



SUMMER INSTITUTE CLASS OF 2021

JUNE 2021



TABLE OF **contents**

3 Who We Are

4 Our Objectives

5 Meet the Coordinators

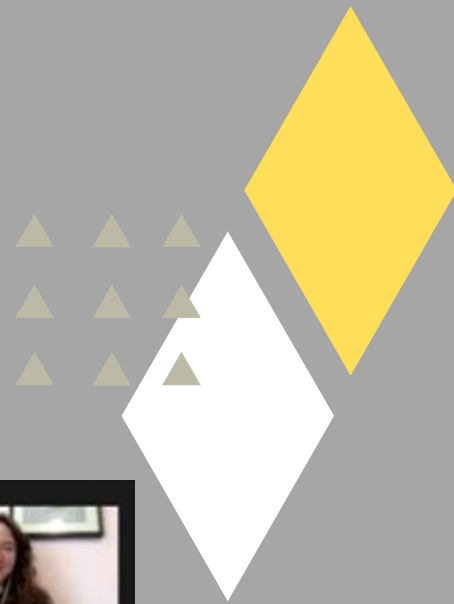
6 Meet the Mentors

9 Meet the 2021 Cohort

19 Program Outline



Who We Are



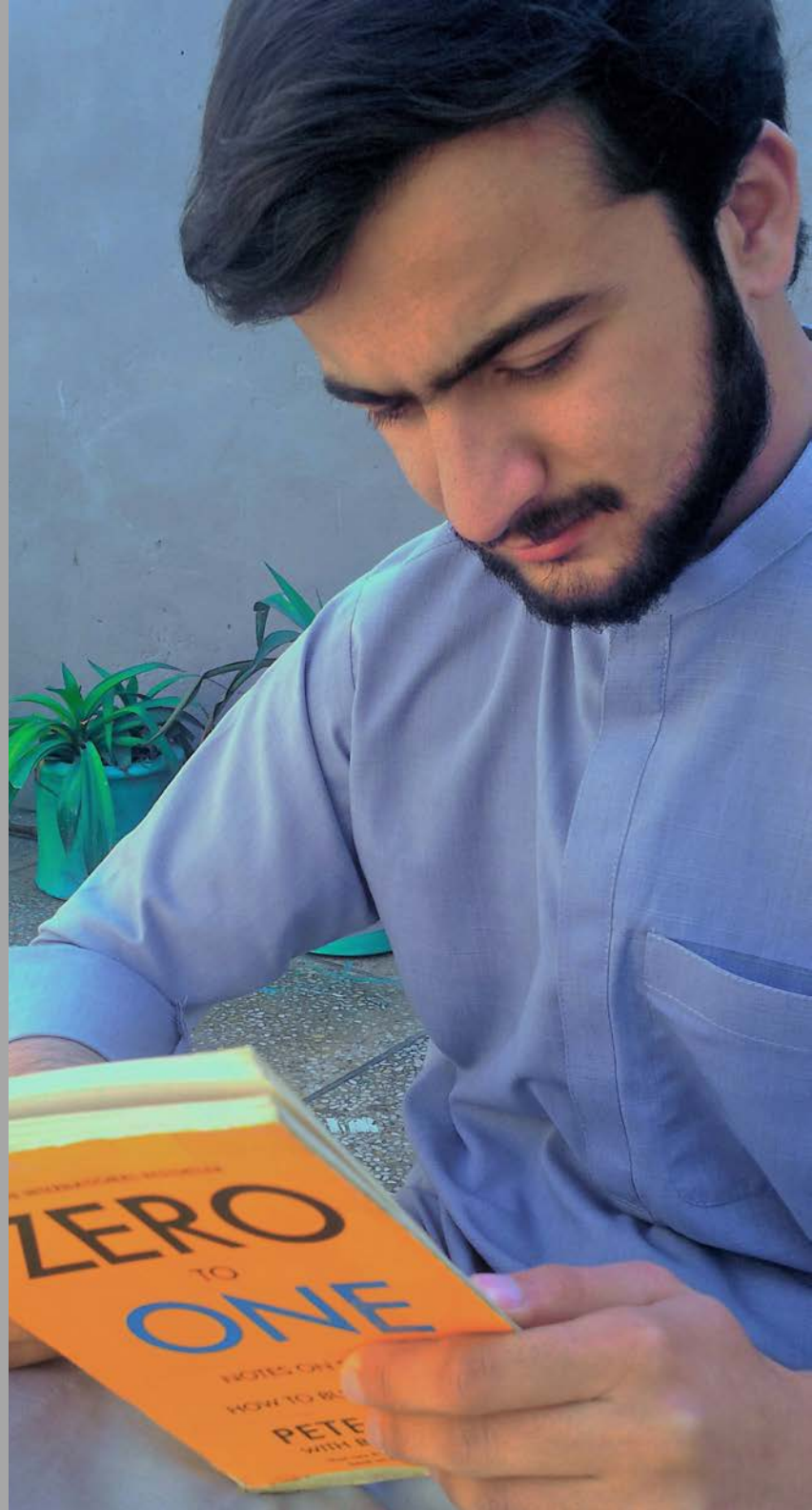
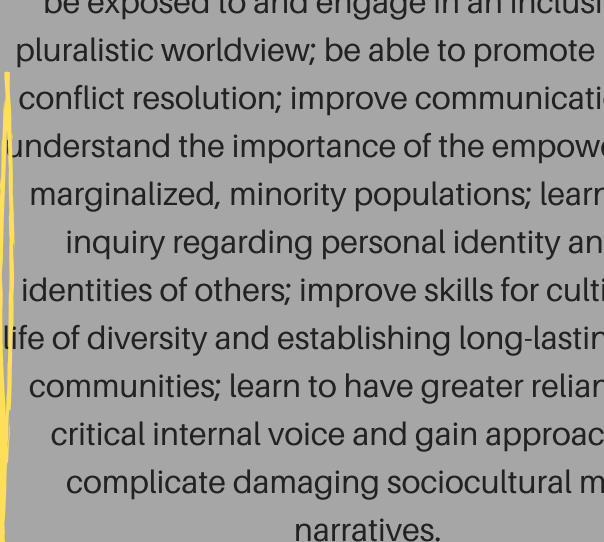
The Summer Institute (SI) is a two-week creative writing and cultural exchange program for participants age 18-22 from Pakistan, India, and the US. Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the SI is holding virtually for its 2021 cohort. The Summer institute focuses on creative writing and the power of narrative. Participants take part in collaborative workshops focused on their creative work, in seminars to expand literary knowledges of diverse global literatures, in special seminars on the craft of writing, and in activities designed to forge new lines of understanding and shared purpose among its community of writers. The SI is an opportunity to see writing as a form of action – a personally-empowering skill that can be employed for social change.

