

# New Strategies in Trans Storytelling

Event Outline (subject to change)

## Participants

Julián Delgado Lopera is an award-winning Colombian writer and historian based in San Francisco.

Megan Milks is the author of *Margaret and the Mystery of the Missing Body and Slug*, a revised edition of their award-winning first collection *Kill Marguerite and Other Stories*. They are coeditor of the anthology *We Are the Baby-Sitters Club* and teach writing and gender studies at Pace University.

Casey Plett is the author of *A Dream of a Woman*, *Little Fish*, and *A Safe Girl to Love*. She co-edited *Meanwhile, Elsewhere: Science Fiction and Fantasy From Transgender Writers* and has written for *The New York Times* and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*. She is the Publisher at LittlePuss Press.

Bishakh Som is an Indian-American trans femme visual artist. Her graphic novel *Apsara Engine* (The Feminist Press) was the winner of a 2020 Los Angeles Times Book Prize and a 2020 Lambda Literary Award for Best LGBTQ Comic. Her graphic memoir *Spellbound* (Street Noise Books) is also a Lambda finalist.

Jeanne Thornton (moderator) is the author of *Summer Fun*, *The Dream of Doctor Bantam*, and *The Black Emerald*, as well as the coeditor, with Tara Madison Avery, of *We're Still Here: An All-Trans Comics Anthology*, and the copublisher of Instar Books. She lives in Brooklyn.

## Agenda

The moderator will begin the event by introducing the panelists and reading their short biographies. The four panelists will give short craft talks for ten to twelve minutes each. The moderator will then open up discussion with a list of questions prepared in advance for ten to fifteen minutes. The panel will end with a ten-to-fifteen-minute audience Q&A.

## Craft Talks

[To be updated.]

## Possible Moderator Questions

- When you say you're exploring trans themes, what are those specifically for you and your work now? And how do they sit along with other themes in your work that you're exploring?
- What authors do you see yourself existing in conversation, continuity, or community with, cis or trans?
- Tell me something about genre and what it means to you. (For example, do you feel your work has a genre? Are there genres that call to you, or whose conventions you like to incorporate more than others, and why?)
- I feel like this panel has a craftiness to it--on the can, this is about craft, technique, mechanics of writing. And everyone here I know is using complex techniques in their work! So I want this to be the brag question. I'm going to ask you to talk about the

absolute coolest thing you think you've done with technique in your work to talk about transness. What is your favorite technical thing you've done for your work?

- When we're thinking about these techniques and our use of them--what are we using them for? When the rubber hits the road and people are out there engaging with your work in the world, what's your biggest wish for that engagement? If each thing we write is a kind of magical act performed on the world, what do you want that magic to do?
- Where do you think your work will take you in the future? What currents are pulling on your work now, trans or otherwise? (Ideally I would want this to be less about "what are you working on next," more "what questions do you have about the world, what are you exploring, what interests you about writing right now?")