. Queerer than New Weird, weirder than New Narrative ... New Queer Weird is what it sounds like, which is to say it is tantalizingly ambiguous since queerness, weirdness, and newness all seem to live on the edges of what can be named. But let's give it a shot!

Megan Milks is the author of *Margaret and the Mystery of the Missing Body*, a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Transgender Fiction, and *Slug and Other Stories*, both published by Feminist Press in 2021. Their personal history of early online music fandom, *Tori Amos Bootleg Webring*, was published in 2021. With Marisa Crawford, they co-edited the anthology *We Are the Baby-Sitters Club: Essays and Artwork from Grown-Up Readers* (Chicago Review Press, 2021). They live in Brooklyn and teach writing at The New School and in the Low-Residency Creative Writing MFA program at Pacific Northwest College of Art. Their next book, *Mega Milk: Essays*, is forthcoming in January 2026.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, September 25

2:00 - 3:00 PM

The Reading Hour

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim Living Room

The Reading Hour provides an informal opportunity for MFA students to unplug and read quietly in community. Coffee and tea will be available. All are welcome to catch up on assigned reading for classes or to read something for pleasure.

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1 & Thursday, October 2: Sloane Crosley Nonfiction Residency:

Wednesday, October 1

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Sloane Crosley Nonfiction Craft Talk and Q&A

In-person event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Our creative nonfiction resident for the fall will be Sloane Crosley. Sloane will discuss a surprise craft element for about 15–20 minutes, followed by an extensive audience Q&A, book sales & signing.

Sloane Crosley is the author of *The New York Times* bestselling books *Grief Is for People*, which was also named a Best Book of 2024 by Vogue, Elle, NPR, LitHub, Oprah Daily, and many more, *How Did You Get This Number*, and *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* (a 2009 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor). She is also the author of *Look Alive Out There* (a 2019 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor) and the novels, *Cult Classic* and *The Clasp*, both of which she has adapted for film.

She has been featured in *The Library of America's 50 Funniest American Writers*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *The Best American Travel Writing* and Phillip Lopate's *The Contemporary American Essay*. She has been a columnist for *The Village Voice*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *The Independent*, *Departures*, *Black Book* and *The New York Observer*. A contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, her work has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and *The Guardian*. A Guggenheim Foundation Fellow and Yaddo Fellow, she has also been an adjunct professor in Columbia University's MFA program and The New School's MFA program, as well as a visiting teacher at Dartmouth College, The Yale Writers' Workshop, The School of Visual Arts, New York University and Sarah Lawrence College.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, October 1

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Sloane Crosley Nonfiction Reading and Q&A

In-person event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Our creative nonfiction resident for the fall will be Sloane Crosley. Sloane will read a selection of her work, followed by an audience Q&A, book sales, and signing.

Sloane Crosley is the author of *The New York Times* bestselling books *Grief Is for People*, which was also named a Best Book of 2024 by Vogue, Elle, NPR, LitHub, Oprah Daily, and many more, *How Did You Get This Number*, and *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* (a 2009 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor). She is also the author of *Look Alive Out There* (a 2019 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor) and the novels, *Cult Classic* and *The Clasp*, both of which she has adapted for film.

She has been featured in *The Library of America's 50 Funniest American Writers*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *The Best American Travel Writing* and Phillip Lopate's *The Contemporary American Essay*. She has been a columnist for *The Village Voice*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *The Independent*, *Departures*, *Black Book* and *The New York Observer*. A contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, her work has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and *The Guardian*. A Guggenheim Foundation Fellow and Yaddo Fellow, she has also been an adjunct professor in Columbia University's MFA program and The New School's MFA program, as well as a guest lecturer at Dartmouth College, The Yale Writers' Workshop, The School of Visual Arts, New York University and Bowdoin College. She lives in New York City.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, October 2

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Sloane Crosley Nonfiction Masterclass: On Beginnings

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Barbara Walters Campus Center Reading Room

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **September 11 and 12** to RSVP. Space is limited. Priority will be given to nonfiction MFA students.

