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**CONTEMPORARY CULTURES OF WRITING – Autumn 2018 seminars**

**DATES:** 6th November – 21st November – 5th December

**TIME:** All seminars take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 5.30-7.30pm

**Venue**: Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

 [Venue map for Senate House](http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us). See [further information](http://www.open.ac.uk/arts/research/contemporary-cultures-of-writing/events/diverse-voices) about the seminars

**Diverse Voices: Creative Writing Today**

These seminars will be looking at key issues relating to diversity and artistic practice in creative writing today. The importance of representing a range of different voices in the public sphere and ensuring that the fields of writing, publishing, and editing reflect such diversity has never been more relevant. This series will focus on fiction, poetry, and the current state of the publishing industry, and ways in which issues of identity, race, class and disability are addressed by creative writers.

The seminars are free and take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 17.30 – 19.30 in November and December. All seminars will be held at Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London.

* **SEMINAR 1: Diversity in Publishing**

**Tuesday November 6th, Room 246**

This seminar will focus on diversity in fiction and publishing. Writers and publishing professionals will discuss issues of representation in publishing and the degree to which these debates are influenced by the zeitgeist, and we will also have a reading from last year’s winner of the Guardian 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize.

Speakers include Danuta Kean, freelance journalist, Books Editor for Mslexia magazine and editor of ‘Writing the Future: Black and Asian novelists and publishers in the UK marketplace’ (2015); Niki Chang, agent with The Good Literary Agency; and Lisa Smith, former documentary maker and winner of the Guardian 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize.

* **SEMINAR 2: Poets on Their Craft: The Difficult Second Collection**

**Wednesday November 21st, Room G37**

Three acclaimed BAME poets will discuss the challenges and pleasures of working on a second collection, addressing such topics as how their writing changed between collections, what unexpected developments or obstacles arose, and how their procedures, poetics, and critical sensibilities were shaped by the experience of being published.

Speakers include Khairani Barokka, a PhD researcher in the Visual Cultures Department at Goldsmiths College, London; Hannah Lowe, Lecturer in Creative Writing at Brunel University and Poet-in-Residence at Keats House, London; and Vidyan Ravinthiran, Senior Lecturer in North American Literature at the University of Birmingham.

* **SEMINAR 3: Reflecting Disability** **in the Creative Writing PhD**

**Wednesday December 5th, Room G37**

Former PhD students will be talking about the way they have represented disability in their novels.

Speakers include Emma Claire Sweeney, author of *Owl Song at Dawn*; Ed Hogan, author of *The Electric*; and Jarred McGinnis, an Associate Writer for Spread the Word, a mentor for the Word Factory, a fellow of the London Library’s T.S. Eliot Emerging Writer Programme and a Writer-in-Residence for First Story.

Organized by the OU’s [Contemporary Cultures of Writing Research Group](http://www.open.ac.uk/arts/research/contemporary-cultures-of-writing/)in collaboration with the [Institute of English Studies](https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/), University of London.

If you have any queries regarding this seminar series, please contact the series convenors, Dr Sally O'Reilly, Lecturer in Creative Writing (sally.oreilly@open.ac.uk), or Dr Jane Yeh, Lecturer in Creative Writing (jane.yeh@open.ac.uk), Department of English and Creative Writing, the Open University.

See [here](http://www.open.ac.uk/arts/research/contemporary-cultures-of-writing/events/diverse-voices) for further information about the series.