

1) Event Title: Lambda Literary Fellows on Transnational and Intersectional Queer Fiction

2) Type of Event: Fiction Craft and Criticism

3) Event Description: Recent fiction has increasingly featured diverse local and global representations of queer identities. But the concept of queerness also conveys a non-normative, nonessentialist, anti-identity stance. Mindful of this inherent tension, this panel of 2018 Lambda Literary fellows engages with the following questions: What forms does, and can, queerness take in fiction? And what roles do nationality and intersectionality play in how queer writers explore questions of identity?

4) Event moderator and participants:

Moderator: Serkan Gorkemli (serkan.gorkemli@uconn.edu)

Participant: Natasha Dennerstein  
(natasha.dennerstein@gmail.com)

Participant: Javi Fuentes (writejawrite@gmail.com)

Participant: Melissa Nigro (mknigro@gmail.com)

5) Genres under discussion: Short story and novel

This panel is organized as follows:

- The moderator will introduce each panelist and open the panel with a brief discussion of the three concepts central to the proposed panel: Queer, transnationalism, and intersectionality (see the definitions at the end of this outline). (10 minutes)
- The panelists engage with the question “What forms does, and can, queerness take in fiction?” drawing on their

knowledge of LGBTQ literature and/or their own writing. (15 minutes)

- They read from their work (illustrative of the issues identified in the panel description in the conference program; 5 minutes each; 20 minutes total).
- They engage with the question “What roles do nationality and/or intersectionality play in how you explore questions of identity in your writing?” (15 minutes)
- Q&A with the audience (15 minutes)

*Central Concepts:*

- **Queer:** Queer is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual or are not cisgender. Originally meaning "strange" or "peculiar," queer came to be used pejoratively against those with same-sex desires or relationships in the late 19th century. Beginning in the late 1980s, queer activists, such as the members of Queer Nation, began to reclaim the word as a deliberately provocative and politically radical alternative to the more assimilationist branches of the LGBT community.
- **Transnationalism:** Transnationalism is a social phenomenon and scholarly research agenda grown out of the heightened interconnectivity between people and the receding economic and social significance of boundaries among nation states. In the case of sexuality and for the purposes of this panel, transnationalism refers to both the historical origins and ongoing dissemination of cultural norms regarding gender and sexuality within and across nations through multiple means, including fiction.

- Intersectionality: Intersectionality, also referred to as intersectional feminism, is a branch of feminism which identifies how different aspects of social and political discrimination overlap with gender. It is an analytic framework that identifies how interlocking systems of power affect those who are most marginalized in society. The term was coined by black feminist scholar Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw in 1989. There are various forms of social stratification, such as class, race, sexual orientation, age, religion, creed, disability and gender, which are included in the consideration of intersectional feminism and its social and cultural effects. The purpose of intersectionality is to identify that these forms of discrimination are related to one another, and take these relationships into account when working to promote social and political equity.