Our creative nonfiction resident for the fall will be Sloane Crosley. Participating students are asked to bring the opening passage of a piece of their nonfiction to share with the group and discuss. Short readings on the theme of "beginnings" and generative writing time will follow.

Sloane Crosley is the author of *The New York Times* bestselling books *Grief Is for People*, which was also named a Best Book of 2024 by Vogue, Elle, NPR, LitHub, Oprah Daily, and many more, *How Did You Get This Number*, and *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* (a 2009 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor). She is also the author of *Look Alive Out There* (a 2019 finalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor) and the novels, *Cult Classic* and *The Clasp*, both of which she has adapted for film.

She has been featured in *The Library of America's 50 Funniest American Writers*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *The Best American Travel Writing* and Phillip Lopate's *The Contemporary American Essay*. She has been a columnist for *The Village Voice*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *The Independent*, *Departures*, *Black Book* and *The New York Observer*. A contributing editor at *Vanity Fair*, her work has appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue* and *The Guardian*. A Guggenheim Foundation Fellow and Yaddo Fellow, she has also been an adjunct professor in Columbia

University's MFA program and The New School's MFA program, as well as a guest lecturer at Dartmouth College, The Yale Writers' Workshop, The School of Visual Arts, New York University and Bowdoin College. She lives in New York City.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Friday, October 3

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Speculative Fiction Reading: Daria Lavelle & Silvia Park, with literary agent Lucy Carson

Zoom event; open to the public

Zoom registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/WG-0SE05Q4y1ZzlWd5YYkg>

Join us for an online reading with speculative fiction authors **Daria Lavelle** (MFA '21, author of *Aftertaste*) and **Silvia Park** (author of *Luminous*), followed by a conversation with their literary agent **Lucy Carson** (The Friedrich Agency).

Daria Lavelle (MFA '21) is a speculative fiction writer. Her short stories have appeared in *The Deadlands*, *Dread Machine*, *Dark Matters*, and elsewhere, and her debut novel, *Aftertaste*, was published by Simon & Schuster (US) and Bloomsbury (UK) in 2025, and is currently being translated into thirteen languages. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and raised in the New York metro area, she holds degrees in writing from Princeton University and Sarah Lawrence College. She lives in New Jersey with her family, and can often be found in a coffeeshop, inventing new worlds or distorting this one.

Silvia Park's stories have been published in *Black Warrior Review*, *Tor*, *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy*, and elsewhere. They hold an MFA from NYU and attended the Clarion Science and Fantasy Writers' Workshop and Tin House Summer Workshop. They teach fiction at the University of Kansas and split their selves between Lawrence and Seoul. Their first novel *Luminous* was published by Simon & Schuster in 2025.

Lucy Carson joined The Friedrich Agency in 2008, and she has since cultivated a list of fiction and narrative non-fiction for the adult trade audience. In addition to brokering domestic publishing deals for her own clients, Lucy also oversees all Film, Television & Dramatic business for the wider agency list. During her 17 years with The Friedrich Agency, Lucy has worked with established bestselling authors such as Sue Grafton, Elizabeth Strout, Ruth Ozeki, Terry McMillan, and Karen Joy Fowler, while launching many debut authors as well, including Leila Mottley, Alison Espach, Rachel Harrison, Silvia Park and Daria Lavelle.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Monday, October 6

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Assembly

Zoom

Join a small group of MFA writing students and Director Paige Ackerson-Kiely for an hour-long conversation about your writing. Bring a one-page selection to share at the

session. Work will not be critiqued or evaluated; rather you'll read a page, we'll all ask you questions, and you'll have the opportunity to think out loud about your writing process and your current projects. This should be thought of as a low-stress, community-building event.

This meeting will be held over Zoom. The link and passcode will be emailed the day beforehand.

RSVP required. Space is limited to 4 students per session and fills up quickly. Sign up [here](#). Please only sign up for one Assembly per semester to allow other students a chance.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, October 8

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Faculty/Student Happy Hour Reading

Slonim Living Room

Pizza and refreshments at 6:00 PM (BYOB); reading starts at 6:30 PM. Our faculty reader will be **Miller Oberman**. Look for an email the week before to sign-up for a spot to read and include your genre in your email. Readers are limited to 5 minutes each (or you get the cowbell).

