

Event Outline

Moderator's Introductory remarks: Good x, my name is José B. González, and I am the moderator for today's panel, "El Niño as the 'Man of the House:' Latinx Poets Who Immigrated as Boys." It's my pleasure to introduce each of the panelists. From my far left to my right are, León Salvatierra, Javier O. Huerta, and Roy G. Guzmán. I will introduce each of them in a little more detail before they read, but in the meantime, we have distributed hard copies of full biographies.

This panel's objective is to put faces to the Latin American "immigrant child," both documented and undocumented, whose story has rarely been examined from this perspective in poetic form. The poets in this panel hail from countries that are often grouped together as one. In these countries, children are forced to grow up sooner than they should, and in the U.S. their families are often demonized. This reading will provide a diverse geographical, generational, and artistic representation of their experiences as immigrants.

The genesis for this panel did not arise from the recent situation at the border. That's not to say that the humanitarian crisis taking place did not contribute to the need for this panel. But it is to say that the crisis has forced all of us to take emotive reflections on our journeys and that the need to write about our journeys, to read about our journeys, and to hear about each other's journeys, has never seemed greater.

Readings:

León Salvatierra is the author of *Al Norte*. In 2014, he received a PhD in Hispanic Languages & Literatures from UC Berkeley. His poetry has been published in *Poetry Magazine*, the *Notre Dame Review*, and *The Wandering Song*. León is a second-year poet in the Creative Writing MFA program at UC Davis.

Javier O. Huerta is the author of the groundbreaking *Some Clarifications y otros poemas* and the cult classic *American Copia*. He earned his MFA from the Bilingual Creative Writing Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. Currently, he lives in Berkeley, California.

Jose B. Gonzalez is the author of *Toys Made of Rock* and *When Love Was Reels*; he is the co-editor of *Latino Boom: An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature*. His poetry has been anthologized in the *Norton Introduction to Literature*, *The Wandering Song*, and *Theatre Under My Skin*.

Roy G. Guzmán is pursuing a PhD in Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, where they also received an MFA in creative writing. They are a 2019 NEA fellow and a 2017 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellow.

Post-reading questions:

Of all the poems each of you has read today, which one would you say was the most challenging to share. Why?

Is there part of your journey that was not captured by your poetry? If so, what was it?