



CALLS FOR PAPERS CREATIVE WRITING PANELS

At the Table: Food Writing and Identity

Organizer: Sue Sinclair (University of New Brunswick)

Who we are is deeply tied up with what we eat — food can not only reflect but also constitute identities. It can soothe and it can disturb. It can be a way that people come together and a way that people notice differences. The questions of what we eat, where, when, how, and with whom are revelatory — even before we get to the politics of food production, distribution and preparation. Which foods do you eat or avoid eating? What do you bring (or not bring) to a queer potluck? What is “junk food” and who eats it? How do food and race intersect?

Add the element of writing and the questions ramify: how do we write about food? What counts as food literature? What foods are depicted in literature and how? And what are we to make of the preponderance of food metaphors for everything from sex to mental health?

This session welcomes to the table creative writers who are addressing food and identity and who may also be posing challenges to the category of food writing. The session is envisioned as combining short readings and a round table discussion, and participants will also be invited to share a food-writing prompt.