



CALLS FOR PAPERS CREATIVE WRITING PANELS

Unbuild The World: Creative Writing Pedagogy Roundtable

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In a recent talk given at the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco, gender theorist and professor Jack Halberstam delivered a manifesto in which he embraced the notion of “nothing.” In this manifesto, Halberstam argued that in a world where there are no alternatives to capitalism — when climate change is now irreversible, at a moment of deep anger about patriarchy, racial injustice and widespread recommitment to it, we need to think in terms of dismantling or unbuilding the world as a way to promote social change. Halberstam writes: “instead of investing in world-building, imagining, building towards in a capitalist system — what possibilities are open to us when we do the opposite? What happens when we focus on unbuilding, undoing, dismantling, unmaking unbecoming dereliction and destitution?” (Halberstam, 2019).

The proposed panel, “Unbuild The World: Creative Writing Pedagogy” will examine these ideas in the context of the creative writing classroom. How can we unmake the world of the creative writing classroom? How can we transcend the classroom with multi-modal tools? What can we find in the ruins of the established workshop system? Each speaker will discuss their engaged pedagogical practices and share insights into what it might mean to unbuild, decolonize, destroy and undo in their own teaching practice.