AWP 2024: Bad Immigrant Daughters in Fiction and Nonfiction

Event Outline

The moderator will begin by welcoming attendees and describing how the reading came together (3 min). Each of the five panelists, including the moderator, will take turns introducing themselves and reading from their own work for seven minutes each (35 min). The panelists will engage in a group discussion (22-27 min) which may include the following questions:

- What makes you or your characters a “bad immigrant daughter”?
- Why does this theme resonate for you?
- Rebellion against parents is a pretty universal theme, but adding cultural differences makes for especially potent storytelling. What are some of your favorite stories in this vein?
- A lot of immigrant stories are about parent-child conflict and ultimately, different ways of expressing love and overcoming generational trauma to heal. What, in the end, bridges the gap for you and allows you or your characters to be a “good immigrant daughter”?

The reading will end with an audience Q&A (10-15 min).

Panelists

- Monica Macansantos is the author of the essay collection *Returning to My Father’s Kitchen* (Northwestern University Press, 2025) and the story collection *Love and Other Rituals*. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Colorado Review, Hopkins Review, LitHub*, and *Electric Literature*, among others.
- Lisa Chiu is a Taiwanese American writer whose work has appeared in McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, People Magazine, the Mercury News, the Plain Dealer, and several anthologies. She writes about family, food, culture and community and is working on a memoir, Hungry Ghost.
- Lindsay Wong is the author of the award-winning, bestselling memoir *The Woo-Woo*, a finalist for Canada Reads 2019. She has written a YA novel, *My Summer of Love and Misfortune*, and short story collection entitled *Tell Me Pleasant Things About Immortality*. She teaches at the University of Winnipeg.
- (Moderator) Grace Loh Prasad writes about belonging and diaspora. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times, Longreads, Catapult, KHŌRA*, and elsewhere. Her memoir *The Translator’s Daughter* will be published in 2024 by Machete, an imprint of Mad Creek Books/The Ohio State University Press.
- 5th panelist TBD