

APWT

ASIA PACIFIC
WRITERS & TRANSLATORS

APWT CHINA 2016

PROGRAM AND INFORMATION



APWT ASIA PACIFIC
WRITERS & TRANSLATORS



November 24 – 26 (Guangzhou, China)

November 27 afternoon (Hong Kong)

November 28 (Macau)

Welcome!

Welcome to the Nineth Asia Pacific Writers & Translators conference.

In addition to the program, this booklet contains useful information, including help on getting around Sun Yat-sen University's South Guangzhou Campus and where to find our scheduled readings in Hong Kong and Macau. You'll also find the participants list.

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Logistics (Getting to and around the campus)



<http://www.sysu.edu.cn/2012/en/life/life 1>

CAMPUS INFORMATION:

APWT's 2016 conference is hosted by and held at the **School of Foreign Languages in the SOUTH CAMPUS**. It is **building number 258** on the above map, close to the South Gate of the campus.

The conference and workshops all take place in this building, except the offsite dinners and readings. While the map above gives you some idea of the location, we recommend you google the SOUTH campus on the link above.

The Kaifeng Hotel is by the campus North Gate.

The International Student Hostel is directly behind the School of Foreign Languages.

GETTING TO THE CAMPUS:

Our host has kindly organized for a team of volunteers who will pick up people up from the airport. If you are coming by yourself and need to take a taxi, here is the information to **show to the taxi driver:**

中山大学外国语学院 (School of Foreign Languages, Sun Yat-sen University)

地址: 广州市新港西路135号 (Address: No. 135, Xingang Xi Road, Guangzhou)

Estimated cost of taxi ride from the airport is 130 to 150 RMB.

HONG KONG

Getting there:

The train timetable can be found on this page: (<https://www.travelchinaguide.com/china-trains/guangzhou-hongkong.htm>)

Some of us aim to take the midday train from Guangzhou to Hong Kong on Sunday 27th. The train rides takes about two hours. Tickets can be purchased when there and they cost between HK\$210-HK\$250.

Venue:

In Hong Kong the readings are at **Orange Peel** from about 6 PM in Hong Kong's trendy Lang Kwai Fong District.

Address: Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguilar St, Central, Hong Kong

You can take an underground train (MTR) to Central Station and then take the midlevel escalator,. Or, catch a bus from anywhere to Cain Road, and take the escalator down the to venue.

MACAU

Getting there:

From Hong Kong to Macau, catch a Turbojet from the Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal in the Shun Tak Center on Hong Kong Island. Price: HK\$132-172 (single trip, economy class). The journey takes roughly an hour.

Venue:

Portuguese Bookshop in the old centre of Macau, Rua de S. Domingos, 16-18.

板樟堂街18号地下 葡文书局

Rua de S. Domingos, 16-18, Cidade de Macau

Contact Information:

If you have not already done so, we strongly recommend you download the WeChat app. As long as you have wifi, you can talk to or message anyone who has the WeChat app for free.

Before you leave for China, please find the following WeChat IDs and request that you connect with us. Mr Hua Yi and Ms Cindy Ai both speak English. Neither Jane nor Sanaz speak Chinese.

Here are the contact details:

Jane Camens

jane.camens@gmail.com

WeChat ID: jcamens88

Sanaz Fotouhi

sanaz@apwriters.com

Australian number (also used for What's app) - +61422 843 266

WeChat ID: Sanaz Fotouhi

Cindy Ai (Conference volunteer co-ordinator – Contact in case of Emergency)

Email: 122162470@qq.com

WeChat ID: wxid_axnhwtvd7i6222

Mr Hua Yi (Director of Administration Office, School of Foreign Languages, SYS)

huay@mail.sysu.edu.cn

WeChat ID: flsysuhuayi

Tel: (8620) 84113133

VPN - As you might know, China has an extensive internet filtering system. To bypass that – to connect to your gmail and facebook etc., you need a VPN. There are many VPN programs out there that you can install on your phone, but here is one suggestion: EXPRESS VPN. Free for 7 days.



