

Latine/x Writers Writing Queerness, Queer Families, & Queer Communities

Number: F228

Date/Time: 3:20pm - 4:35pm on Friday March 10, 2023

Location: Rooms 435-436, Summit Building, Seattle
Convention Center, Level 4

Genres: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Cultural Criticism

Welcome to Latine/x Writers Writing Queerness, Queer Families, & Queer Communities. A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let me (Jaquira Díaz) 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.

My name is Jaquira Díaz, and I will be your moderator. Please give a warm welcome to our panelists:

Panelist bios:

Angie Cruz

Angie Cruz is a novelist and editor. Her most recent novel is *How Not To Drown in A Glass of Water* (2022). Her novel, *Dominicana* was the inaugural book pick for GMA book club and shortlisted for The Women's Prize, longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction, The Aspen Words Literary Prize, a RUSA Notable book and the winner of the ALA/YALSA Alex Award in fiction. It was named most anticipated/ best book in 2019 by *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *Oprah Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Esquire*. Cruz is the author of two other novels, *Soledad* and *Let It Rain Coffee* and the recipient of numerous fellowships and residencies including the Lighthouse Fellowship, Siena Art Institute, and the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Fellowship. She's published shorter works in *The Paris Review*, *VQR*, *Callaloo*, *Gulf Coast* and other journals. She's the founder and Editor-in-chief of the award winning literary journal, *Aster(ix)* and is currently an Associate Professor at University of Pittsburgh. She divides her time between Pittsburgh, New York, and Turin.

Carolina De Robertis

A writer of Uruguayan origins, Carolina De Robertis is the author of the novels *The President and the Frog*, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award; *Cantoras*, winner of a Stonewall Book Award and a Reading Women Award, a finalist for the Kirkus Prize and a

Lambda Literary Award, and a New York Times Editors' Choice; *The Gods of Tango*, winner of a Stonewall Book Award; *Perla*; and the international bestseller *The Invisible Mountain*, which received Italy's Rhegium Julii Prize. Their books have been translated into seventeen languages and have received numerous other honors, including a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

De Robertis is also an award-winning translator of Latin American and Spanish literature, and editor of the anthology *Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times*. In 2017, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts named De Robertis on its 100 List of "people, organizations, and movements that are shaping the future of culture." In 2022, they are an inaugural Baldwin-Emerson Fellow, gathering oral histories of queer and trans BIPOC elders in collaboration with Baldwin for the Arts and the Center for Oral History at Columbia University. De Robertis lives in Oakland, California, and is an associate professor at San Francisco State University.

Raquel Gutiérrez

Raquel Gutiérrez is an arts critic/writer, poet and educator. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Gutiérrez credits the queer and feminist DIY post-punk 'zine culture of the 1990s plus Los Angeles County and Getty paid arts internships with introducing her/them to the various vibrant art & music scenes and communities throughout Southern California. Gutiérrez is a 2021 recipient of the Rabkin Prize in Arts Journalism, as well as a 2017 recipient of the The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant.

Her/Their writing has recently appeared in or is forthcoming in *Art In America*, *NPR Music*, *Places Journal*, and *The Georgia Review*. Gutiérrez teaches in the Oregon State University-Cascades Low Residency Creative Writing MFA Program. Her/Their first book of prose, *Brown Neon*, is an ekphrastic memoir that considers what it means to be a Latinx artist during the Trump era and will be published by Coffee House Press, June, 2022. Gutiérrez calls Tucson, Arizona home.

Julián Delgado Lopera

Julián Delgado Lopera is the author of The New York Times acclaimed novel *Fiebre Tropical* (Feminist Press 2020), the Winner of the 2021 Ferro Grumley Award and a 2021 Lambda Literary award; a finalist of the 2020 Kirkus Prize in Fiction and the 2021 Aspen Literary Prize. Julián is also the author of *Quiéreme* (Nomadic Press 2017) and *¡Cuéntamelo!* (Aunt Lute 2017) an illustrated bilingual collection of oral histories by LGBT Latinx immigrants which won a 2018 Lambda Literary Award and a 2018 Independent Publisher Book Award. Julián's received fellowships and residencies from Hedgebrook, California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, Headlands Center for The Arts, Brush Creek Foundation of the Arts, Lambda Literary Foundation, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and The SF Grotto. Their work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has appeared in *Granta*, *Teen Vogue*, *The Kenyon Review*, *McSweeney's*, *The Rumpus*, *The White Review*, *LALT*, *Four Way Review*, *Broadly*, *TimeOut Mag* to name a few. They are the former executive director of RADAR

Productions and one of the founders of Drag Queen Story Hour. Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, Julián currently resides in San Francisco.

Jaquira Díaz (Moderator)

Born in Puerto Rico, Jaquira Díaz was raised between Humacao, Fajardo, and Miami Beach. She is the author of *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*, winner of a Whiting Award, a Florida Book Awards Gold Medal, a Lambda Literary Awards finalist, an American Booksellers Association Indies Introduce Selection, a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection, an Indie Next Pick, a Library Reads pick, and finalist for the B&N Discover Prize. *Ordinary Girls* was optioned for television and is currently in development at FX with Díaz as Co-Executive Producer.

The recipient of two Pushcart Prizes, an Elizabeth George Foundation grant, and fellowships from MacDowell, the *Kenyon Review*, Bread Loaf, Sewanee, VCCA, the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, and the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute, Díaz has written for *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *Time Magazine*, *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *The Fader*, and her stories, poems, and essays have been anthologized in *The Best American Essays*, *The Breakbeat Poets Vol. 4: LatiNext*, *Best American Experimental Writing*, and *The Pushcart Prize* anthology. In 2022, she held the Mina Hohenberg Darden Chair in Creative Writing at Old Dominion University's MFA program and a Pabst Endowed Chair for Master Writers at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She teaches creative writing at

Colorado State University and Randolph College's low-residency MFA program. Díaz's debut novel, *I Am Deliberate*, is forthcoming from Algonquin Books.

Event Description:

In a celebratory gathering of Latine/x writers across various genres, sexualities, and gender identities, we discuss writing queerness, queer families (both lost and found), and queer communities. We examine what it means to be both Latine/x and LGBTQIA in the contemporary United States and Latin America. How do the tensions and friction of this positioning manifest within literary work? In what ways do they block or generate innovative writing? How do we resist the dominant institutional models?

- Each panelist will answer an introductory question about their work, related to writing queerness.
- The moderator will then ask each panelist individual questions tailored specifically for a discussion of each of their books.
- The panelists will engage each other in conversation with their own questions/responses.
- The moderator will invite questions from the audience, facilitating a lively conversation.