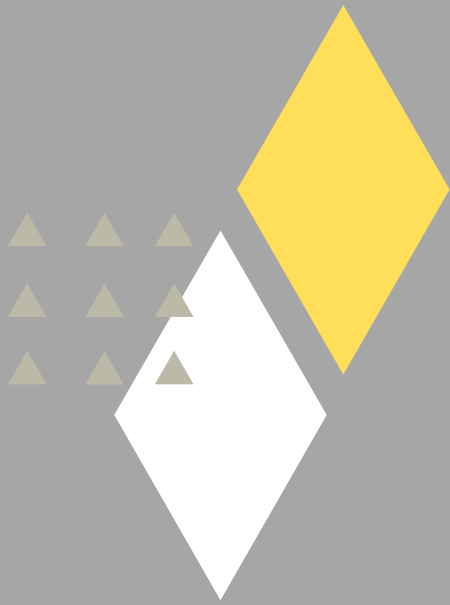
The Summer Institute is supported by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.



Our Objectives

To sharpen writing skills; expand literary fluency; expand literary horizons with exposure to international literature; deepen empathy and understanding of US American, Pakistani, and Indian cultures; engage other cultures and improve cross-cultural skills; consider themselves as leaders within their communities and through their writing; be exposed to and engage in an inclusive and pluralistic worldview; be able to promote peaceful conflict resolution; improve communication skills; understand the importance of the empowerment of marginalized, minority populations; learn critical inquiry regarding personal identity and the identities of others; improve skills for cultivating a life of diversity and establishing long-lasting diverse communities; learn to have greater reliance on a critical internal voice and gain approaches to complicate damaging sociocultural master narratives.