Thursday, October 9

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Ilana Masad Fiction Craft Talk: Voices from the (Not Quite) Void

In-person event; open to the public

Slonim Living Room

In this craft talk, I'll discuss how I found the various voices and tones in my new novel, *Beings*, and more broadly talk about how we shape voices in fiction, how we can utilize not only language and sound and rhythm but also cultural context and research in order to do so.

Ilana Masad is a writer of fiction, nonfiction, and criticism. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *The Atlantic*, *StoryQuarterly*, *Catapult*, *Buzzfeed*, *Joyland*, *The Account*, and many more. She is the author of the novel *All My Mother's Lovers* and the forthcoming *Beings*. Masad holds a PhD in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has taught a wide variety of creative writing and literature courses, and also provides editorial services to authors.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Saturday, October 11 – Sunday, October 12

Various times (Saturday virtual; Sunday on campus)

WI x MFA: Craft Weekend

Open to the public; [tickets required](#)*

We are so excited to announce the second annual WI x MFA Craft Weekend on October 11th & 12th, 2025! Join us online Saturday or in person Sunday for a series of seminars dedicated to the craft of writing. Whether you're a seasoned author or new to creative writing, you'll find generous writing prompts, insightful tips, and encouragement from a community of like-minded writers.

Each day of the program will include several craft sessions with different seminars to choose from, as well as presentations from keynote speakers. Our Keynote Speakers are **Chloe Caldwell** (Saturday, Virtual) and **Daria Lavelle** (Sunday, In-person). Explore diverse seminars such as:

- Improv For Idea Generation
- Creative Containers for Creative Nonfiction
- Why Rom-Coms Have Compelling Dialogue
- Crafting Compelling Openings
- First Draft Survival Guide
- The Dead Beat: Obituaries and the Art of Getting the Last Word

... and more! Find the complete list and seminar descriptions on our [Eventbrite page](#).

*Limited comp tickets for current MFA students may be available and will be announced by late September.

Attendance on either day is colloquium credit eligible.

Monday, October 13 – Tuesday, October 14: Study Days (No Classes)

Wednesday, October 15

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Fiction MFA Alum Reading: Karissa Chen (MFA '12) and Denne Michele Norris (MFA '12)

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Hybrid event; open to the public

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/yDzDCKnQRcuR1tmyuyA3cA>

Please join us for readings from fiction MFA alums Karissa Chen and Denne Michele Norris, who will each read from their recently published debut novels, followed by a conversation with MFA faculty member Carolyn Ferrell. Audience Q&A and book sales and signings to follow.

Karissa Chen (MFA '12) is the author of *HOMESSEEKING*, a Good Morning America Book Club pick and Book of the Month pick. She is a Fulbright fellow, Kundiman Fiction fellow, and a VONA/Voices fellow whose fiction and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *People*, *Eater*, *The Cut*, *NBC News THINK!*, *Longreads*, *PEN America*, *Catapult*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Guernica*, among others. She was awarded an artist fellowship from the New

Jersey State Council on the Arts as well as multiple writing residencies including at Millay Arts, where she was a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellow and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, among others. She was formerly a senior fiction editor at *The Rumpus* and currently serves as the editor-in-chief at *Hyphen* magazine. She received an MFA in fiction from Sarah Lawrence College and splits her time between New Jersey and Taipei, Taiwan.

Denne Michele Norris (MFA '12) is the editor-in-chief of *Electric Literature*, winner of the 2022 Whiting Literary Magazine Prize. She is the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication. A 2021 Out100 Honoree, her writing has been supported by MacDowell, Tin House, and the Kimbilio Center for African American Fiction, and appears in *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and *ZORA*. She is co-host of the critically-acclaimed podcast *Food 4 Thot*, and her debut novel, *When The Harvest Comes*, was released by Random House in April 2025.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, October 16

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Heather Christle Poetry Craft Talk: What Is the Language Using Us For?