Ideas & Realities: Creative Writing in Asia Today



Program

Off-campus events in red are additional to the conference, at participants' own expense.

Thursday 24th November: Pre-Conference book launches and open mic from 5:00 PM

VENUE: Kui Yuan Café Gallery Xuguyuan Lu, Yuexiu District. This art café in an historic district serves inexpensive light meals and alcohol. Program includes **launch by Nick Jose of Chris Raja's book, *The Burning Elephant* (Giramondo) and *Andal: The autobiography of a goddess*, translated by Priya Sarukkai Chabria and Ravi Shankar (Zubaan Books).** There will be an opportunity for people to read from their work. First come first served on the night. Let Sanaz or Jane know if you are interested to read when there.

DAY 1: Friday 25th November

8:15- 8:45 Registration	School of Foreign Languages (SFL), SYSU
Collect your program and conference badge. Be seated by 8:45 AM please.	
8:45- 9:10 Opening and Welcome from the co-hosts and VIPS.	Room 101, SFL.

9:15 - 9:45 **Opening Keynote** by [Nicholas Jose](#) **Room 101.**

“Creating Our Audience”.

Nicholas Jose’s participation is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Writing is a conversation that often begins with the writer’s own community, including editors, publishers, reviewers, critics and other writers. For Asian and Pacific writers this can be complicated, with borders of language and culture to be crossed, and barriers to the way work becomes available. We need to expand the conversational community. We are our own best advocates and provocateurs. We can create our own audience.

9:45 - 10:00 Tea/Coffee Break

WORKSHOP: 10:00 - 12:15

Travel Writing in the 21st Century with [Robin Hemley](#). **Room 301**

How do you write about place in a way that makes the place new? How do you write about a place that’s been written about many times before, Venice, for instance, or Paris? In the 21st century, who is the travel writer’s audience and what are the ethical responsibilities of the travel writer? After all, writing about the most unspoiled beach in the world will surely spoil it. Travel literature is not necessarily for the leisure class but for those who wish to have a better perspective on their own sense of the world and place.

DAY 1: 10:00 - 11:15

Panel 1: Little Fish, Big Ponds: Hooking an International Publisher
Room 210

It’s every writer’s dream to get published and reach an international status. This panel brings together a group from the publishing industry to talk about the processes and challenges.

[Neeta Gupta](#), [Jo Lusby](#), [Alexandra Büchler](#), [David Lopez-del Amo](#), and [Rachel Edwards](#) talk with [Nury Vittachi](#).

Panel 2: Creative Writing in the Academy
Room 305

In many academic institutions there is a parallel life between academia and creative writing where the two don’t seem to meet. Does the academy value creative writing enough? What is the place of creative writing in academia today?

[Lucy Neave](#), [Dai Fan](#), [Ralph Semino Galan](#) and [Tim Tomlinson](#). Moderated by [Jose Dalisay](#).

Panel 3: Tales from Downunder
Room 312

Australia is home to people from different cultures and backgrounds. So, what is the Australian story? Who gets to narrate it? In this panel diverse Australian narrators and writers tell their stories.

[Omar Musa](#), [Melissa Lucashenko](#), [Julie Koh](#), [Benjamin Law](#) and [Linda Jaivin](#) moderated by [Julie Beveridge](#).

DAY1: 11:20 – 12:30

Panel 4: Creating the Asian Male in literature Room 210

Today, sex, gender and racial identities are continuously porous. In the midst of this, how are Asian males being portrayed in literature? And do these portrayals reflect reality?

[Benjamin Law](#), [Kawika Guillermo](#), [Jose Dalisa](#), [Osamah Sami](#), [Nury Vittachi](#) have a playful time dissecting Asian masculinity. Moderated by [Sally Breen](#).

Panel 5: On Literary Translation Room 305

Literary translators are often themselves poets and writers who play an essential part in bridging the chasm between cultures, ideologies and beliefs. We discuss the evolution of literature through translation.

