EVENT TITLE: Ten Years of a Literary Series: Stories from the UPK New Poetry & Prose Series

Event Description: In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the University Press of Kentucky (UPK) New Poetry & Prose Series, which features award-winning books by unique voices, four authors will read from their short-story collections in the series. Set in diverse locales from Africa to Middle East and North America, and ranging from realist to surrealist, their lyrical stories about ethnicity, gender, immigration, race, and sexuality highlight some of the stunning writing this acclaimed series has published.

EVENT CATEGORY: Fiction Readings

Event Moderator
Lisa Briana Williams: Lisa Briana Williams is the author of three books of poems and a recipient of a Barnard Women Poets Prize. She teaches and Directs Creative Writing at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Since 2014 she has served as Series Editor for the University Press of Kentucky New Poetry and Prose Series.

Event Participants
Rion Amilcar Scott: Rion Amilcar Scott is the author of story collections, The World Doesn't Require You and Insurrections, which won the 2017 PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction. He earned an MFA from George Mason University and teaches English at the University of Maryland.

Manini Nayar Samarth: I'm Dr. Manini Nayar Samarth, and I teach literature and writing at Penn State, University Park. My award-winning stories are published in periodicals in the US, Canada, India and England, and broadcasted on the BBC. My collection Being Here was recently published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Yvette Lisa Ndlovu: Yvette Lisa Ndlovu is the author of Drinking from Graveyard Wells (University Press of Kentucky, Spring 2023). She earned her BA at Cornell University. Her work has been supported by fellowships from the Tin House Workshop, Bread Loaf Writers Workshop, and George RR Martin.

Serkan Görkemli (event organizer): Serkan Görkemli’s fiction has recently appeared in Ploughshares and the Iowa Review. He’s the author of Sweet Tooth and Other Stories (forthcoming) and Grassroots Literacies: Lesbian and Gay Activism
and the Internet in Turkey. Originally from Turkey, he’s an associate professor of English at UConn.

**EVENT AGENDA**

**Introduction**
Lisa Briana Williams, who is the moderator and the series editor, will begin the event by introducing the panelists and the series that features diverse, global, and multigenerational voices across genres.

**Readings**
The four panelists, Rion Amilcar Scott, Manini Nayar Samarth, Yvette Lisa Ndlovu, and Serkan Görkemli will give a brief introduction to their work and read from it for 8 minutes each.

**Discussion**
The moderator will then start discussion with a list of questions for about 15 minutes, focusing on the following:

**Diversity:** Writing about identity at the intersections of multiple storytelling traditions, languages, and cross-cultural and national histories of marginalization.

**Craft:** Structuring and submitting a short-story collection; benefits and questions re: publishing debut fiction with a university press.

**Q&A**
The event will end with a 15-minute audience Q&A.