

Tentative List of Translation-Related Events at #AWP22

This list of accepted events for the 2022 Conference & Bookfair is tentative. The final conference schedule will be posted later this year at awpwriter.org.

Panels

A Reading and Conversation with Krystyna Dąbrowska (Karen Kovacik, Antonia Lloyd-Jones, Mira Rosenthal, Krystyna Dąbrowska)

In-person event

A bilingual reading by Krystyna Dąbrowska, one of Poland's most acclaimed younger poets, and her three award-winning translators, followed by a conversation on multiple techniques for translating the same poet, as well as collaborative strategies for promoting her work throughout the English-speaking world. Known for her inviting poems that investigate cultural exchange, family history, and language itself, Dąbrowska is the winner of Poland's distinguished Wisława Szymborska Prize.

A Tribute to Monica A. Hand: Poet, Playwright, Translator, Mentor, Activist (Alik Barnstone, Cornelius Eady, Rebecca Pelky, Evangelia -Liana- Sakelliou)

In-person event

Monica A. Hand (1953-2016) was a brilliant poet, playwright, book artist, translator, Cave Canem Fellow, mentor, and activist. Her poetry books, *me and Nina* (2012), winner of the 2010 Kinereth Gensler Award, and *The DiVida Poems* (A2018) reveal a profound, major voice for the experiences of African Americans, women, artists, peace, and social justice. Panelists will talk about her, read her poems, and show images of one of our most beloved poets whose loss is felt all over the world.

Crossing Languages: From First Draft to Publication, Sponsored by ALTA (Susan Ayres, Sophia Kouidou-Giles, Areg Azatyan)

In-person event

This multi-genre panel focuses on strategies for international authors or their translators seeking to publish a translation of the work in English, as well as for international authors living in the US seeking to publish the work in their native country. From Greek memoir to Armenian fiction to Mexican poetry, the panelists will address the challenges faced by authors or by literary translators in spanning cultural differences and in bringing the manuscript to US readers.

Disrupting the Lexicon: Making Meaning with Polyglot Texts (Amy Brill, Nathalie Handal, Ru Freeman, Courtney Maum, Rosa Alcalá)

In-person event

Poets and novelists who collectively speak ten languages will explore how words, phrases, and cadences in other languages--in or out of translation--help create meaning, context, atmosphere, and connection in English-language texts. Are there 'rules' for writing with multiple languages? Who makes them? Whom do they serve? What are practical, artistic, and ethical considerations for writers incorporating other languages? How does language inform the way we navigate and write the world?

Dreamed Country: Mapping the Intergenerational Geographies of Immigrant Writers (Miguel Coronado, Bruna Dantas Lobato, Valeriya Kipnis, Rosemarie Ho)

In-person event

How do immigrant identities locate “belonging” in their writing, from first-generation and onwards? To what extent does an immigrant, or a child of immigrants, remain in a third, imagined country, somewhere between nostalgia and dreaming? Panelists, first and second-generation writers themselves, will discuss the ways in which their work explores liminal spaces, radical utopias, unplaceable longing, and their experiences with their own messy, personal geographies.

Embracing Bilingual Writing and Bicultural Narratives (Ofelia Montelongo, Gloria Muñoz, Roxana Calderón, María Isabel Alvarez, Ernesto Abeytia)

In-person event

From the many phrases and words that can't be literally translated to all of those cultural differences, these five Latin American/Hispanic writers will share how they navigate and balance both languages in their work. The writers on this panel explore the advantages and the importance of bilingual writing across genres and how mixing language (code-switching), culture, and literary traditions helps them to find their unique voice while reflecting on the struggles found along their journeys.

Not Just for Scholars: How to Publish Fiction and Memoir with University Presses (Sharon Harrigan, Kelly Fordon, Anjali Enjeti, Dennis Lloyd, Yang Huang)

In-person event

As the number of big commercial publishers contracts, university presses offer an essential alternative. Almost 90 are actively acquiring creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translations. But information on their interests and procedures is not always easy to find. This diverse panel features one university press director and four acclaimed writers of multiple genres, published by a range of university presses. They guide you through the publishing process, from submission to distribution.

