

Event Title

Creative Politics, Political Poetics: Asian American Literary Activism

Event Description

Our discussion room will explore literary activism, art and community-building, and literary and academic change-making through five different vantages. In particular, we will share Asian American approaches to cross-racial organizing, improvisational pedagogies, neurodiversity, and literary activism in and beyond the academy. We will include examples, generative writing, and somatic & embodied activities for participants to engage, interact, and create so we move toward liberation collectively.

Event Agenda

The moderator will begin with a collective welcome and grounding with attendees. Two discussion group participants will share for 5 minutes on literary activism. The third participant will share for 5 minutes and lead a generative writing exercise with attendees for 5 minutes. The final two discussion group participants will share for 5 minutes. We will continue engagement, interaction, and respond to attendee questions for 30 minutes. We will lead a collective closing to end.

Event Category

Discussion Room

Event Participants

Lawrence-Minh Bui Davis, PhD is founding director of the arts nonprofit *The Asian American Literary Review* and co-editor-in-chief of its critically acclaimed literary journal. He is also a Curator for the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

Cathy Linh Che is the author of the poetry collection, *Split*, winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize, the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the Best Poetry Book Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

Ching-In Chen is author of *The Heart's Traffic, recombinant, to make black paper sing, Kundiman for Kin* and co-editor of *The Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence within Activist Communities*. They are part of Kundiman, Lambda, Watering Hole, Macondo and VONA communities.

Purvi Shah's favorite art practices are sparkly eyeshadow and raucous laughter. *Terrain Tracks* and *Miracle Marks*, her poetry books, explore gender & racial equity. At the 10th anniversary of 9/11, she led *Together We Are New York*, a community poetry project highlighting Asian American voices.

Sejal Shah writes across genres and dances in her study in Western New York. Her debut essay collection, *This Is One Way to Dance* (UGA Press) was named an NPR Best Book of 2020 and selected as a finalist for the 2021 CLMP Firecracker Award in Creative Nonfiction.