AWP Presentation Outline: From Magnolias to Meth: Place in the Southern Short Story
1:45pm - 3:00pm on Thursday March 5, 2020

Event Description: The landscape of the South is radically different from the days of Faulkner and O’Connor. Both urban and rural settings have been impacted by immigration, class inequities, and shifting cultural values. In a world where travel and technology have blurred regional differences, what does it even mean to be "southern"? Five writers seek to define and identify the expanding boundaries of the new south and discuss the impact these global markers have had on their Southern fiction.

Presentation Outline:
Panelists will each speak briefly (no more than ten minutes per panelist) offering opinions about some of the following topics: the boundaries of regionalism, traditional definitions of the south, how race, class, sexuality, and ethnicity impact what it means to be “southern,” and how these new landscapes are reflected in contemporary short fiction. If applicable, the panelists may refer to brief excerpts from their own work.

The order of presenters is as follows:
1. Susan Finch (moderator and panelist) – Susan will introduce the panelists. Discussion A Tourist in my Hometown: the changing south and cliché expectations
2. Michael Croley: Place as Character
3. Angela Mitchell: Beyond the Clampetts: writing about the Ozarks and its troubles with authenticity and compassion.
4. Stephanie Watts Powell: The Haunted South and Your Ghosts Ain't Like My Ghosts.
5. Crystal Wilkinson: TBD

Following these short, prepared presentations, the panelists will open the floor to questions from the audience.