In person event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

This craft talk will focus on strategies for collaborating with words as living beings. How do we make ourselves available to their arrival? How do we treat them when we meet? What do they desire? What do they hate? We'll look to possible clues from poets, writers, and critics who knew language before us, as well as theories nabbed from neuroscience and predictive coding. We will not actually answer the question posed in the talk's title, which is borrowed from the Scottish poet W. S. Graham, but we will marvel at the sensations (and writings) it can produce.

Heather Christle is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Paper Crown*. She has also published two works of nonfiction: *In the Rhododendrons: A Memoir with Appearances by Virginia Woolf* and *The Crying Book*. Her work has appeared in *London Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, and *Poetry*. She teaches creative writing at Emory University.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, October 16

6:15 – 7:00 PM

Heather Christle Poetry Reading

In person event; open to the public

Slonim Living Room

Heather Christle is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Paper Crown*. She

has also published two works of nonfiction: *In the Rhododendrons: A Memoir with Appearances by Virginia Woolf* and *The Crying Book*. Her work has appeared in *London Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *The New Yorker*, and *Poetry*. She teaches creative writing at Emory University.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Monday, October 20

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Daniel Saldaña París: *What Moves Forward and What Returns*

Zoom event; open to the public

Zoom registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/os6w6MbbSpyp5BZDq5GLhA>

In this talk, writer Daniel Saldaña París explores the diary as a literary form — not simply as private testimony, but as a fertile ground for fiction, transformation, and the instability of the self. Drawing on his years of reading and teaching about diaries, as well as his own writing practice, Saldaña París reflects on how this genre resists narrative closure and allows for shifts in identity, voice, and desire.

Referencing writers such as Alejandra Pizarnik, Franz Kafka, John Cheever, Helen Garner, and Susan Sontag — alongside philosophical frameworks like Paul Ricoeur's *Oneself as Another* — Saldaña París examines the diary as a space of intimacy, distinct from both privacy and fixed identity. He considers how the diary enables a form of self-address in which the “I” becomes another, creating conditions for fiction to emerge through fragmentation, oscillation, and repetition.

Blending literary theory with personal insight, the talk reflects on what diaries can teach us about writing both fiction and literary non-fiction, focusing on what returns, what hides, what resists interpretation, rather than what concludes, as a way of uncovering the structural and emotional core of the text.

Daniel Saldaña París is the author of four novels—*Among Strange Victims*, *Ramifications*, *The Dance and the Fire*, and *My Father's Names*—as well as a collection of personal essays, *Planes Flying Over a Monster*. His work has been translated into multiple languages and earned him a place in Bogotá39, a selection of the best Latin American writers under 40. He has received numerous fellowships and residencies, including from the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the Latin American Art Museum of Buenos Aires, Art Omi, MacDowell, and the Jan Michalski Foundation. He was also awarded the Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writers Award in the UK and was a finalist for the Herralde Prize in 2021. In 2022, he was a Fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and he is currently a Fellow at the Borchard Foundation Center on Literary Arts.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, October 22

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Assembly

RSVP required; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim Library

Join a small group of MFA writing students and Director Paige Ackerson-Kiely for an hour-long conversation about your writing. Bring a one-page selection to share at the session. Work will not be critiqued or evaluated; rather you'll read a page, we'll all ask you questions, and you'll have the opportunity to think out loud about your writing process and your current projects. This should be thought of as a low-stress, community-building event.

This meeting will be held in person, in the Slonim Library (first floor of Slonim, next to the vending machine).

RSVP required. Space is limited to 4 students per session and fills up quickly. Sign up [here](#). Please only sign up for one Assembly per semester to allow other students a chance.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, October 23

2:00 – 3:00 PM

The Reading Hour

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim Living Room

The Reading Hour provides an informal opportunity for MFA students to unplug and read quietly in community. Coffee and tea will be available. All are welcome to catch up on assigned reading for classes or to read something for pleasure.

Tuesday, October 28 – Wednesday, October 29: Kerri Webster Poetry Residency

Tuesday, October 28

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Kerri Webster Poetry Craft Talk: *Broom Moss in the Forest: When Moral Ambiguity Meets Negative Capability*

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Hybrid event; open to the public

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/LEsPY4NWTJaY1d5ATqsLSA>

In the classic lyric moment, seeing + contemplation=insight, and perhaps even some form of truth. In difficult times, however, this formulation can be elusive, and call into question the role of poetry itself. When poetry and poem-making itself can't reassure or ground us,

how do we sustain our calling to write? How do we keep faith?

