

Friday, March 25, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

EVENT TITLE:

Navigating Layered Identities in Creative Nonfiction

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

In writing nonfiction, we curate versions of ourselves and other characters, making choices as to which aspects of personhood to include on the page. In this panel, writers analyze how they highlight various aspects of their identities from essay to essay, depending on subject, audience, style, etc. This opens up questions about responsibility and how nonfiction writers stay true to readers and themselves.

EVENT ORGANIZER & MODERATOR:

Liesel Hamilton was unable to attend AWP this year and this panel is now being moderated by Breeann Kyte Kirby.

Breeann Kyte Kirby: With an MA, MS, and MFA, Breeann Kyte Kirby is officially a master of all trades and doctor of none. Firmly grounded in both science and literature, she works in both fields, facilitating collaborations between scientists, writers, and artists. Her creative and scientific work has been published both in print and online in places such as *Sunshine Noir II* (Cityworks Press 2015), *The Scientist*, *City Creatures*, and *The Eel*. She teaches creative writing and environmental studies at Point Loma Nazarene University. Breeann is concurrently working on a popular science book about the human microbiome and a science fiction novel about the implications our being walking ecosystems. Follow her on Twitter and Instagram @aliceayers.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

Silas Hansen: Silas Hansen's essays have appeared in *The Normal School*, *Colorado Review*, *Redivider*, *Hobart*, and elsewhere. He teaches creative writing at Ball State University and is the nonfiction editor of *Waxwing*.

<http://www.silashansen.net/>

Rajpreet Heir: Rajpreet Heir is an assistant professor of creative nonfiction at Ithaca College. She has published nonfiction in both commercial and literary

venues including The Atlantic, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Teen Vogue, Brevity, and others. She writes about being Indian in Indiana.

<https://www.rajpreetheir.com/about>

Robbie Maakestad: Robbie Maakestad is a Senior Features Editor for *The Rumpus* and an Assistant Professor of Writing at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. He is writing a biography of place about Jerusalem's City of David archaeological site. He has been published or has forthcoming work in *Boulevard*, *The Normal School*, *Gulf Coast*, and *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, among others. Follow him [@RobbieMaakestad](#).

<https://www.pointloma.edu/faculty/robbie-maakestad-mfa>

Alysia Sawchyn: Alysia Sawchyn is the editor-in-chief at The Rumpus magazine. She teaches writing at a number of different organizations and also has this thing for flowers.

<https://alysiasawchyn.com/>