

WRITING ACROSS MULTILINGUAL NETWORKS-EVENT OUTLINE

AWP 2020 Panelists: Elæ (Lynne DeSilva-Johnson) (moderator), Gabrielle Civil, Sawako Nakayasu, Raquel Salas Rivera & Orchid Tierney

Room 216A, Henry B. González Convention Center, Meeting Room Level
Thursday, March 5, 2020
3:20 pm to 4:35 pm

Event Description: This panel focuses on multilingual, multimodal literary networks. It addresses the terrain of translation, transcreation, and writing across multiple languages, and examines the way that communities have written and are writing through and against local, national, global, and language networks. What future citizenship(s) do multilingual literatures enable? Panelists will discuss their own writing, perform excerpts, and/or discuss creators, networks, and systems troubling these intersections.

Statement of Merit: This panel will offer insights on multilingual and hybrid approaches to writing and performance as social and political action from poets, editors, teachers, publishers, and translators. Panelists will examine the intersections of creative writing practice, pedagogy, and citizenship across literary networks and systems in the works of Puerto Rican, Pasifika, and Asian writers and/or perform or read from their own projects that attend to social change.

Key Actions/ Questions

Elæ (Lynne DeSilva-Johnson) (moderator)

My primary role here is facilitating both panelists' individual expression / engagement with these critical themes and questions as well as guiding the conversation that follows. I will introduce myself and my work in making tangible frameworks / publication curation around these ideas, as well as briefly discussing an engagement with troubling practices of queer and crip codeswitching / passing / speculative linguistics, and/or working across the alternate

language / intelligence frameworks of nonhuman allies and tech, which are some of the ways my personal (as opposed to curatorial, radical-infrastructural) work is interfacing with these ideas. After everyone speaks I'll be posing a series of questions to the panel that also address themes / elements that arose in presentation.

Gabrielle Civil

INTO THE DÉJÀ VU (OR TRANSLATING GHOST GESTURES)

In this presentation, I will engage multilingual (and translingual) networks of black feminist meaning / making through the figure of "the déjà vu." Connecting the sensation of "seeing something already seen" to embodied practices of translation and performance, I will invoke and materialize black feminist ghost gestures. I will reckon with experiential echoes that make translation vital and spectral, unending and unendurable.

Sawako Nakayasu

This presentation will address how writing and translation might inhabit a continuum of language multiplicities, from "the silence before speaking" to the making and performing of a multilingual text. In embracing multilingual approaches to literature, I endeavor to ask questions with regards to the potential porousness of the boundaries around and between original texts and translations.

Raquel Salas Rivera

This presentation will delve into what I call a poetics of nothingness that can be found in the self-translation work of Sotero Rivera Avilés. The band La Gran Mawon has called elsewhere named this poetics "Melancolía Tropical" or "Tropical Melancholy." Rather than propose self-translation as a desirable model for the creation of multilingual networks, I will address the colonial violence that generates self-translation as a means of survival.

Orchid Tierney

This paper, entitled “Being “From”: The Tidal-Lingual Gesture in Craig Santos Perez’s *from unincorporated territory [hacha]*,” engages with translingualism and language networks in Pacific Island poetry through the optic of flows, dispersions, and tidal currents. Focusing on the poetry of Craig Santos Perez, I attend to his poetic strategies that foreground language plurality in Oceania.