[Sholeh Wolpé](#), [Hope Sabanpan-Yu](#), [Fang Xia](#) and [Randy M Bustamante](#), with participating moderator [Mridula Chakraborty](#).

Panel 6: Poetic License Room 312

Many have dabbled in writing verses that we claim to be poetry. Yet, there is a big divide between declaring oneself a poet and one who writes poetry as a hobby. In this panel poets discuss poetry, writing, and what it means to be a poet.

[Adam Aitken](#), [Collier Nogues](#), and [Michael Brennan](#), with participating moderator [Joshua Ip](#).

LUNCH 12:30 – 1:15

1:15- 1:45 **Keynote:** [Qaisra Shahraz](#)

Main lecture theatre, Room 101, SFL

'Writing and Muslim women; battling with ideas and realities over time.'

Qaisra Sharaz shares her writing life as a woman with multiple identities living in the west in the age of ISIS and battling anti-Muslim hatred; from fuming at the literary deletion of over 300 English women writers out of history before Jane Austen; to constantly challenging and debunking western stereotypes about Muslim women in the media; to fighting for their rights; including their rights to dress how they want – the Burkini fiasco; to promoting peace and building intercultural bridges in schools through literature; and how fed up she is in wasting her energies in constantly having to defend her faith, when she should be just writing her latest novel. Qaisra's participation has been supported by British Council.

WORKSHOP: 1:50 – 4:30

'Achieving Publication through Radical Revision'

Room 301

[Ravi Shankar](#) leads this workshop that will focus on trying to repurpose that piece of writing we have languishing at the back of a drawer by imagining new possibilities.

DAY 1: 1:50 – 3:00

Panel 7: Writing in a Foreign Place Room 210

Writing in and about a foreign place has a certain allure and mystery. Not only readers gain access to new worlds through these writings, but the foreign writer often provides a fresh perspective. And sometimes they just don't get it. In this panel writers discuss their practices of writing in and about places in which they are the foreigner.

[Piia Mustamaki](#), [Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo](#), [Patrick Allington](#) and [Tracey Ann Morton](#), with participating moderator [David Perry](#).

Panel 8: Writing for Young Adults Room 305

Young adult narratives take on a different shape and bring to life different realities according to where they are being told. In this diverse session, panelists discuss young adult literature from China, to Indonesia, Singapore and Macau.

[Eliza Handayani](#), [Jane Houg](#), [You Chengcheng](#), [Sunita Iad Bhamray](#) with participating moderator [Chris Raja](#).

Panel 9: Language Crossings Room 312

There are words in certain languages that are not translatable. Writers often make a decision to drop words from one language into another to convey meaning. But where is the line? How are those decisions made? And what does language crossing do to change/challenge and bringing in new meaning to a text?

[Osamah Sami](#), [Page Richards](#), with participating moderator [Nick Jose](#).

3:00 – 3:15 Tea/coffee Break

3:15- 3:45 Feature Session: From Word to World - Conference of the Birds. Room 101.

[Sholeh Wolpé](#) reads and performs her interpretation and translation of mystic Sufi Persian epic, *The Conference of the Birds*. Introduced by [Sanaz Fotouhi](#).

DAY 1: 3:50 – 5:00

Panel 10: Writing about Place Room 210

Places are important in how we define ourselves. The representation of places and how we relate to them in literature plays an integral part in how we project our identities and allegiances. Join writers and academics as they examine the importance of place in literature.

[Melissa Lucashenko](#), [Jame DiBiasio](#), [Ora-Ong Chakron](#) and [Christopher Clark](#). Participating moderator [Tracey Ann Morton](#)

Panel 11: Women Writing Asia Room 305

How do women writers across Asia define themselves and the region in which they live? In this very diverse panel women discuss how women are shaping their own identity and images of Asia.

[Qaisra Shahraz](#), [Ingrid Woodrow](#), [Maribel Kawsek](#) and [Farheen Chaudhry](#). Moderated by [Neeta Gupta](#).