The Poet's Voice: Conversations with the Archive (Diana Marie Delgado, Julie Swarstad Johnson, Allison Adelle Hedge Coke, Francisco Aragón, Urayoán Noel)

In-person event

Poetry Centered, a new podcast from the University of Arizona Poetry Center, invites poets to curate selections from Voca, the Center's online audiovisual archive of 1,000+ recorded readings from 1963 to today. In each episode, new constellations of meaning emerge, coalescing as intergenerational conversations across time and space. The producers and three poets who have hosted episodes will reflect on voices they encountered in the archive and how this experience shaped their present thinking.

The Spillover: The Translator's Memoir/Novel/Imaginary Epistolary Dialog (Marcela Sulak, John Keene, Liliana Valenzuela, Judy Halebsky)

In-person event

Four writers translating between English, Japanese, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, French, and Hebrew (over)whelm the conventions that separate reading and writing, writing and translation. They reflect on how their own writing continues their affective, political, and transcultural work of translating literary texts. In their work, they attend to the consequent reconfigurations of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and status that are marked by language and which change over time.

Translating Trauma: Poetry, Self & Other (Yolande Schutter, Dan Kraines, Catherine Pond)

In-person event

Trauma is universal, but since 2020 it has become vital that we explore our relationship to trauma and our translation of that trauma into words, between languages, from ourselves to others and from others to ourselves. This panel will explore personal and political traumas and their translations in and out of language and meaning across a variety of poetry, examining the wider implications of translation beyond just its literary usage.

Translingual poetics, Transgression & Resistance (Clara Burghilea, Brenda Cárdenas, Joan Naviyuk Kane, Beatrice Szymkowiak)

In-person event

Poets and translators discuss how translingualism, defined by Dowling as "a set of strategies by which writers engage with diverse linguistic codes in ways that are context-dependent," can constitute transgressive acts of resistance, in contexts where political, patriarchal and settler colonial powers have encoded hierarchical values to languages, bodies and cultures. They consider interlingual dynamics and tensions between translatability and untranslatability at play in translingual poetics.

Voices of Exile: Translating a Lost Homeland, Sponsored by ALTA (Nancy Naomi Carlson, Ye Chun, Mauricio Espinoza, Jennifer Rathbun, Russel Valentino)

In-person event

Exile has inspired a diverse body of literature from around the world. Translating exile-themed writing takes into consideration the cultural, historical, personal, and especially political differences unique to each language and country. This panel of writers and scholars, translating

from such languages as Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Chinese, French, and Spanish, will briefly discuss, then read bilingual examples of the many faces of exile, then address audience questions.

Writing South-East Asia Away From The Western Gaze (Jeremy Tiang, YZ Chin, Sunisa Manning, Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint, Gina Apostol)

In-person event

How can we tell our stories on our own terms? Five Anglophone writers from Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand talk about reclaiming perspectives and writing that does not pander to orientalist expectations. What does it mean to use English, an imperial language, in this decolonial work, particularly in such multicultural, multilingual countries, and what is the role of translation in navigating this cultural and linguistic fluidity?

Deep Vellum Presents: New Immigrant Writers (Sebastián Páramo, Fowzia Karimi, Sophia Terazawa, Taisia Kitaiskaia, Mike Soto)

Virtual event

In 2020, Deep Vellum, a press with its origins in publishing works in translation, made the decision to publish stateside authors. By happenstance, many of the debut authors were children of immigrants. Sophia Terazawa, Taisia Kitaiskaia, Mike Soto, Fowzia Karimi discuss their work and what it means to be American authors publishing alongside works in translation.

Future Memory and the Construction of a Decolonial Digital Archive (Ricardo Alberto Maldonado, Raquel Salas Rivera, Enrique Olivares Pesante, Claire Jiménez)

Virtual event

This panel focuses on the challenges, methodologies, and drives involved in the creation of a decolonial archive of Puerto Rican literature. It addresses how interviewing writers, translating, working with institutions, and digitizing materials can create a lasting open-access source during a period in which the archipelago's educational resources are being privatized and the gap between institutional access and inter-community literary production is widening in both archipiélago and diáspora.

