**Event title:** *Hybridity and the case of the active reader*

**Event Description:** Contemporary writers turn to hybridity to grapple with social upheaval and political uncertainty at this critical time. This panel looks at how poets hybridize their work and teach their readership to dissolve genre borders, while asking for a curious and active response from their audience to the way poetry blurs, disrupts, and alters genres. Authors of recent poetry collections will gather to read work that negotiates hybridity as a creative space through linguistic innovation and inquiry.

**Event Category:** Poetry Readings Event

**Event Organizer:** Clara Burghelea

**Event Moderator:** Clara Burghelea

**Event Participants and Short Biographies:**

**Clara Burghelea** (she/her) is a Romanian-born poet, editor, and translator. Winner of the Robert Muroff Prize in Poetry, she received her MFA in Poetry from Adelphi University. Her second collection *Praise the Unburied* was published in 2021 with Chaffinch Press.

**Felicia Zamora** is the author of six poetry collections including *I Always Carry My Bones* (Iowa Poetry Prize). Her poems appear in *Boston Review, Guernica, Orion, The Nation*, and others. She is an associate professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati and poetry editor for *CO Review*.

**Lauren Brazeal Garza** is a Ph.D. candidate in literature at UT Dallas. Her published poetry collections include *Gutter*, which chronicles her homelessness as a teenager. Her recent work includes an epistolary novel of poems and flash fiction that features fictional interviews with Texan ghosts.

**Jennifer Militello** is the author of the memoir in essays *Knock Wood* as well as five collections of poetry: *The Pact; A Camouflage of Specimens and Garments; Body Thesaurus; Flinch of Song; and Anchor Chain, Open Sail*. She teaches in the MFA program at New England College.

**Sam Moe** (she/her) is a queer writer of multiple genres with three poetry books published or forthcoming. She received her PhD in creative writing from Illinois State University and her MFA in creative writing from Converse College. Sam currently teaches at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Welcome to *Hybridity and the case of the active reader*

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.

**Moderator:** Hello, my name is Clara Burghelea. Here on the panel with me are Felicia Zamora, Lauren Brazeal Garza, Jenifer Militello and Sam Moe.

**Participant opening remarks, initial thoughts, or readings**

**Moderator Questions:**

1. What happens when a piece of writing defies the parameters of its assigned genre, coming to inhabit an in-between elusive space?
2. How is hybridity reflected in your own work? How do you creatively engage with hybridity?
3. How can writers take a freer approach to hybridity while considering the process, the content, and the form of the final piece?
4. How does hybrid writing challenge the reader? Does it require an active reader eager to embrace a versatility that transcends conventional genres?

**Responses of each participant to the moderator’s questions**

**Q&A Session**