Hola, AWP 2020! Our panel is still on! Please come join us:: Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Michelle Garcia, Cecilia Balli, and Macarena Hernandez. Pasted below are the questions we’ll be exploring. Safe travels to San Antonio and see you Thursday.

**FIRST QUESTION FOR ALL OF US:** Where in Texas do you call home, what was your relationship with Mexico growing up, and how did you navigate the space between the two?

**SECOND QUESTION FOR ALL OF US:** What initially compelled you to write about our homeland? Was it driven by a particular story you experienced, an injustice you witnessed, or something else entirely? And: can you read us an example from your work?

**THIRD QUESTION FOR ALL OF US:** All of us started in mainstream media but have since moved beyond it. First of all, why, and second: which media, genres, and points-of-view have you found most effective in telling the story of our homeland? What does each mode allow you to do?

**QUESTION FOR CECILIA:**

You were the first Latina to become a staff writer for Texas Monthly Magazine, and while you have written about an incredible range of topics, you are especially renown for your work documenting the femicide in Ciudad Juarez. What has it been like to write about violence for the last 20 years, in a way that honors the uniqueness of each trauma witnessed, but without it feeling like the same storyline?

**QUESTION FOR MACARENA:**You were the first Latina editorial columnist at The Dallas Morning News. It was a departure from your work as a reporter. What did that experience teach you and what was it like to sit on the editorial board of one of the biggest newspapers in the state and perhaps the most conservative?

**QUESTION FOR MICHELLE:**   
For many years, you covered the border for publications including the Washington Post. What was it like to be a journalist under the Bush and Obama administrations, both in terms of policies but also in terms of restrictions against journalists, and what has been the biggest change in the age of Zero Tolerance under the Trump Administration?

**QUESTION FOR STEPHANIE:**

Your latest book, All the Agents and Saints, contains many stories people don’t necessarily associate with the borderlands, such as environmental injustice. What was it like to write about the oil and gas companies that bankroll so much of this region?

**OPEN QUESTIONS FOR ANYONE:**

How do you negotiate the widely held misperception that Latinx writers are capable of telling only one story?

How do you write about a place that has been so overly claimed and narrated?

Thinking about the long arc of your career, what single story has never left you?

How do you interview someone who has experienced the level of tragedy that so many immigrants have endured? How do you balance their need to recover with your need to gather enough information to tell their story?

To what end goal are you writing? Is empathy enough?

If you could tell the world one thing about our homeland, what would it be?

**ASK THIS FINAL QUESTION BEFORE AUDIENCE Q&A: FOR ALL OF US:**

What has it been like to work with such challenging material for so many years? What kind of toll has it taken? How are you taking care of yourself?