

Bennington Writing Seminars Hosts Acclaimed Authors and Faculty in January 2019 Writers Reading Series

Bennington, VT: From January 3 - 11, critically acclaimed, award-winning authors and faculty of the Bennington Writing Seminars will host [Writers Reading](#), an evening reading series during the MFA program's winter residency. All events are free, open to the public, and will take place in the **Tishman Lecture Hall** on the College's campus.

On [Thurs. January 3 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Douglas Bauer](#) and [Carmen Giménez Smith](#). Douglas Bauer's works include the novel *The Very Air*, which was a New and Noteworthy selection from *The New York Times Book Review*, and *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death*, winner of the 2014 PEN/New England Book Award for Non-Fiction. Carmen Giménez Smith is the author of seven books, including *Milk and Filth*, a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry, and the recent release *Cruel Futures*.

On [Fri. January 4 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Jenny Boully](#) and [David Gates](#). Jenny Boully is the author of *Betwixt-and-Between: Essays on the Writing Life, not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them*, *The Books of Beginnings and Endings: Essays, [one love affair]*, of the mismatched teacups, of the single-serving spoon: a book of failures*, *The Body: An Essay*, and a chapbook of prose, *Moveable Types*. David Gates is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, as well as two collections of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World* and *A Hand Reached Down to Guide Me*.

On [Sat. January 5 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Benjamin Anastas](#) and [Lynne Sharon Schwartz](#). A standout among his many books and essays, Benjamin Anastas's novel *An Underachiever's Diary* has been called "the funniest, most underappreciated novel of the '90s." Lynne Sharon Schwartz is the author of 25 books and the editor of *Crossing Borders*, an anthology of stories and essays about translation.

On [Sun. January 6 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Deirdre McNamer](#) and [Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#). Deirdre McNamer is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, *My Russian*, and *Red Rover*, which was named to the Best Books of 2007 lists of *Artforum*, *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times*. Natalie Scenters-Zapico is a poet who holds fellowships from the Lannan Foundation and CantoMundo. She is the author of *The Verging Cities*, winner of the PEN American/Joyce Osterweil Award, Great Lakes Colleges

Association Award, National Association of Chicana/o Studies Book Award, and the Utah Book Award.

On [Mon. January 7 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [J. Mae Barizo](#), [Hannah Howard](#), and [Erin Kate Ryan](#). J. Mae Barizo is the author of *The Cumulus Effect* and a prize-winning poet, critic, and performer whose recent work appears in *AGNI*, *Bookforum*, *Boston Review*, *Iowa Review*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. Hannah Howard is the author of the Amazon bestselling memoir *Feast: True Love in and Out of the Kitchen*. Erin Kate Ryan's fiction has been published in hundreds of real and imaginary journals, such as *Glimmer Train*, *Conjunctions*, and *The Normal School*.

On [Wed. January 9 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Derek Palacio](#) and [Craig Morgan Teicher](#). Derek Palacio is the author of the novella *How to Shake the Other Man* and the novel *The Mortifications*. Craig Morgan Teicher is the author of three books of poetry, most recently *The Trembling Answers*, which won the 2017 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets.

On [Thurs. January 10 at 7:30 PM](#) (**note:** later time), Writers Reading welcomes [Sarah Messer](#) and [Alice Mattison](#). Sarah Messer is the author of four books: *Red House*, a hybrid history/memoir; *Having Once Paused: Poems of Zen Master Ikkyu*, a book of translations; and the poetry books *Bandit Letters* and *Dress Made of Mice*. Alice Mattison's newest novels are *Conscience* and *The Kite and the String: How to Write with Spontaneity and Control—and Live to Tell the Tale*. Several of her novels and story collections have been *New York Times* Notable Books or Editors' Choices, including the novels *When We Argued All Night* and *The Book Borrower* and the story collection *In Case We're Separated*, which won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction.

On [Fri. January 11 at 7:00 PM](#), Writers Reading welcomes [Garth Greenwell](#) and [Mark Wunderlich](#). Garth Greenwell is the author of *What Belongs to You*, which won the British Book Award for Debut of the Year, was longlisted for the National Book Award, and was a finalist for six other awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. Mark Wunderlich is the author of *The Anchorage* and received the Lambda Literary Award for *Voluntary Servitude*. His collection *The Earth Avails* was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award and received the 2015 Rilke Prize. He is director of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

About Writers Reading

Writers Reading is a hallmark series of the Bennington Writing Seminars, a two-year low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing program with ten-day residencies in January and June. During the Seminars, students work closely with distinguished and actively publishing faculty, their path determined by the reading discipline as well as the production of original work. The mission of the Seminars is to connect the emerging writer with much of the best that has been done and to cultivate the critical skills that serve the writing as much as the reading.