Meet the Coordinators



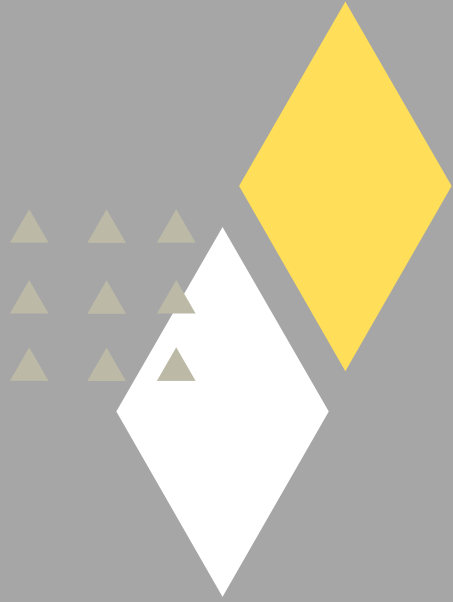
Peter Gerlach **Program Coordinator**

Peter Gerlach received his BA and MA degrees in English from Ripon College and the University of Northern Colorado, respectively. After serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Mongolia, he earned a PhD in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University. Since 2004, he has taught university students in subjects such as composition and literature, English as a foreign language, qualitative research, and international education. In addition to the IWP, where he has been since 2018, Peter is adjunct assistant professor in the International Studies Program at The University of Iowa.



Esther Okonkwo **Program Assistant**

Esther Okonkwo is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her works have appeared in *Isele Magazine*, *Catapult*, and *Guernica*. She is a 2021 recipient of the Elizabeth George Foundation Grant, and currently teaches creative writing as an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa.



Meet the Mentors



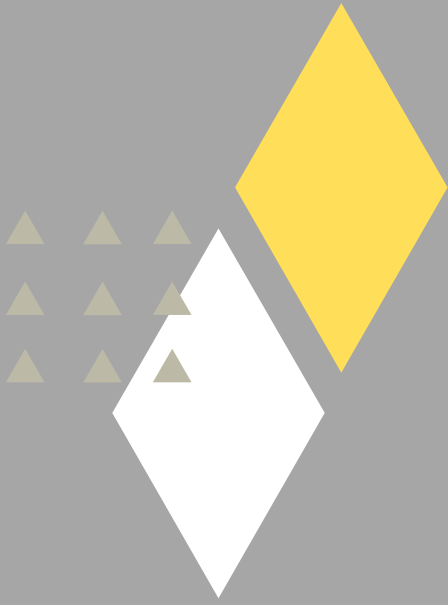
Dini Parayitam

Dini Parayitam has an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. Her short fiction has been published in *The Iowa Review*, *Boston Review* and *BOMB Magazine*, among other places. She was an Emerging Writing Fellow at Yale-NUS College (Singapore) and a KALAKARS (NYC) Fellow for Scriptwriting. She is working on her debut novel in Austin, Texas.



Chandrabhas Choudhury

Chandrabhas Choudhury is the author of three novels: *Clouds* (2019), *Days of My China Dragon* (2019), and *Arzee the Dwarf* (2013), and the editor of *India: A Traveler's Literary Companion* (2010). He has written essays, reportage, and literary criticism for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The Washington Post*, and *Mint*, and lectures widely on writing, and the Indian novel.



Meet the Mentors



Anam Zakaria

Anam Zakaria is the author of *1971: A People's History from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India* (2019), *Between the Great Divide: A Journey into Pakistan-administered Kashmir* (2018) and *The Footprints of Partition: Narratives of Four Generations of Pakistanis and Indians* (2015), which won her the 2017 KLF-German Peace Prize.

Meet the 2021 SI Participants

30
Students

India
Pakistan
United States

2 weeks of
writing and
community



Alia Mnayer

USA

Alia Mnayer is a creative nonfiction writer from Waterloo, Iowa. She studied English and Creative Writing with minors in Arabic, Political science, and Psychology at the University of Iowa, where she worked in several literary publications and received the Iowa Chapbook prize for her story "Fruit of a Rootless Tree." In the fall, she will begin a year of service as a community outreach coordinator at the Cedar Rapids Public Library through Americorps.



