

SPECULATING US FROM WHERE WE STAND: WRITING CULTURE INTO PROSE AND POETRY

0:00-7:00 Moderator Shalewa Mackall: Introduction to the panel, reads panelist AWP bios.

Image description: dark-skinned Black woman with red lipstick, red heart-shaped glasses sitting on a blue couch.

Question for all: In her essay, [A Few Rules for Predicting the Future](#), Octavia E. Butler writes: “I followed the space race of the late 1950’s and the 1960’s not because it was a race, but because it was taking us away from Earth, away from home, away to investigate the mysteries of the universe and, I thought, to find new homes for humanity out there. This appealed to me...” Where do you stand? How does this position inform your speculations? Please share contexts and/or contents as you choose.

7:00-12:00 Shreya Ila Anasua discusses the origins of their short story—the history of the inciting event and what it means to them in the present.

12:00-17:00 Andre Hoilette discusses the history and development of his poem, connecting spiritual practices and then reads a section of his poem.

17:00-22:00 K. Ibura discusses how the anthology came together, particularly concerning the speculative aspect and how it unfolded.

22:00- 27:00 Khadijah Queen continues the discussion of how the work in the anthology came together, then reads the first few paragraphs of the anthology’s introduction.

27:00-32:00 Interview with K. Ibura and Khadijah Queen about the book. Shalewa Mackall asks:

- How did the book come to be?
- What was the editorial vision, and did it shift in any way because of the dynamic circumstances, like pandemic, submissions, other happenings out of the frame?
- What did this in/accuracy of prediction teach you about the intersections or disjunctions between editing anthologies and predicting the future?

32:00-end Panel discussion opens to a broader conversation about the Butler essay and the creative practice of speculation. Khadijah asks contributors about their experiences during the editorial process. All panelists offer closing thoughts. Khadijah reads the last paragraph of the anthology’s introduction. All share gratitude, Shalewa closes the discussion