

Literary Impostordom: Do I Deserve To Be In This Room?

Category: Artistic & Professional Stewardship

Expanded Description:

Impostor syndrome, the conviction that we're uniquely untalented, underqualified, and undeserving, afflicts students, authors, editors, and teachers. However, there's a difference between lacking confidence in our own voices and lacking the support we need to write and work because of race, gender, and class barriers. Our panelists work in different genres and at different career points. We'll discuss practical ways we work through impostor syndrome, from submitting work to living up to hype; we'll discuss confidence and belonging as cultural, political topics in the face of all-too-real barriers. Our survival and success require serious conversations and visions for creating truly welcoming, sustaining literary communities.

In particular, we will discuss strategies for attendees—from beginners to Fulbright scholars—overwhelmed by feelings of impostordom in our literary careers—and while attending AWP 2020! We will discuss insecurity, marginalization, success, and literary citizenship in practical and political terms, leaving room for audience questions.

We'll update our materials closer to the event, providing a list of discussion questions and points. Thank you!

PANELISTS:

Elisa Gonzalez

Short Bio: Elisa M. Gonzalez is a Puerto Rican writer raised in Ohio. Her work appears in Harvard Review, Hyperallergic, the New Yorker, and elsewhere. A 2016-2018 U.S. Fulbright scholar in Poland, she has also received fellowships from Yale University, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and Rolex Foundation.

Minda Honey

Short Bio: Minda Honey is a professional writer whose work has been featured by Longreads, the Oxford American, the Guardian, Playboy, Vice and elsewhere. She writes a relationship advice column for her local alt-weekly and is an assistant professor and director of the creative writing BFA program at Spalding.

Alison Kinney (mod)

Short Bio: Alison Kinney is the author of Hood (Bloomsbury Publishing) and of essays for The Paris Review Daily, The New Yorker, Harper's, Lapham's Quarterly, and The New York Times. In 2019 she became Assistant Professor of Writing (Nonfiction) at Eugene Lang College at The New School.

Marisa Siegel

Short Bio: Marisa Siegel lives, writes, and edits near NYC. She holds an MFA in Poetry from Mills College in Oakland, CA. Her poems have appeared in Handsome, Zaum, (T)here, and elsewhere. Her essay Inherited Anger appears in the anthology Burn It Down. She is Editor-in-Chief and owner of The Rumpus.

Rafia Zakaria

Short Bio: Rafia Zakaria is the author of *The Upstairs Wife: An Intimate History of Pakistan* (Beacon Press) that was named one of the best non-fiction titles of 2015 by Newsweek Magazine and *Veil* (Bloomsbury 17). She is a columnist for Dawn Pakistan and writes the "Read Other Women" Series at the Boston Review.