Amama Bashir

Pakistan

Amama Bashir is an aspiring writer from Azad Kashmir. She has a bachelor's degree in English Literature and hopes to earn a doctorate in Literature. Her work has been published in various magazines. She is currently working on a novel.



Ami Bhansali

India

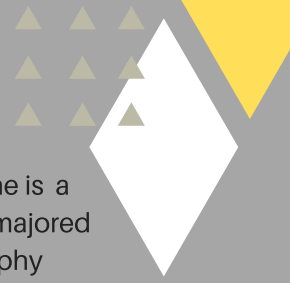
Ami Bhansali is a Mumbai based writer and filmmaker. She is a Mass Media graduate who currently works as a freelance copywriter and director.



Amelia Evans

USA

Amelia Evans is a poet from Iowa City, Iowa. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where she majored in Philosophy and was an editor at the Philosophy Magazine, *Labyrinth*. Her work can be found in recycling bins and paper shredders everywhere.



Anushka Chatterjee

India

Anushka Chatterjee is an undergraduate student at the University of Calcutta. A resident of Kolkata, India, she is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Zoology. She writes short fiction, some of which have been published in anthologies like *Beautiful Minds: An Anthology of Creative Writings* (Levant Books, India) and *Pause, Volume II* (Notion Press Publishers).



Ayesha Musharaf Azeemi

Pakistan

Ayesha Musharaf Azeemi is a fiction writer from Lahore, Pakistan. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Government College, Lahore. Her reviews and short stories have been featured in online magazines such as *Gossip Ghar*.



Deepika Muniraj

India

Deepika Muniraj is an aspiring fiction writer from Bengaluru, Karnataka. She studied Commerce, Accounting, English, Economics and Computer Science at Shanti Bhavan Residential School. She has a passion for creative writing. She plans to pursue her undergraduate studies in Psychology, English literature and Journalism at Jyoti Nivas College in Bengaluru, Karnataka.



Eleen Raja

Pakistan

Eleen Raja is a writer from Lahore, Pakistan. She indulges in various genres of writing, chiefly philosophical and poetic. She is currently enrolled at Government College University, where she is majoring in English Literature and minoring in Philosophy and Psychology. Her major writing endeavor is being the assistant editor at her university's magazine titled, *The Gazette*, as she deems her work not worth the view of the public eye yet and hopes to change that with time.



Grace Shieh

USA

Grace Shieh is a sophomore at NYU Abu Dhabi studying Economics and Creative Writing. She serves as the Features Editor of *The Gazelle*, and her works have appeared in *Airport Road* and on campus exhibitions. She was a Summer Scholar at NYUAD's Writing Center and was recently awarded the Undergraduate Summer Research Grant to work on a writing project.



Gulaly Behzal

Pakistan

Gulaly Behzal is pursuing her bachelor's degree in English literature from Post Graduate Women College, Mardan. She's a fan of Dan Brown's thrillers and Elif Shafak. She loves research and her aim as a writer is to be constructive rather than entertaining.



Isra Rahman

USA

Isra Rahman is a writer based in Chicago, IL. In the past she has been involved with organizing efforts in the community related to the U.S. justice system and is now coming to more creative writing work. She is interested in the ways intimate parts of our lives embody radical possibility especially in marginalized communities.



Javeria Hasnain

Pakistan

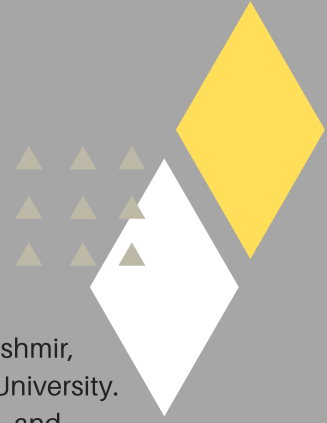
Javeria Hasnain (she/her) is a writer and poet from Karachi, Pakistan. Her poems have been published or are forthcoming in *The Aleph Review*, *Anatolios Magazine*, and elsewhere. She also performs street and commercial theatre. Javeria hopes to pursue an MFA in Poetry.