5:05 - 5:45 PM [Book Launches](#)

Room 210

[Tim Tomlinson](#) and [Julie Koh](#) and [Qaisra Shahraz](#) launch their books.

6:30 PM – Conference Welcome Dinner Zijingyuan Hotel dining room, on campus.

Hosted by Sun Yat-sen University. The venue is directly behind the School of Foreign Languages.

8:05 - 8:30 PM [Book Launches](#)

Room 210

[Joshua Ip](#), [Alexandra Gregori](#), [Grace Chia](#) & [David Perry](#) launch their books..

8:30 – late - Readings

Room 210

Readers include [Jame DiBiasio](#), [Romi Grossberg](#), [Susanna Ho](#), [Suzanne Kamata](#), [Tracey Ann Morton](#), [Rúnar Helgi Vignisson](#), [Mishi Saran](#), [Sally Breen](#).

DAY 2: Saturday 26th November

9:00 - 9:30 Keynote by [Linda Jaivin](#)

Main lecture theatre, Room 101, SFL

‘The Accidental Translator’. Forty years after her professor at Brown University persuaded her (dragged her, kicking and screaming - ‘I’m no good at languages!’) to take her first course in Chinese, Linda Jaivin is still a little amazed that she can write ‘literary translator’ on her CV. She describes an accidental journey to translation that encompasses being taken under the wing of China’s most famous translator-team in the early 1980s and a chance meeting on a Hong Kong subway train...’

WORKSHOP: 9:35 - 12:00

Translation as Play: A Literary Translation Work

Room 301

Workshop leaders [Kyoko Yoshida](#) and [James Shea](#), with [Kate Griffin](#), will focus on traditional and unconventional translation practices. This workshop explores the creative possibilities in the overlap between translation and writing. Designed for translators as well as writers looking for generative methods.

DAY 2: 9:35 - 10:45

Panel 12: Literary Connections Across Continents

Room 210

How does one connect to an international literary network? This global panel will talk about the importance of international connections and their experiences. [Alexandra Buchler](#), [Julie Beveridge](#), [Hélder Beja](#), [Eliza Vitri Handayani](#) and [Dai Fan](#). Moderated by [David Lopez-del Amo](#).

Panel 13: Claiming Asia: intersections of East and West

Room 305

In the 21st century, how do writers from the West immerse themselves in Asia as something more than just an exotic backdrop. Is such immersion even possible? Panellists discuss in light of their own imaginative practice. [Patrick Allington](#), [Lucy Neave](#) and [Sally Breen](#). Moderated by [Mridula Chakraborty](#).

Panel 14: On Indonesian Literatures – Looking Towards APWT 2017

Room 210

Indonesia is APWT's 2017 host. Come and familiarize yourself with then. Thanks to translations and global recognition, Indonesian literature is becoming popular globally. Join Indonesian writers and academics to discuss the status of Indonesian literature. [Muhammad Zuhdi](#), & [Eliza Handayani](#) with moderator [Sonia Piscayanti](#).

10:45 – 11:00 Tea Break

DAY 2: 11:00– 12:00

Panel 15: Indie Publications in Asia-Pacific Room 210

In the recent years, alternative and small press anthologies and journals in English have become popular across Asia. Join some of those involved in the creation of these publications as they talk about the perils and jubilations of these publications.

[Tammy Ho Lai-Ming](#), [Rachel Edwards](#), [Hélder Beja](#) and [Suzanne Kamata](#). Moderator TBA.

Panel 16: Reflections on the Practice of Writing Room 305

What does it mean to be a writer in our region? Join writers as they reflect on the writing process and what it means to be a writer.

[Julienne van Loon](#), [Joe Milan](#), [Osamah Sami](#) and [Marshall Moore](#). Moderated by [Kate Rogers](#).

Panel 17: Writing and New Media Room 312

New Media and technologies have reframed and reshaped how we define writing and who is considered a writer. This panel examines how various platforms are shifting and challenging the writing process.

[Dora Wong](#), [Runar Helgi Vignisson](#) and [Kevin Maher](#). Participating moderator [Omar Musa](#).