About the Authors

[Benjamin Anastas](#) is the author of the novels *An Underachiever's Diary* and *The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance*. His memoir *Too Good to Be True* was a national bestseller, and his essays, reviews, journalism, and short fiction have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, *Bookforum*, and *The Best American Essays*. He has been the recipient of a Lannan Foundation residency fellowship and a Bogliasco Fellowship from the Liguria Study Center in Italy. He is fiction editor of *Bennington Review*.

[J. Mae Barizo](#) (Poetry '11) is the author of *The Cumulus Effect* and a prize-winning poet, critic, and performer whose recent work appears in *AGNI*, *Bookforum*, *Boston Review*, *Iowa Review*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She is the recipient of fellowships and awards from Bennington College, the Jerome Foundation, and Poets House. Recent collaborations include projects with artists such as Salman Rushdie, Mark Morris, and the American String Quartet. She teaches at The New School and lives in New York City.

[Douglas Bauer](#) has published three novels: *Dexterity*; *The Very Air*, which was a New and Noteworthy selection from the *New York Times Book Review*; and *The Book of Famous Iowans*, a *New York Times* Notable Book. Bauer's non-fiction books include *Prairie City*, *Iowa: Three Seasons at Home*; *The Stuff of Fiction: Advice on Craft*; and *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death*, which won the 2014 PEN/New England Book Award for Non-Fiction. His work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *Tin House*, *AGNI*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Massachusetts Review*. He has received grants from The National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

[Jenny Bouilly](#) is the author of *Betwixt-and-Between: Essays on the Writing Life, not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them*, *The Books of Beginnings and Endings*:

Essays, [one love affair], of the mismatched teacups, of the single-serving spoon: a book of failures, The Body: An Essay*, and a chapbook of prose, *Moveable Types*. Her work has been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry*, *The Next American Essay*, *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, and other places. Born in Thailand, she was reared in Texas.

[David Gates](#) is the author of the novels *Jernigan* and *Preston Falls*, as well as two collections of stories, *The Wonders of the Visible World* and *A Hand Reached Down to Guide Me*. Gates's fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Tin House*, *Granta*, *The Oxford American*, *The Journal of Country Music*, and in *Newsweek*, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He has received a Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award.

[Carmen Giménez Smith](#) is the author of seven books including *Milk and Filth*, a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry, and most recently, *Cruel Futures*, published by City Lights. She was awarded an American Book Award for *Bring Down the Little Birds* and the Juniper Prize for Poetry for her collection *Goodbye, Flicker*. She also co-edited *Angels of the Americlypse: New Latin@ Writing* (Counterpath Press, 2014). She is a co-director for CantoMundo, publisher of Noemi Press, and a Professor of English at Virginia Tech. With Steph Burt, she is poetry editor of *The Nation*. Her next poetry collection, *Be Recorder*, will be published by Graywolf Press in August 2019.

[Garth Greenwell](#) is the author of *What Belongs to You*, which won the British Book Award for Debut of the Year, was longlisted for the National Book Award, and was a finalist for six other awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, it was named a Best Book of 2016 by more than fifty publications in nine countries and is being translated into eleven languages. His short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *A Public Space*, and *VICE*, and he has written criticism for *The New Yorker*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. His forthcoming book *Clean* will be published by FSG in early 2020.

[Hannah Howard](#) (Nonfiction '18) spent her formative years eating, drinking, serving, bartending, cooking on a hot line, flipping giant wheels of cheese, and managing restaurants. She is the author of the Amazon bestselling memoir *Feast: True Love in and Out of the Kitchen*. Hannah is

a graduate of Columbia University and the Bennington Writing Seminars. She writes for *SELF*, *New York Magazine*, and *Salon*, and lives in New York City.

[Alice Mattison's](#) new novel is *Conscience. The Kite and the String: How to Write with Spontaneity and Control—and Live to Tell the Tale* is available in paperback. Several of her previous novels and story collections have been *New York Times* Notable Books or Editors' Choices, including the novels *When We Argued All Night* and *The Book Borrower* and the story collection *In Case We're Separated*, which won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Mattison's stories, poems, and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Ecotone* and have been reprinted in *The Pushcart Prize*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*.

[Deirdre McNamer](#) is the author of four novels: *Rima in the Weeds*, *One Sweet Quarrel*, *My Russian*, and *Red Rover*, which was named to the Best Books of 2007 lists of *Artforum*, *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times* and won the 2007 Montana Book Award. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Outside*. She is a recipient of a 2015 Artist's Innovation Award from the Montana Arts Council, chaired the fiction panel of the National Book Awards in 2011, and was a judge for the 2015 PEN/Faulkner award.