Kerri Webster is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Lapis* (Wesleyan, 2022). The recipient of a 2024 Poets Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets and a Whiting Award, she recently served as Writer in Residence for the State of Idaho.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, October 29

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Kerri Webster Poetry Masterclass: Try Again/Go On: Tenor, Vehicle, and Transformation

In-person event; current MFA Writing students only

Wrexham Sunporch

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **October 9 and 10** to RSVP. Space is limited. Priority will be given to poetry MFA students.

In this generative workshop, we'll look at how metaphor-making can lead the poet to unexpected and fertile terrain. Participants are asked to bring three of their own poems for their own use (copies not needed), as springboards from which to write new work.

Kerri Webster is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Lapis* (Wesleyan, 2022). The recipient of a 2024 Poets Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets and a Whiting Award, she recently served as Writer in Residence for the State of Idaho.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, October 29

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Kerri Webster Poetry Reading and Q&A

In-person event; open to the public

Slonim Living Room

Kerri Webster is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Lapis* (Wesleyan, 2022). The recipient of a 2024 Poets Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets and a Whiting Award, she recently served as Writer in Residence for the State of Idaho.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, October 30

2:00 – 3:00 PM

The Writing Hour

Slonim Living Room

The Writing Hour provides an informal opportunity for MFA students to work on their own writing in community. Coffee and tea will be available. All are welcome to bring their notebooks/computers and write alongside one another. Optional: pull from the box of writing prompts and/or leave a prompt! (box resides in the Library)

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 5

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Patricio Ferrari Masterclass: *Why Literary Translation Matters for Writers*

In-person; current MFA Writing students only

Slonim 2

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **October 23 and 24** to RSVP. Space is limited. First come, first served.

Do you need to be a native-level speaker of another language to engage in literary translation? Think again. Some of the most influential translators in history have worked with limited fluency yet reshaped the literary landscape.

In this two-hour workshop, we explore how translation can transform your relationship to language—from reading to, more importantly, your own writing. Translation is more than the conversion of words; it is deep listening—a tactile, rhythmic, and at times mischievous engagement with syntax, sound, and sense. For writers, reading as translators sharpens awareness, enriches revision, and reveals meanings we didn't realize were there.

Together, we'll discuss works by Fernando Pessoa, Alejandra Pizarnik, Yoko Tawada, Jhumpa Lahiri, Wang Wei, and others, asking what happens when languages collide and cohabit in English. No prior knowledge of another language is required. Bring curiosity—leave with fresh tools and a world beneath the tongue.

Patricio Ferrari: BA, MAS, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle. MFA, Brown University. PhD, Universidade de Lisboa. He is a polyglot poet, literary translator, editor, and scholar. As a literary translator and editor, he has published 20 books, including *The Galloping Hour: French Poems* by Alejandra Pizarnik (with Forrest Gander; New Directions, 2018), *The Complete Works of Álvaro de Campos* by Fernando Pessoa (with Margaret Jull Costa; New Directions, 2023) and *Habla terrena* [Field Talk] by Frank Stanford (with Graciela S. Guglielmo; Pre-textos, 2023). His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Fence*, *Bomb*, *Asymptote*, and other magazines. Since 2017 Ferrari resides in New York City, where he collaborates with the Endangered Language Alliance (ELA) and hosts World Poetry in Translation, a series showcasing foreign poets and translators of major and minor languages for the reading

and discussion of poetry and the craft of poetry translation. Presently he is working on the second volume of “Elsehere,” a multilingual poetry trilogy. SLC, 2022–

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, November 6

2:00 – 3:00 PM

MFA Faculty New Books Showcase

In-person event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

We are thrilled to host a Faculty New Books Showcase featuring **Victoria Redel** (author of [I Am You](#)), **Domenica Ruta** (author of [All the Mothers](#)), **David Ryan** (author of [Alligator](#)), and **Clifford Thompson** (author of [Jazz June: A Self-Portrait in Essay](#)), who will be reading from their recently published or forthcoming books. Book sales to follow.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Tuesday, November 11

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Brian Morton Craft Talk: Trust Your Stuff

In-person event; open to the public

Slonim Living Room

We hold ourselves back as writers when we worry about our weaknesses rather than trusting our strengths. In this colloquium session, we’ll talk about how to get into the habit of trusting our strengths.

