



Fall Steinbeck Fellows Reading An Evening with the 2024-2025 Steinbeck Fellows in Creative Writing

Reading Followed by Q&A

When: Dec 3 7pm PST

Where: Zoom Registration Required
[Please click here to register](#)

Who: All are welcome! This is a free event. For more information contact Steinbeck Fellows Program Coordinator Keenan Norris at keenan.norris@sjsu.edu

Abdelrahman ElGendy is an Egyptian writer, translator, and activist based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a former six-year political prisoner in Egypt who writes about counter-narratives, state-manufactured archival silences, and abolishing empathy as an extension of colonial violence. ElGendy's writing appears in the Washington Post, Foreign Policy, Guernica, AGNI, Mizna, The Markaz Review, Truthout, Mada Masr, and elsewhere. He is a 2022 Dietrich fellow at the University of Pittsburgh's Nonfiction Writing MFA, and a Heinz fellow at Pitt's Global Studies Center. His work has received awards or fellowships from the Logan Nonfiction Program, Tin House Workshop, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Sewanee Writers' Conference, and Community of Writers Workshop. He is the winner of the 2024 Courage to Write award by the de Groot Foundation, the 2024 Turow-Kinder Award in Fiction, and was a finalist for the 2021 and 2023 Margolis Award for Social Justice Journalism.

Desiree S. Evans is a writer, scholar, and activist from South Louisiana. Her work often grapples with Black life in the rural South. She holds an MFA in fiction from the Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas at Austin. Her writing has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, and has appeared in literary journals such as Gulf Coast, The Offing, Nimrod Journal, and other venues. Her work has received support from the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA/Voices), Kimbilio Fiction, the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop, the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, the Hurston/Wright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and We Need Diverse Books. She was the 2021-2022 Gulf South Writer in the Woods, awarded through Tulane University, and the 2022-2023 Southern Studies Fellowship in Arts and Letters Writer-in-Residence, awarded through the Hub City Writers Project. She is an incoming 2024-2025 Steinbeck Fellow, awarded through the Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University.

Emily Yang/楊佳諭 writes about how structures of power and their attendant cultural scripts confine people's imaginative capacity to care for one another. Raised in Taipei, Taiwan, they believe in the need to write against the logics of empire and capital toward the horizon of collective liberation and a more just, decolonial future. Their work can be found in venues such as Black Warrior Review, the Margins, Foglifter, Passages North, and Puerto del Sol, where they won the 2020 Prose Contest. She is currently working on a mythospeculative novel about a shapeshifting fox-spirit and revising a short story collection.