

Title

Not a License for Inaccuracy: Artistic Liberties and Truth in Historical Fiction

Description

Philippa Gregory's controversial historical fiction is igniting passionate conversation about the fine line between erasing facts and taking artistic liberties. This panel will discuss how to craft historical narratives that captivate readers without sacrificing accuracy, especially about groups of people who are often misunderstood. With wisdom from academia, publishing, play and novel writing, we will discuss how to combine vivid characters and intriguing plots with reality and solid research.

Statement of Value

This panel will be useful primarily to those writing and publishing historical fiction who seek to create readable books that promote critical thought and intercultural understanding. A secondary audience is educators who may wish to incorporate historical fiction into social studies. Our panel includes a transwoman author from an inter-racial family, a professor of indigenous American culture, a historical fiction publisher, and two authors who explore little-known aspects of world history.

Moderator

Ryan Neighbors is a Lecturer at Texas A&M University where he teaches writing, literature, and film courses. His research interests include Indigenous studies, historical fiction, and the South. His writing has appeared in Tampa Review, Stoneboat Literary Journal, Barely South Review, and elsewhere.

Panelists

Colin Mustful is the founder and editor of History Through Fiction, an independent press publishing historical novels. He is also the author of four historical novels about the settlement and Native history of the Upper Midwest. His books combine elements of fiction and nonfiction to tell compelling and educational stories.

Sandra Warren has publications in multiple genres including two award winning historical fiction novels, *We Bought A WWII Bomber* and *Obsessed By A Promise*. Contact her at www.sandrawarren.com or at <http://twitter.com/SandraWarrenNC>.

Richelle Lee Slota writes novels, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Her historical novel, *Stray Son*, set in 1942 America, and a non-fiction book, *Captive Market: Commercial Kidnapping Stories from Nigeria*, were published recently. Until recently, her pen name has been Richard Slota.

Zara Miller is a contributor to the worldwide online platform the Teen Magazine and one of the Creator Institute's published authors. A vivacious blogger, book reviewer, and social media enthusiast, Miller's young adult novel *I am Cecilia* was created to inspire youngsters to dream big and bold.

Questions asked during the Panel

What kind of sources do you tend to draw on with your writing?

How do you turn primary source research into fictional scenes?

Considering the difficulty of getting into the mindset of someone from a different time period, how do you go about trying to inhabit such a character, in order for it to come across on the page?

What are some common mistakes that historical fiction writers make?

How does authorial identity relate to your writing?

How do you avoid perpetuating a single narrative or misrepresenting those peoples and cultures that have traditionally been marginalized?

How do you connect to or use other genres with historical fiction?

How and why is historical fiction valuable as an education tool?

What are your thoughts on including extra-narrative historical material or resources?