L'Chaim! Celebrating Jewish Poetry in the Third Millennium (Matthew Silverman, Nancy Naomi Carlson, Ilya Kaminsky, Joy Ladin, Zilka Joseph)

Virtual event

What is "a Jewish poem"? Come find out as we read from 101 Jewish Poems for the Third Millennium, a new anthology, featuring voices that range from emerging to established, both Jewish and non-Jewish, as well as several translations. The themes range from observing Jewish traditions to more modern ones such as same-sex marriage and non-faith. With the rise in Antisemitism and other hate crimes in this country, it is more important now than ever before to celebrate diversity.

Your Casa Is My Casa (Bilingual Mixed Media Event for Anthology Home in Florida) (Anjanette Delgado, Carlos Pintado, Hernan Vera Alvarez, Dainerys Machado, Caridad Moro-Gronlier)

Virtual event

A bilingual version, with a new roster of participants, of the home tour/reading events we proposed here to discuss themes of home, displacement, and rerooting in aid of diverse literature. These authors had one more barrier: their work had to be translated or re-conceived to reflect their uprootedness for this book, giving us a view we seldom see: the path of the writer before he becomes acculturated. What happens to the work of those "just-arriveds? Is it lost? How can we prevent it, if so?

Discussion Rooms

Eternal Curse to Anyone Who Writes Only in English: Bilingual lit in the U.S. (Sara Cordon, Jeffrey Peer, Antonio Diaz Oliva, Ulises Gonzales)

In-person event

Latinx and Hispanic books written in Spanish are systematically underrepresented in the U.S. With a literary market in which only a 3% of books are translated, and with English as the lingua franca of globalization, writing and publishing in a different language in the U.S. is an act of resistance. In this panel, writers, academics, and editors (Chatos Inhumanos publishing; Los Bárbaros magazine; Suburbano publishing; CUNY) will discuss why we need more bilingual instances now more than ever.

Translation: The Alternative MFA, Sponsored by ALTA (Becka McKay, Derick Mattern)

In-person event

Many translators now begin their careers in MFA programs, while those writing original texts in English are increasingly finding their way into translation workshops. Even as translators learn their craft by writing creatively, many writers learn come into their voice via translation and an engagement with international literature. What can translation programs offer writers and what can writing programs offer translators?

Readings

Poetry of Iran and Its Diaspora (Christopher Nelson, Kaveh Bassiri, Sholeh Wolpé, Athena Farrokhzad, Armen Davoudian)

In-person event

This reading features four of the most significant poets and translators of Iran or Iranian descent. They are representatives of an anthology published by Green Linden Press in September, 2021, *Essential Voices: Poetry of Iran and Its Diaspora*, which includes 130 poets and translators from 10 countries. Collectively the readers explore themes of identity, oppression, freedom, language, translation, and the potential for poetry to help us understand and navigate social and political complexity.

Translingual Philadelphia: A Reading by the Transversal Translation Collective (Elizabeth Rose, Hilah Kohen, Nicholas Glastonbury, Meg Arenberg, Carlos José Pérez Sámano)

In-person event

Transversal is a translation collective formed during the pandemic to give translators in the Philadelphia area and across the world a virtual place to form connections, build accountability, and share work and resources. A diverse assemblage of language pairs, backgrounds, and abilities, Transversal has quickly become an important gathering space for many. Five translators from the collective will contextualize their work, share insights into translator solidarity, and give a bilingual reading.

In the Cosmopolis of Memory: Women's Voices On Cultural Selfhood in a Globalized (Alison Mandaville, Samina Najmi, Shadab Hashmi, Zeina Hashem Beck, Deema Shahabi)

Virtual event

Setting and place are at the center of our stories and identities – yet globalization and territorial violences create “belonging” as a complex concept. How do we place ourselves in our writing? Braving political strife, war, displacement coupled with traumas of misrepresentation by dominant narratives, five women who write and/or translate poetry, fiction, memoir, grounded in (global) Lebanese, Azerbaijani, Palestinian and Pakistani cultures recast histories and cultures in their own voices.

New Poetry from Graywolf Press (Tracy K. Smith, Vijay Seshadri, Jim Moore, Donika Kelly, Solmaz Sharif)

Virtual event

Five extraordinary poets will present and read from their new collections published by Graywolf Press, one of the leading independent publishers in the country. In singular, profound voices, these poets reckon with the gravity of what it is to witness and live through the vital struggles and issues of our time—colonialism, domestic violence, police murders, racism, sexuality, existential grief, mortality—and, with care, disrupt the borders between our interior and political realities.