Junaid Rashid Lone

India

Junaid Rashid Lone is a young poet from Kashmir, India. He studied English at Aligarh Muslim University. His poetry mainly reflects the misery, trauma, and agony of conflict. His poems have appeared in local magazines and newspapers like *Greater Kashmir*, *The Kashmir Life* etc.



Kassandra Kizlin

USA

Kassandra Kizlin is a writer from Nebraska, who's in the process of obtaining a bachelor's degree in English, Creative Writing and Jewish Studies at the University of Kansas. She has been published in *Fine Lines Literary Magazine* for poetry in 2016 and short fiction in 2018.



Khadija Rehman

India

Khadija Rehman is a first year student at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, pursuing a Master's degree in English Literature. She's an alumna of Delhi University, where she majored in English Literature. She writes fiction and has been featured in *LSR College Magazine* blog.



Laila Bárcenas Meade

USA

Laila Bárcenas Meade is a fiction writer currently majoring in Cognitive Science and minoring in English at Vassar College. She is originally from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.



Madhuri Lalwani

India

Madhuri Lalwani is an MA English student at Ashoka University, Sonapat. She completed her BA in English Literature at Stella Maris College, Chennai. Her poems have been published in *Verse of Silence*, *Mirakee: World's Largest Anthology and Literary Journal* by Stella Maris College.



Maha Mahmood

Pakistan

Maha Mahmood is a third-year psychology student and amateur fiction writer from Karachi, Pakistan. Currently enrolled in the Institute of Professional Psychology, she is studying Creative Writing, Deviant Behavior, and Positive Psychology. Her stories are auto fictional, and look at everyday interactions from a mystical, spiritual lens.



Maumil Mehraj

Kashmir

Maumil Mehraj is from Srinagar. She's a third-year undergraduate student of English literature at Delhi University. As a writer, she believes that the child protagonist gives her the license to say things that an adult voice would not allow, and critiques society and politics alike with a young voice. Besides this specific theme, her interests are Post-Colonial, Diaspora, and Children's Literatures. Her Identity as a Kashmiri extends into her writing, and it is as deliberate as it is subconscious.



Rajeev Anand Kushwah

India

Rajeev Anand Kushwah is a poet from Guna, India. He's pursuing a Master's of Arts in Women's Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is a writer at *The Reclamation Project* and *Feminism in India*. He majored in Political Science from Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, where he won laurels for creative writing and performance poetry. He also worked as the Vice- President of *Petrichor*, The Creative Writing Society of Sri Venkateswara College. His creative work can be found in *Secret Verses: The Quill House Anthology*, *allears.org*, and *Gaysi Family*. His research interests includes gender studies, queer experiences, and pop culture.



Robin Bissett

USA

Robin Bissett is a fiction writer, editor, and teaching artist from West Texas. She is an alumna of Trinity University, where she studied English and Creative Writing. She reads manuscripts for Split Lip Press and teaches for The Library Foundation and Austin Bat Cave. Her work has been nominated for Best Small Fictions.



Sana Humayun

Pakistan

Sana Humayun is a junior year high-school student from Lahore, Pakistan. She studies at Kinnaird College for Women and has a deep seated interest in the arts and languages. In the day, when she's not playing and singing along to her trusty guitar, she's painting. At night, shrouded in mystery, she writes her prose. A well-versed debater with several accolades to her name, Sana is poised to make the most of this international experience.



Shahryar Hasnani

USA

Shahryar Hasnani is a senior at Northwestern University majoring in Economics and minoring in Creative Writing (fiction). He was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Dallas, Houston, Karachi, and Dubai. He focuses on South Asian and diasporic fiction. His fiction and poetry have been published in Northwestern's *Helicon Magazine*.



Shannon Clark

USA

Shannon Clark is a middle grade and young adult fiction writer from Cinnaminson, New Jersey. She is currently a freshman Psychological Science major at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she won first place in the essay/creative nonfiction division of the 2021 McKinney Writing Contest.



Sharmila Senthil

India

Sharmila Senthil is an aspiring fiction writer from Bengaluru, Karnataka. She studied Commerce, Accounting, English, Economics and Computer Science at Shanti Bhavan Residential School. She received several awards for creative writing in school. She plans to pursue her undergraduate studies in Psychology, English literature and Journalism at Jyoti Nivas College in Bengaluru and hopes to be an author someday.



