

The Teaching Press as an Agent of Change

113C, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 100 Level

Saturday, March 26, 2022

9 to 10:15 am

Panel description:

Teaching presses and apprenticeships in the art and craft of publishing prepare student writers to submit and publish their work. They also provide the foundation for a more inclusive, innovative, and accessible publishing industry. Join panelists from Kaya Press, LARB Books, Lookout Books, and Ooligan Press as they discuss their respective publishing models and demonstrate how their work as publishers, editors, and teachers empowers future generations to lead meaningful change.

Panel category: Teaching, Editing, and Technology

(Extended bios to come):

Organizer and Moderator: Emily Louise Smith is the founder and publisher of Lookout Books and its sister magazine, *Ecotone*. An assistant professor of creative writing at University North Carolina Wilmington, she also directs the department's Publishing Laboratory. Her writing appears in *Best New Poets* and the *Southern Review*.

Panelists:

Neelanjana Banerjee is the managing editor of Kaya Press. Her fiction, poetry, and essays have been published in *Prairie Schooner*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *PANK*, the *Rumpus*, and several anthologies. She teaches writing and Asian American literature at UCLA and Loyola Marymount University.

Robyn Crummer-Olson is the publisher at Ooligan Press, a student-run trade press at Portland State University. As senior instructor, she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in book marketing, book publishing for writers, management skills in publishing, publishing lab, and publishing studio.

KaToya Ellis Fleming is a graduate of Spelman College and holds an MFA in narrative nonfiction from the University of Georgia. She is the former Oxford American Jeff Baskin Writers Fellow, and she is currently an assistant professor of publishing arts at UNC Wilmington and editor at Lookout Books.

Irene Yoon (she/her) is executive director of the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She holds a PhD in English from UC Berkeley, and she is the director of the LARB Publishing Workshop since 2018.

Moderator welcome, introduction of panelists.

Moderator questions for all panelists:

- 1) By way of introduction, I wonder if each panelist could share a little about your respective presses and/or publishing programs, as well as your apprenticeship models. You might describe how teaching, mentorship, and other opportunities are integral to the daily work of your press. If affiliated with an academic institution, please also contextualize that relationship for attendees—whether your press is part of a publishing degree program or another partnership.
- 2) How do you think that your publishing entity's mission, catalog of titles, and other organizational initiatives influence opportunities and projects available to students and interns? How do those specific opportunities to practice the art and craft of publishing shape their approaches to and later work in the field? Could you give examples of publishing leadership and others initiatives your alumni are involved

in?

- 3) Work in publishing often comes with steep barriers to entry—from geographic constraints (many internships, especially with big five houses, are located in New York) to economic, including cost-prohibitive post-graduate programs. Could you share specific ways in which your respective publishing entities disrupt traditional paths to entry and make way for increased access?
- 4) Do you think that these initiatives are specific to independent publishing? What might peer and even larger, for-profit publishing houses and literary organizations learn from and adopt from your model?