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 1:30 [Robin Hemley](#) on Travel Writing in the 21st Century

Room 101

Robin will speak about observing the world as a writer/traveler, keeping oneself purposefully off balance in order to better understand the complexities of the world.

1:35 – 2:50 **APWT's Annual General Meeting**, Room 101, SFL PLEASE JOIN us for the election of APWT's new Management Committee and Advisory board, and to find out about research partnerships and future events.

2:50 – 3:00 Tea Break

WORKSHOP: 3:00 – 5:00

Person To Poem To Prose: Drafting New Work In Multiple Genres Room 301

[Tim Tomlinson](#) takes you between Poetry, Fiction and Creative Non-fiction. 'Kwame Dawes has said that his poems sometimes begin as marginalia; he responds to the work of other poets in the margins of their pages, then shapes the marginalia into poems. The first half of this session springs from that premise.

DAY 2: 3:00 – 4:00

**Panel 18:
Page to Screen**

[Benjamin Law](#) and [Osamah Sami](#) talk to [Nury Vittachi](#) about the process of page to screen.

Panel 19: Teaching Creative Writing in Asia
Room 305

Teaching creative writing in English as a second language in Asia has its challenges. But it also leads to amazing findings about cultural differences and reactions to the creative process. Creative writer teachers from across Asia discuss and reflect on this process.
[Dai Fan](#), [Suzanne Kamata](#).
Participating moderator [Adam Narnst](#).

Panel 20: Poetry Immersion
Room 312

How are poets inspired? Poets examine immersion in different environments and how that affects their writing process.
[Tammy Ho Lai-Ming](#), [Adam Aitken](#), [Nhã Thuyên](#) & [Grace Chia](#) with participating moderator [James Shea](#).

4:05 – 5:00 Feature Session: **Finding the Author's voice in China: New Genres, Experimentation & Foreign Influences** Main lecture theatre, Room 101

Chinese literature has been having a hard time finding audiences abroad. Social realism & magic realism are giving way to new topics & genres in the work of younger authors. Speaking and reading in this session will be [Ma Lilin](#) (pen name Ma Ke), [Lin Weipan](#), [He Xuequn](#) and [Wen Wenjin](#), and [David Lorz-del-Amo](#) Moderator: [Chen Peng](#).

5:05 – 5:45 **Open Mic** Room 210

Readers include: [Joe Milan](#), [Alexandra Gregori](#), [Nha Thuyen](#), [Sunita lad Bhamray](#), [Kawika Guillermo](#), & [Sonia Piscayanti](#).

6:00 Closing Dinner (off-campus) - Kesmido Yunnan Restaurant

Gather at 6:00 PM to catch taxis to the restaurant.

Spoken Word: Open Mic - After dinner - Midnight

Join the local 'Spoken Word' writers at Loft 345, an arts warehouse. Held at [Loft 345](#).

Readers include: [Adam Narnst](#), [Ravi Shankar](#), [Emeri Burke](#), [Sally Breen](#), [Kevin Maher](#), [Omar Musa](#), [Ariana Lombardi](#), [Tim Tomlinson](#) and [Grace Chia](#)

DAY 3: Sunday 27th November

WORKSHOP: 10:00 - 12:30

'Coming to Your Senses' led by [Shelley Kenigsberg](#)

Room 301

Experience your senses in new and interesting ways (all pleasurable) and have the chance to awaken new vocabulary, devise a new lexicon to use in your writing.

HONG KONG:

6: 00 PM onwards Readings & Music in HONG KONG

Readings, music, and brief discussion at The Orange Peel where HK's writers meet, in the Ho Lee Commercial Building, 38-44 D'Aguilar St, Central, Hong Kong. For more information on this event check out: <http://apwriters.org/hong-kong-event-orange-peel/>

DAY 4: Monday 28th November: MACAU

6: 00 PM onwards Readings in Macau

Join us at the Macau Portuguese Bookshop for readings. For more information and directions check out: <http://apwriters.org/macau-readings-tapas-for-the-soul/>