

Working Writers Series

Fall 2020 Calendar

Thursday, October 15th- Xu Xi (Fiction & Non-fiction)

Craft Talk—3:30PM, via [Zoom](#)

Reading—7:30PM, via [Zoom Webinar](#)

Xu Xi is the author of thirteen books, including five novels, six collections of short fiction & essays and most recently *Insignificance: Hong Kong Stories* by Signal 8 Press; the memoir *Dear Hong Kong: An Elegy for a City* (2017), as part of Penguin's Hong Kong series for the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China. She is also editor of four anthologies of Hong Kong writing in English. Forthcoming from Nebraska University Press in March 2019 is an essay collection *This Fish Is Fowl*. A former Indonesian national, born and raised in Hong Kong, she eventually morphed into a U.S. citizen at the age of 33, having washed onto that distant shore across from Lady Liberty. These days, she splits time, unevenly, between the state of New York and the rest of the world (sightline towards that land of childhood memory, Indonesia) and mourns the loss of her beloved writing retreat in Seacliff, on the South Island of New Zealand, where she hovered, joyously, for seven years.

Thursday, November 5th- Robin Hemley (Non-fiction)

Craft Talk—3:30PM, via [Zoom](#)

Reading—7:30PM, via [Zoom Webinar](#)

Robin Hemley is an international writer, who has published a dozen books as well as essays and short stories around the world. He is the Founder and past President of NonfictionNOW, the leading international conference for literary nonfiction. He directed The Nonfiction Writing Program at The University of Iowa from 2004-2013 and is a Professor Emeritus at The University of Iowa. A past Vice President of AWP, past Faculty Chair of the low-residency MFA Program at Vermont College (now Vermont College of Fine Arts) he is currently a board member of NonfictionNOW and The Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association (APWT), and previously served as a member of the Iowa City Unesco City of Literature Board. He has won many awards for his writing, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, three Pushcart Prizes in both fiction and nonfiction, The Nelson Algren Award for Fiction from the Chicago Tribune, The Independent Press Book Award, the Governor's Award from the State of Washington, and many others, including residencies at The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, The MacDowell Colony, Varuna Writers Centre, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Hermitage, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and others. He was Jenks Chair of Creative Writing at the College of the Holy Cross and is now the Director of the Polk School of Communications at Long Island University.