Brian Morton is the author of seven books, including the novel *Starting Out in the Evening* and the literary guidebook *Writing as a Way of Life*. He’s taught at Sarah Lawrence since 1998.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, November 12

2:00 – 3:00 PM

On Thomas Lux & Frank Stanford: Biographers Ron Egatz & James McWilliams in conversation

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Hybrid event; open to the public

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/J3lzTOgtR-yaVNhx-stPwA>

Please join us for a special conversation between Ron Egatz (author of a forthcoming biography of longtime SLC faculty member and former MFA Writing Director Thomas Lux) and James McWilliams ([The Life and Poetry of Frank Stanford](#), University of Arkansas

Press, 2025) on their work as biographers and authors. Audience Q&A, book sales and signings to follow.

Ron Egatz is an award-winning poet, a fiction writer, and jump blues guitarist. He sometimes teaches writing privately, doctors song lyrics, and is preparing a memoir of his writing mentorship and biography of Thomas Lux. Author of *Beneath Stars Long Extinct*, Egatz lives in a Hudson River Valley loft co-op for artists where he dreams of emigrating.

James McWilliams is a former winner of the Hiett Prize in the Humanities. He has written on a wide range of topics both academically and journalistically, with work appearing in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Oxford American*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Harper's* and elsewhere. He teaches history at Texas State University.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, November 12

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Faculty/Student Happy Hour Reading

In-person; current MFA Writing community and their guests only
Slonim Living Room

Pizza and refreshments at 6:00 PM (BYOB); reading starts at 6:30 PM. Our faculty reader will be **Nelly Reifler**. Look for an email the week before to sign-up for a spot to read and include your genre in your email. Readers are limited to 5 minutes each (or you get the cowbell).

Friday, November 14

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Prospective Student Meet-and-Greet

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Atrium

Current MFA students are invited to join Paige and Maddie before the Melissa Febos & Donika Kelly reading to meet with prospective students of the MFA program. Come meet your potential future peers! We will have a light reception with drinks and snacks.

Friday, November 14

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Nonfiction & Poetry Reading: Melissa Febos (MFA '08) and Donika Kelly

In-person event; open to the public
Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Melissa Febos (MFA '08) is the national bestselling author of five books, including *Girlhood*—winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism, *Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative*, and a new memoir, *The Dry Season*. She is the recipient

of awards and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, LAMBDA Literary, the Black Mountain Institute, the British Library, the Bogliasco Foundation, and others. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The New Yorker*, *The Best American Essays*, *Vogue*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. She is a Professor at the University of Iowa.

Donika Kelly is the author of *The Natural Order of Things*, *The Renunciations*, winner of the Anisfield-Wolf book award in poetry, and *Bestiary*, the winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and a Kate Tufts Discovery Award. A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, she is a Cave Canem graduate fellow and Pushcart Prize winner. Her poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, and elsewhere. She is an associate professor in the English Department at the University of Iowa, where she teaches creative writing.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Monday, November 17

2:00 – 4:00 PM

The Ins and Outs of Writing An Artist Statement with Abeer Hoque

Zoom event, open to current MFA students and alums

Zoom registration link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/2AAOQuPpSemZcr42027c8g>

In this talk and group session, writer Abeer Hoque will provide examples on structures and thought-processes behind writing artist statements for applications to literary fellowships, grants, and writing residencies. A large portion of the talk will include a group brainstorming generative workshop with requests for volunteers from the audience.

