

AWP 2022

Event Outline: **In the Cosmopolis of Memory: Women On Cultural Selfhood in a Globalized World**

A Reading

Description: Setting and place are at the center of our stories and identities – yet globalization and territorial violences create a complicated spatial “belonging.” How do we place ourselves in our writing? Braving political strife, war, and displacement coupled with traumas of misrepresentation by dominant narratives, five women grounded in (global) Lebanese, Azerbaijani, Palestinian and Pakistani cultures write and/or translate poetry, fiction, memoir to recast histories and cultures in our own voices.

Organizer and Moderator: Alison Mandaville

Participants/Readers:

Zeina Hashem Beck is a Lebanese poet. Her third full-length collection, titled *O*, is forthcoming from Penguin Books in Summer 2022. Her poems have appeared in the New York Times, Poetry, Ploughshares, and The Adroit, among others.

Shadab Zeest Hashmi, author of *Ghazal Cosmopolitan*, *Kohl & Chalk* and *Baker of Tarifa*, is the winner of the San Diego Book Award and the Nazim Hikmet Poetry Prize. Her work has been published worldwide and has been translated into Spanish, Turkish and Urdu. She has an MFA from Warren Wilson.

Alison Mandaville has received two UNESCO cultural heritage grants for her work supporting women writers and artists in Azerbaijan. A poet, scholar, and translator, she teaches at Fresno State. Her creative and scholarly work has appeared in dozens of US and international journals and books.

Samina Najmi, Professor of English at CSU Fresno, writes essays centered on her life in Pakistan, UK, and the US. She has just completed a book-length memoir of her home in Karachi. Her work has appeared in World Literature Today, Massachusetts Review, Entropy, The Rumpus, The Progressive, etc.

Deema K. Shehabi is the author of *Thirteen Departures from the Moon* and co-editor with Beau Beausoleil of *Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here*, for which she

received the NCBR Recognition Award. She's also co-author with Marilyn Hacker of *Diaspo/Renga*. She won the Nazim Hizkmet Poetry Prize in 2018.

Participants will be introduced and each will introduce and read from their creative work for about 8-10 minutes. The reading is followed by a very brief discussion of themes and connections among the work by these writers.