

SMC ASSOCIATES FALL 2022  
LECTURE SERIES



# LITERARY TALKS & READINGS

09.08.22

ALEX ESPINOZA

**A Reading and Conversation  
with Alex Espinoza**

09.27.22

PETER  
SCHWEIZER

**America's Corrupt Elites  
and China**

10.04.22

KIMBERLY K.  
ROBESON

**Zeus, A Sword, and Soul Mates:  
Does Your Other Half Exist?**

10.25.22

PAISLEY  
REKDAL

**West: A Translation -  
A Reading by Paisley Rekdal**

11.15.22

HELON HABILA

**The Writer and the  
Environment:  
A Reading by Helon Habila**

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Associates



**ALEX ESPINOZA**  
**A Reading and Conversation  
 with Alex Espinoza**

Alex Espinoza teaches at UC Riverside, where he serves as the Tomás Rivera

Endowed Chair of Creative Writing. He is the author of two novels – *Still Water Saints* (Random House, 2007) and *The Five Acts of Diego León* (Random House, 2013) – as well as *Cruising: An Intimate History of a Radical Pastime* (Unnamed Press, 2019), and his work has appeared in several anthologies and journals. His awards include a 2009 Margaret Bridgeman Fellowship in Fiction at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, a 2014 Fellowship in Prose from the National Endowment for the Arts, a 2014 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, and a fellowship to the MacDowell Colony. He recently finished a new novel.

**Thu, September 8 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | Online**



**PETER SCHWEIZER**  
**America's Corrupt Elites  
 and China**

Peter Schweizer is a nationally renowned investigative journalist

and a seven-time New York Times bestselling author, most recently of *Red-Handed* (2022). His other books include *Clinton Cash* (2015), *Secret Empires* (2018), and *Profiles in Corruption* (2020). He is the President of the Government Accountability Institute and host of the weekly podcast "The Drill Down." His investigative journalism has been featured on CBS's 60 Minutes, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Fox News. His 2014 book, *Extortion*, exposed insider stock trading by members of Congress and led to passage of the STOCK Act, outlawing the practice. He appears regularly on television, radio, and many podcasts.

**Tue, September 27 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | Online**



**KIMBERLY K. ROBESON**  
**Zeus, A Sword, and Soul  
 Mates: Does Your Other  
 Half Exist?**

Kimberly K. Robeson, a Greek-American Assistant Professor at Los Angeles Valley College, is the author of *The Greek Persuasion*, her debut novel about the quest for wholeness and a path that goes beyond the traditional. She teaches world literature, creative writing, and composition courses; is the former co-advisor for the college's LGBTQ+ Club; and is part of the Umoja faculty. She has lived in Venezuela, Borneo, Greece, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, and Peru, in addition to the United States. Most of her summers were spent in Kamena Vourla, a beachside town in Greece, where her *yiayia* and *papou* have a summer house. She has also taught English in Greece, Peru, and the United States.

**Tue, October 4 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | Online**



**PAISLEY REKDAL**  
**West: A Translation – A  
 Reading by Paisley Rekdal**

Paisley Rekdal, Poet Laureate of Utah, is the author of a book of essays,

*The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee* (2000), and the hybrid photo-text memoir *Intimate*. She has published six books of poetry, including *Nightingale*, which won the 2020 Washington State Book Award for Poetry. Her most recent works of nonfiction are a book-length essay, *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam*, and *Appropriate: A Provocation* (2021). She guest edited *Best American Poetry 2020* and has two books in progress: a hybrid book-length poem titled *West: A Translation* (Copper Canyon Press, 2023) and *Real Toads: Imaginary Gardens: How to Read and Teach a Poem* (W.W. Norton, 2024).

**Tue, October 25 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | Online**



**HELON HABILA**  
**The Writer and the  
 Environment:  
 A Reading by Helon Habila**

Helon Habila is a Professor of Creative

Writing at George Mason University. His work includes the novels *Waiting for an Angel* (2002), *Measuring Time* (2007), *Oil on Water* (2010), and *Travelers* (2019), and the nonfiction account of the 2014 kidnapping of schoolgirls in Nigeria, *The Chibok Girls: The Boko Haram Kidnappings and Islamist Militancy in Nigeria* (2016). Habila is the editor of *The Granta Book of the African Short Story* (2011), and his novels, poems, and short stories have won many honors and awards, including the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Novel (Africa Section), the Caine Prize, and most recently, the Windham-Campbell Prize.

**Tue, November 15 | 11:15 a.m. | Free | Online**

**See event date at [smc.edu/calendar](https://smc.edu/calendar) for details.**

**Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department.**

♿ If you need an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities at [dsp@smc.edu](mailto:dsp@smc.edu) or 310-434-4265, at least 5 business days in advance.

The Santa Monica College Associates is a community-based support group that brings outstanding speakers, performers, and special events to SMC to enhance student excellence. Associates members receive invitations to special receptions and advance notices of lectures. Annual Associates memberships are entirely tax-deductible. Call 310-434-4100 or visit [smc.edu/associates](https://smc.edu/associates) for more information.

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