

Languages of Belonging: Transcending Borders in Life and on the Page

Five women writers of color incorporate personal and global histories—of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and within the U.S., California, Louisiana, and the Texas-Mexico border—into their prose, poetry, and hybrid texts. Each writer will discuss her process of transcending literal and figurative borders separating nations, generations, and identities. How do we resolve the conflicts that arise from having histories in multiple places? Where are we traveling from and to in our writing?

Tameka Cage Conley, PhD is a graduate of the fiction program of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and 2018-19 recipient of the Provost Visiting Writer Fellowship at the University of Iowa. Her work is published or forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *VQR*, *Callaloo*, *African American Review*, and elsewhere.

Torsa Ghosal is the author of an experimental novella, *Open Couplets*, and a book of literary criticism, *Out of Mind*. Her work has appeared in *Berkeley Fiction Review*, *Catapult*, *Lit Hub*, *LARB*, and elsewhere. She is a professor of English at California State University and is at work on a novel.

Emmy Pérez, USA Fellow 2022, is the author of *With the River on Our Face*, *Solstice*, & a forthcoming volume of new & selected poetry. A past recipient of a Poets Laureate Fellowship and an NEA Fellowship, she co-founded Poets Against Walls and is a professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Sehba Sarwar is a novelist (*Black Wings*, Veliz Books 2019) whose writings tackle gender and displacement issues. Her short stories have been anthologized by Feminist Press, Akashic Books, and Harper Collins India, and her essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Callaloo*, *LA Times* and elsewhere.

Gemini Wahhaj's novel *Mad Man* will be published in Fall 2023 by 7.13 Books. Her fiction has been published or is forthcoming in *Granta*, *Zone 3*, *Northwest Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *the Carolina Quarterly*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Arkansas Review*, *Allium*, *Valley Voices*, and other magazines.