

CWLS Presents: A Faculty Reading

Featuring: Palomar College & California State University San Marcos

Palomar College, Department of English, Humanities, and Reading

Richard Hishmeh

Richard Hishmeh joined Palomar's English and Humanities Department in 2006. Prior to this, he taught at Riverside City College; Mt. San Jacinto Junior College, Menifee; University of California, Riverside; and California Baptist University. In addition to a doctorate in English (UC Riverside 2005), Professor Hishmeh holds a TESOL certificate for teaching English to speakers of other languages. He has taught in the intensive language program for international students at UC Riverside's extension center. Before becoming a college instructor, he taught high school English for several years.

At Palomar, Professor Hishmeh teaches all of the courses in the English composition sequence. He also teaches Humanities 100 and 101, as well as Linguistics (English 150), Introduction to Literature (English 205), and other literature survey courses.

Professor Hishmeh is currently co-editor of *Pacific Coast Philology*, the journal of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, as well as Chair of Palomar's Department of English, Reading, and Humanities.

Celeste Morales

Originally from Los Angeles, Celeste has been living in North County San Diego since 2009. She gained a M.F.A with an emphasis in Poetry from San Diego State University. Her poetry has sought to expose contradictions found in being part of the "in-between." Her work speaks towards living within three cultures. Building identity while being other'd in and outside of home, which then leads to an exploration of intergenerational trauma. She has published poems in the San Diego Poetry Annual, *Synthesia*, and *lit Rally Literary Journals*. She is currently a full-time lecturer at UCSD for the Cultural, Arts and Technology Program teaching Public Rhetoric, Media, and Autobiography, as well as teaching English Composition at Palomar and Grossmont College.

Clare Rolens

Clare Rolens has served as one of the faculty advisors for *Bravura*, Palomar College's award-winning literary journal, since 2019, and she thinks you should submit that poem/story/essay you've been polishing (go on, take the leap: bravurajournal.org). Her teaching and research interests focus on crime and detective fiction, yet her fiction is usually about haunted houses.

Her writing (both academic and creative) has appeared in *Callaloo*, *Arizona Quarterly*, *symplokē*, *American Book Review*, *Vestal Review*, *Cornice Magazine*, and *Toasted Cheese Literary Journal*, among others. She serves on the Advisory Board of Cambridge University Press's Elements in Crime Narratives series, and in 2024 she will be the book review editor for *Clues: A Journal of Detection*.

Rocco Versaci

Rocco Versaci has been a member of the English Department at Palomar since 1997. From 2000 - 2018, he served as Co-advisor for *Bravura*, the college's award-winning literary journal, and is currently active with the English Majors Group. He also works with Palomar's Transitions/Rising Scholars Program, which serves students who have been formerly incarcerated; this work has involved teaching composition at the Vista Detention Facility as well as for Transitions/Rising Scholars cohorts. In addition to teaching literature, composition, and critical thinking courses, his academic interests are creative writing, 20th Century American literature, memoir, film, comics/graphic novels, and issues relating to mass incarceration. He is the author of *This Book Contains Graphic Language: Comics as Literature* (Bloomsbury, 2007) and *That Hidden Road: A Memoir* (Apprentice House, 2016). More information is available on his website at www.roccoversaci.com.

California State University San Marcos, Literature and Writing Studies

Monika Birch

Monika graduated with a B.A. in Literature and Writing from CSUSM in 2020 and received her M.A. in English and Comparative Literature at SDSU in 2022. She currently teaches GEW courses at CSUSM and rhetoric and writing courses at SDSU. Monika was born and raised in Poland and came to the U.S. in her late twenties. Some of her literary interests include magical realism, popular culture, and the intersections of cultures. She is also a pigeon advocate and rescuer.

Heidi Breuer

Heidi is a writer, comics artist, singer, comedian, and academic. She is thrilled to have a video-comic titled "How Comics and EMDR Made Me the Hero of My Story" accepted for publication in a forthcoming special issue of *Survive and Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine*. And she's equally excited to have artwork in the 3rd issue of the collaborative anthology, *Comix from the Heart* (in partnership with the Nine Panel Project and the American Heart Association). Heidi performs regularly with a musical improv team in San Diego, and she has a free monthly comic newsletter. Check out her website (comicsbyheidi.weebly.com) or follow her art on IG: @iliketododrawings

Francesco Levato

Francesco Levato is a poet, literary translator, new media artist, and writer of speculative fiction. Recent books include SCARLET; Arsenal/Sin Documentos; Endless, Beautiful, Exact; Elegy for Dead Languages; War Rug; Creaturing (as translator); and the chapbooks A Continuum of Force and jettison/collapse. Recent speculative fiction appears in Savage Planets, Sci-Fi Shorts, and Tales to Terrify, among others. He has collaborated and performed with various composers, including Philip Glass, and his cinépoetry has been exhibited in galleries and featured at film festivals in Berlin, Chicago, New York, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA in Poetry, a PhD in English Studies, and is currently an Associate Professor of Literature & Writing Studies at California State University San Marcos. More at: <http://francescolevato.com/>

Andy Stewart

Andrew Kelly Stewart's writing spans the literary, science fiction, fantasy, and the supernatural genres. His short fiction has appeared in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction and ZZZZYVA. He is a Clarion Workshop alum and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from San Diego State University. We Shall Sing a Song into the Deep is his first publication with Tor.com. Stewart teaches and writes in southern California.

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Recent publication: <http://www.juxtaprosemagazine.org/lemon-season-by-andy-stewart/>

Mark Wallace

Mark Wallace is the author and editor of more than fifteen books and chapbooks of poetry, fiction, and essays. Most recently he has published a novel, Crab, and a book-length prose poem, Notes from the Center on Public Policy. Selections of his multi-part long poem The End of America, which he has been writing since 2005, have been published in several chapbooks and a number of journals. His current novel, Sir Sleepy of the Bunny Nest (A Saga of the Revolution), is an ongoing serial appearing on a fugitive tumblr blog. He lives in San Diego, California.

Mark Wallace Amazon Author Page: https://www.amazon.com/Mark-Wallace/e/B001K7U0OS/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_book_1

Mark Wallace blog Thinking Again: <http://wallacethinksagain.blogspot.com/>

Mark Wallace blog for Sir Sleepy of the Bunny Nest: <https://thinkingagain.tumblr.com/>

Mark Wallace interview: <http://experimentalfictionpoetry.blogspot.com/2010/01/interview-with-mark-wallace-his-fiction.html>

Mark Wallace poems in Manor House Quarterly with images by Ricky Allman: <https://medium.com/manor-house-poetry/the-end-of-america-book-8-3fedb9cc3e87>