Abeer Hoque is a Nigerian-born Bangladeshi-American writer and photographer with BS and MA degrees from the Wharton School of Business and an MFA in writing from the University of San Francisco. She is the recipient of a 2005 Tanenbaum Award and a 2007 Fulbright Scholarship. She has attended residencies at Saltonstall, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Millay, and Albee. Her writing and photography have been published in *ZYZZYVA*, *580 Split*, *XConnect*, *Drunken Boat*, *Swink*, *Nerve.com*, *Switchback*, *India Today*, the *Daily Star* (Bangladesh), the *Commonwealth Short Story Competition*, *Wasafiri*, and *KQED Writers' Block*. She has held two solo photography exhibitions and is currently working on a novel. See more at olivewitch.com.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, November 19

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Rachel Harrison Speculative Fiction Masterclass: Raising the (Wooden) Stakes: Creating Real Tension in Genre Fiction

In-person; current MFA Writing students only
Wrexham Sunporch

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **October 30 and 31** to RSVP. Space is limited. Priority will be given to speculative fiction MFA students.

Help! I'm being hunted down by the very angry, very angsty monster I made this one time at school. He keeps murdering everyone I know and wants me to build him a wife! Conflict in genre fiction can seem, on the surface, pretty unrelatable. How do we get readers to emotionally invest when the stakes aren't of this reality? This class will explore ways to create genuine, believable tension in fantastical worlds. A brief lecture will be followed by a series of short readings, games, and exercises, helping students learn different approaches to raising the stakes in a speculative narrative.

Rachel Harrison is the USA Today bestselling author of *Play Nice*, *So Thirsty*, *Black Sheep*, *Such Sharp Teeth*, *Cackle*, and *The Return*, which was nominated for a Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies and in her debut collection *Bad Dolls*.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, November 19

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Rachel Harrison: Opening Up: The Role of Vulnerability as a Writer

Hybrid event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Zoom registration link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/JWoMSGMNTVVSZBMXPUE_hw

How much of ourselves do we put on the page? Where's the boundary between who we are as people and who we are as writers? How do we not take feedback personally? In modern publishing, there's an expectation for authors to be present in the promotion and marketing of their work. It can be difficult to navigate the pressures of being a presence while staying true to yourself and your craft. This talk will cover the power and pitfalls of vulnerability as writers, from when we're alone with our drafts to initial shares to pursuing a path in publishing and beyond.

Rachel Harrison is the USA Today bestselling author of *Play Nice*, *So Thirsty*, *Black Sheep*, *Such Sharp Teeth*, *Cackle*, and *The Return*, which was nominated for a Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies and in her debut collection *Bad Dolls*.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, November 20

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Career Services: Coffee & Conversation w/ Susan Gordon

In-person; open to all current SLC students

Slonim Living Room

Please join Susan Gordon, President of Lynne Palmer Executive Recruitment, for an informal roundtable discussion over coffee. This is a unique opportunity to talk about planning your job search, navigating career transitions, publishing, and anything else

related to your professional journey. Bring your questions and come ready for a candid, engaging conversation about your career path in publishing or beyond.

SUSAN GORDON is President of Lynne Palmer Executive Recruitment. Susan joined Lynne Palmer as a recruiter in 1983, and six years later she acquired the company, establishing the firm as a leader in the recruiting industry. Before joining Lynne Palmer, she was on staff in the Human Resources department at Random House. In her current role, she not only assists her clients to find the best talent for their roles, but also now offers career & job searching guidance. In addition to being active on the faculty at the University of Denver Publishing Institute, where she speaks annually, Susan has been actively involved in the publishing community, participating in many events and speaking engagements over the years. Susan's extensive experience and contributions have made her a respected figure within the publishing community, and she continues to play a pivotal role in shaping its future.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Monday, November 24

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Artist Statement Writing Workshop with Abeer Hoque

Zoom; current MFA Writing students only

RSVP required. Please email Maddie (mmori@sarahlawrence.edu) between **November 6 and 7** to RSVP. Space is limited to 8 students. Priority is given to second-year+ MFA students with specific writing residency and/or literary fellowship goals and impending application deadlines (please describe in RSVP email to Maddie).

In this second-part of the workshop, writer Abeer Hoque will help a select group of students fine-tune their artist statement drafts for specific impending residency, fellowship, or grant applications. Students must come prepared with their drafts and are highly encouraged to first attend Abeer's virtual talk on Monday, November 18.