[Sarah Messer](#) has received fellowships and grants from the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, the NEA, and the Mellon Foundation. She was a poetry fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. She is the author of four books: *Red House*, a hybrid history/memoir; *Having Once Paused: Poems of Zen Master Ikkyu*, a book of translations; and the poetry books *Bandit Letters* and *Dress Made of Mice*. She is a cheese maker at White Lotus Farms.

[Craig Morgan Teicher](#) is the author of three books of poetry, most recently *The Trembling Answers*, which won the 2017 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets. His collection of essays, *We Begin in Gladness: How Poets Progress* was published in 2018, and he is the editor of *Once and For All: The Best of Delmore Schwartz*. He also teaches at NYU and the New School and is director of special editorial projects for *Publishers Weekly*.

[Derek Palacio](#) is the author of the novella *How to Shake the Other Man* and the novel *The Mortifications*. With Claire Vaye Watkins, he is the co-director of the Mojave School, a free creative writing workshop for teenagers in rural Nevada. His short story "Sugarcane" appeared in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2013*.

[Erin Kate Ryan](#) (Fiction '14) has been published in hundreds of real and imaginary journals, such as *Glimmer Train*, *Conjunctions*, and *The Normal School*. She earned a Pushcart nomination and fellowships and grants from the Vermont Studio Center, Millay Colony, the Edward Albee Foundation, the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts, Hinge Springboard for the Arts, and the Dickinson House (Belgium). She is the 2017 James Jones First Novel Fellow, a McKnight Fellow, and recipient of a Minnesota Emerging Writers' grant (Jerome Foundation), multiple state arts board grants, and scholarships to the Sewanee and BreadLoaf Writers' Conferences. She is represented by Dorian Karchmar of William Morris Endeavors.

[Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#) is a poet who holds fellowships from the Lannan Foundation and CantoMundo. She is the author of *The Verging Cities*, winner of the PEN American/Joyce Osterweil Award, Great Lakes Colleges Association Award, National Association of Chicana/o Studies Book Award, and the Utah Book Award. Her second book, *Lima: Limón* is forthcoming. Scenters-Zapico joined the Bennington College undergraduate faculty in Fall 2018.

[Lynne Sharon Schwartz](#) is the author of 25 books and, most recently, the editor of *Crossing Borders*, an anthology of stories and essays about translation. Other books include *No Way Out But Through*; the essay collection, *This Is Where We Came In*; and the novel *Two-Part Inventions*. She has been nominated for the National Book Award, PEN/Hemingway First Novel Award, and the PEN/Faulkner Award. Schwartz has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, and the New York State Foundation for the Arts. Her writing has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and *The Best American Essays*.

[Mark Wunderlich](#) is the author of *The Anchorage* and received the Lambda Literary Award for *Voluntary Servitude*. His collection *The Earth Avails* was a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award and received the 2015 Rilke Prize. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Amy Lowell Trust and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. His work has appeared in *Slate*, *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Poetry*, *Yale Review*, *Fence*, and *Tin House*, and his poems are widely anthologized. He is the director of the Bennington Writing Seminars.

Writers Reading January 2019

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check www.bennington.edu/events for the most up-to-date information. All events are free, open to the public, and take place on [Bennington College's campus](#).

Thurs. January 3 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM

[Douglas Bauer and Carmen Giménez Smith](#)

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Douglas Bauer's works include the novel *The Very Air*, which was a New and Noteworthy selection from *The New York Times Book Review*, and *What Happens Next?: Matters of Life and Death*, winner of the 2014 PEN/New England Book Award for Non-Fiction. Carmen Giménez Smith is the author of seven books, including *Milk and Filth*, a finalist for the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry, and the recent release *Cruel Futures*.

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BENNINGTON COLLEGE WRITING SEMINARS

Steeped in the Bennington College's literary legacy, [Bennington Writing Seminars](#) is consistently named one of the top low-residency Masters of Fine Arts in Writing programs. Founded in 1994, the Seminars was one of the first low-residency graduate writing programs in the country. During this two-year, low-residency program, students commit as much to reading as to writing and conceive reading lists that strengthen and broaden their knowledge. Students perform critical literary analysis and craft bold new works of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry inspired by their discoveries. They finish with a polished thesis and a parting lecture. All this with the expert guidance of authors who, throughout individualized instruction, become familiar with and develop a stake in students' work.

Stay in touch with the Bennington literary scene, including Bennington Writing Seminars [alumni and candidates](#), via Twitter:

Bennington College: [@AtBennington](#)

Bennington Writing Seminars: [@BennMFA_Writing](#)

The Bennington Review: [@BennReview](#)

Robert Frost Stone House Museum and Bennington College: [@FrostStoneHouse](#)

Poetry@Bennington: [@BenningtonPoet](#)