

## **Migrations and Mutations: Writing and Translating From Our Bodies**

**Description:** How do situated bodily experiences shape the writing of belonging? Five writers and translators working in and between the Azerbaijani, English, Spanish, Urdu, and Zapotec languages, read poetry and creative non-fiction that attends to how immigrant and BIPOC writers create belonging through words shaped and transformed by their specific bodies, locations, and mobilities. These works emerge through the struggles of displaced people to connect body and place via storytelling – and so survive.

### **A Multiple Literary Genres Reading**

**Organizer:** 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 US and international journals and books.

**Moderator:** Cecelia Martinez-Gil has published two full-length poetry collections, “a fix of ink,” the multi-award-winning “Psaltery and Serpentes,” and she co-wrote the award-winning experimental video “Itinerarios.” She publishes poetry and journalism, teaches English and Literature, and has four masters.

### **Other Participants:**

Wendy Call co-edited the craft anthology *Telling True Stories* and the annual *Best Literary Translations*. She wrote the award-winning *No Word for Welcome* and her translations include *In the Belly of Night* and *Other Poems* by Irma Pineda and forthcoming books from *Deep Vellum* and *Milkweed*.

Marco Antonio Huerta is a Mexican poet and translator. He holds an MFA from UC San Diego and is a PhD student at UC Irvine. The author of four books of poetry, his work has been published in anthologies and journals in Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, Canada, and the United States.

Samina Najmi, Professor of English at CSU Fresno, writes essays centered on her life in Pakistan, UK, and the US. Her work has appeared in *World Literature Today*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Entropy*, *The Rumpus*, *Asian American Literature*, *The Progressive*, etc.

## OPENING MODERATOR REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to *Migrations and Mutations: Writing and Translating From Our Bodies*.

A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (identify moderator), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
- Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
- Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
- Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
- Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone's use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.

[The panel moderator will briefly introduce and frame the theme of particular embodied creativity.

In alphabetical order by last name, participants will introduce themselves and read pieces focusing on this theme, from their original or translated works. A brief moderated discussion of patterns and connections among the pieces read will follow the readings, with participation and Q&A from audience encouraged.]

Moderator Questions for discussion:

1.

2.

3.

4.