Srishti Sam Uppal

India

Srishti Sam Uppal is a twenty-year-old poet and essayist from New Delhi, India. They are currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Psychology from Delhi University. Their work is inspired by art and music, and can be found in the *Royal Rose*, *Crepe and Penn*, *Human/Kind Journal*, among others. They are a Best of the Net nominee.



Susana Zazueta

USA

Susana Zazueta is a playwright from Vista, California. She is currently attending California State University Fullerton where she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in English and Theatre.



Ume Aimen Tariq

Pakistan

Ume Aimen Tariq is a fiction writer and a poet. She is an alumnus of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Pakistan. Her poetry is inspired by nature and imaginary events. Her poems have been published in the university magazine *Lumiere*. She loves to read and write young adult, sci-fi, and fantasy genres. She is working on a quadrilogy under the pen name of Hazel Andromeda Smith. The books are set on a magical property near Cork County, Ireland and they promise love, betrayal and heartbreak.



Zarnab Tufail

Pakistan

Zarnab Tufail is from Hafizabad, Pakistan. She is currently a first-year medical student at Gujranwala Medical college. She enjoys writing poetry but experiments with other genres as well. She is the co-founder of the *The Walled City Journal*. Her work has been published in or is forthcoming in *Vagabond City Lit*, *Changing Womxn Collective*, *Coven Editions*, *Dreams Walking Magazine* and elsewhere. She is a part of various literary magazines' staff including *The Lumiere Review*, *Tiny Molecules*, and *Wrongdoing Magazine*.



Zoha Jan Tagi

Pakistan

Zoha Jan Tagi is a writer and an MPhil Scholar in English Literature from Islamabad. Her essays and musings have appeared in the local publications such as *Daily Times* and *The News*. She occasionally dabbles in spoken word poetry and was the National finalist for Pakistan Poetry Slam, 2017. Her research interests include Transnational Literatures, Comparative Literature, Historical Fiction and Urban Studies. Her fiction attempts to ask and answer the hard questions of socio-political identity and global co-existence.

Program

JUNE 5 - JUNE 19

In two weeks, the participants will partake in group workshops, attend literature seminars presented by program mentors and special seminars delivered by carefully selected speakers. During the weekend, the students will be given an opportunity to read their creative works to the cohort and the IWP staff at large, and the mentors will give a reading at Prairie Lights, a renowned bookstore based in Iowa City.

DAY 1: SAT, 5 JUNE

8:00-10:00am CST Welcome to the Summer Institute 2021

DAY 2: SUN, 6 JUNE

8:00-10:00am CST Mentors and Groups Introduction

DAY 3: MON, 7 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily Meeting
8:15-10:00am CST Writing Workshop

DAY 4: TUES, 8 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily Meeting
8:15-10:00am CST Literature Seminar
10:15am-11:45am CST Special Seminar 1: Shuja Uddin and Ibrahim Baloch ([Article 370](#))

Program

JUNE 5 - JUNE 19

DAY 5: WED, 9 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Writing

Workshop

DAY 7: FRI, 11 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Writing

Workshop

DAY 9: SUN, 13 JUNE

8:00am-10:00am CST

Mentors' Reading at Prairie

Lights

DAY 6: THURS, 10 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Literature

Seminar

10:15am-11:45am CST Special

Seminar 2: Sparsh Ahuja,

Saadia Gardezi ([Project Dastaan](#))

DAY 8: SAT, 12 JUNE

8:00-10:00am CST Open Mic!

DAY 10: MON, 14 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Writing

Workshop

Program

JUNE 5 - JUNE 19

DAY 11: TUESDAY, 15 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Literature

Seminar

10:15am-11:45am CST Special

Seminar 3: Mohammad El

Wahabi (Olive Writers)

DAY 12: WED, 16 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Writing

Workshop

DAY 13: THUR, 17 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Literature

Seminar

10:15am-11:45am CST

Special Seminar 4: Beyond SI
with 2019 and 2020-21 alumni

DAY 14: FRI, 18 JUNE

8:00-8:15am CST Daily

Meeting

8:15-10:00am CST Writing

Workshop

DAY 15: SAT, 19 JUNE

Graduation



A property of the IWP Summer Institute

June 2021

Iowa City, IA
United States