

2022 AWP Event: In Person

Title: Unmake the Patriarchy of Your Mind

Number: F220

Date/Time: 3:20pm - 4:35pm on Friday March 25, 2022

Location: 109AB, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level

For millennia, patriarchal expectations have shaped literature's socioeconomic context and making. This intersectional panel brings together five award-winning writers who rewrite the patriarchy's impact on our lives and art as Black, Latinx, South Asian and White women — from persona poems as a Black womanist or in the voice of Baba Yaga, to centering Latinxs in tales of settler colonialism, to poems that confront workplace sexism, to a mother's essays about wringing the toxic from her son.

As Audre Lorde and others have argued, naming a thing gives us power to reimagine it. The patriarchy has defined literature for millennia. This panel of fierce women is an intersectional conversation and reading to draw out how our art resists the patriarchy's effects on our lives and society. We will discuss our writing as a way to unmake patriarchal pressures and expectations. Behind that offering is our collective hope, to quote James Baldwin, to make this world a "more human dwelling place."

We will begin with a lyric thematic summary and brief panelist introductions by the moderator. Each of the five panelists will read for five minutes and answer a question before the next reader performs. Our thirty-minute discussion will include a round-robin format — each of us have curiosities about the others' work — and will conclude with at least fifteen minutes of audience questions read aloud by the moderator.

Readings will include: *How To Raise A Feminist Son* (Sasquatch Books) by Sonora Jha, *Sidenotes from the Archivist* (Amistad) and (v.) (Black Ocean) by Anastacia Renée, *But She Is Also Jane* (unpublished) by Laura Read, and *Or What We'll Call Desire* (Persea) by Alexandra Teague, *Subduction* (Red Hen Press) by Kristen Millares Young,

Moderator/Panelist: Kristen Millares Young is a prize-winning journalist, essayist and author of the novel *Subduction* (Red Hen Press). Named a *Paris Review* staff pick, *Subduction* won Nautilus and IPPY awards. The editor of *Seismic*, a Washington State Book Award finalist, Kristen reviews books for the *Washington Post*.

Panelist: Sonora Jha is the author of the memoir-in-essays *How To Raise a Feminist Son* (2021) and the novel *Foreign* (2013). Her new novel, *The Laughter*, will be out from Harper Via in Jan 2023. Her essays are in the *New York Times*, *Seattle Times*, etc. She is a professor of journalism at Seattle University.

Panelist: Anastacia-Renée is a queer writer, educator, podcaster and interdisciplinary artist. She is the author of (v.) (Black Ocean), *Forget It* (Black Radish), *Here in the (Middle) of Nowhere* and *Sidenotes from the Archivist*, both forthcoming from Amistad (an imprint of HarperCollins).

Panelist: Laura Read is the author of *Dresses from the Old Country*, *Instructions for My Mother's Funeral*, and *The Chewbacca on Hollywood Boulevard Reminds Me of You*. She served as poet laureate for Spokane, Washington from 2015-2017. She teaches English at Spokane Falls Community College.

Panelist: Alexandra Teague is the author of *Or What We'll Call Desire* (Persea 2019), a novel, and two prior poetry books—*The Wise and Foolish Builders* and *Mortal Geography*—as well as co-editor of *Bullets into Bells*. A former Stegner and NEA fellow, she is a professor at University of Idaho.