Abeer Hoque is a Nigerian-born Bangladeshi-American writer and photographer with BS and MA degrees from the Wharton School of Business and an MFA in writing from the University of San Francisco. She is the recipient of a 2005 Tanenbaum Award and a 2007 Fulbright Scholarship. She has attended residencies at Saltonstall, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Millay, and Albee. Her writing and photography have been published in *ZYZZYVA*, *580 Split*, *XConnect*, *Drunken Boat*, *Swink*, *Nerve.com*, *Switchback*, *India Today*, the *Daily Star* (Bangladesh), the *Commonwealth Short Story Competition*, *Wasafiri*, and *KQED Writers' Block*. She has held two solo photography exhibitions and is currently working on a novel. See more at olivewitch.com.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Tuesday, November 25

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Assembly

RSVP required; current MFA Writing students only
Slonim Library

Join a small group of MFA writing students and Director Paige Ackerson-Kiely for an hour-long conversation about your writing. Bring a one-page selection to share at the session. Work will not be critiqued or evaluated; rather you'll read a page, we'll all ask you questions, and you'll have the opportunity to think out loud about your writing process and your current projects. This should be thought of as a low-stress, community-building event.

This meeting will be held in person, in the Slonim Library (first floor of Slonim, next to the vending machine).

RSVP required. Space is limited to 4 students per session and fills up quickly. Sign up [here](#). Please only sign up for one Assembly per semester to allow other students a chance.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, November 26 - Sunday, November 30: Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 2

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Wo Chan Poetry Reading

In-person event; open to the public

Heimbold Visual Arts Center Donnelley Theatre

Wo Chan who performs as The Illustrious Pearl is a poet and drag artist. They are a winner of the 2020 Nightboat Poetry Prize and the author of *TOGETHERNESS* which won the 2023 Publishing Triangle Award for Trans and Gender-Variant Literature, and was a finalist for the 2023 CLMP Firecracker Award. Wo has received fellowships from MacDowell, New York Foundation of the Arts, Kundiman, The Asian American Writers Workshop, Poets House, and Lambda Literary. As a member of the Brooklyn based drag/burlesque collective Switch N' Play, Wo has performed at The Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA PS1, National Sawdust, New York Live Arts and elsewhere. They hold a BA from the University of Virginia and an MFA in Poetry from New York University. Born in Macau, Wo lives in Brooklyn, New York. Find them at @theillustriouspearl

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, December 3

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Assembly

RSVP required; current MFA Writing students only
Slonim Library

Join a small group of MFA writing students and Director Paige Ackerson-Kiely for an hour-long conversation about your writing. Bring a one-page selection to share at the session. Work will not be critiqued or evaluated; rather you'll read a page, we'll all ask you questions, and you'll have the opportunity to think out loud about your writing process and your current projects. This should be thought of as a low-stress, community-building event.

This meeting will be held in person, in the Slonim Library (first floor of Slonim, next to the vending machine).

RSVP required. Space is limited to 4 students per session and fills up quickly. Sign up [here](#). Please only sign up for one Assembly per semester to allow other students a chance.

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Thursday, December 4

2:00 – 3:00 PM

The Publishing Hour, with Miller Oberman

Zoom; current MFA Writing students only

Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/3b6w8Ng3Tm-YPuOnU33ABg>

Join MFA faculty member Miller Oberman over Zoom for an informal discussion around sending out your work for publication in literary magazines and journals, as well as publishing poetry collections! Bring questions!

This event is colloquium credit eligible.

Wednesday, December 10

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Faculty/Student Happy Hour Reading

In-person; current MFA Writing community and their guests only
Slonim Living Room

Pizza and refreshments at 6:00 PM (BYOB); reading starts at 6:30 PM. Our faculty reader will be **Chandler Klang Smith**. Look for an email the week before to sign-up for a spot to

read and include your genre in your email. Readers are limited to 5 minutes each (or you get the cowbell).

Thursday, December 11

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Winter Social Hour

Slonim Living Room

Please join Paige, Maddie, and your peers in the Slonim Living Room to celebrate the end of the semester with some light festive treats and wintery delights!