

# Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Proposal?

An Intensive Academic Writing Retreat with Dr. Heidi R. Lewis

Co-Sponsored by the  
National Women's  
Studies Association



*"First forget inspiration. Habit is more dependable. Habit will sustain you whether you're inspired or not. Habit will help you finish and polish your stories. Inspiration won't. Habit is persistence in practice."*

Octavia Butler

Bloodchild and Other Stories (1995)

*"Create dangerously, for people that read dangerously. [Write] knowing in part that no matter how trivial your words may seem, someday, somewhere, someone may risk his or her life to read them."*

Edwidge Danticat

Create Dangerously:

The Immigrant Artist at Work (2010)

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# Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Proposal?

**An Intensive Academic Writing Retreat  
with Dr. Heidi R. Lewis**

**Colorado College Baca Campus  
Moffat, CO 81143**

Through seven 90-minute workshops, eight two-hour writing blocks, eight 30-minute accountability partnership meetings, and a 30-minute 1:1 meeting with the host, this four day retreat will support up to 20 scholars developing book proposals in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and/or kin disciplines like Black Studies, American Studies, and Disability Studies, with a particular focus on engaging with theoretical frameworks and methodologies, crafting effective theses, organizing chapters, drafting and revising, and navigating peer reviews.

This retreat is co-sponsored by the National Women's Studies Association, which has supported and promoted the production and dissemination of knowledge about women, gender, and sexuality through teaching, learning, research, and service since 1977.



**NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

**JUNE 1-4, 2027**



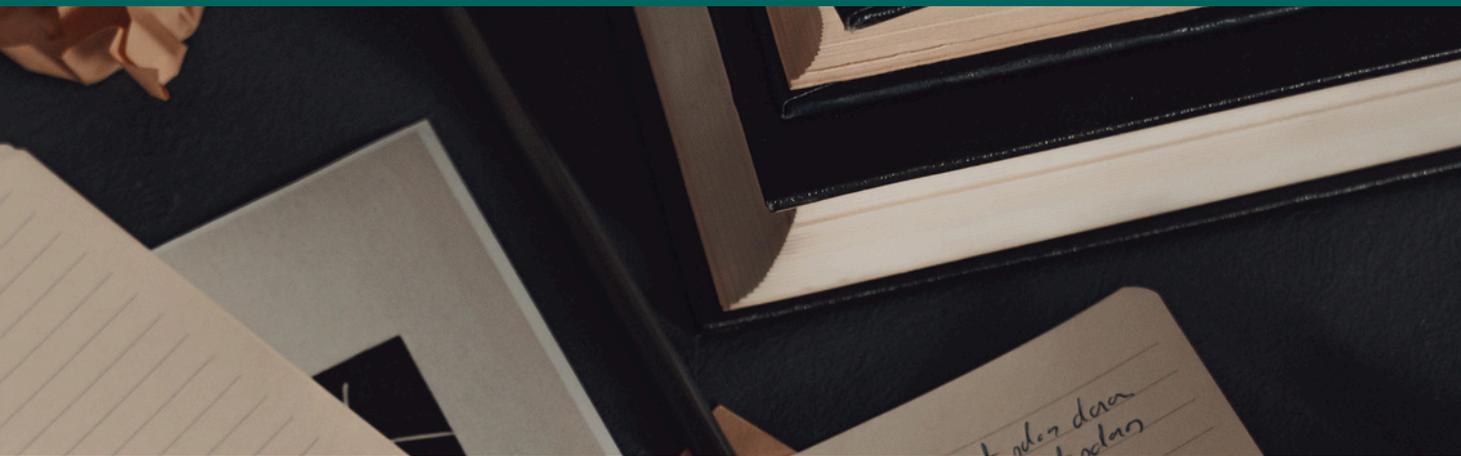
## HOST BIO

Dr. Heidi R. Lewis (she/her) is David & Lucile Packard Professor of Feminist & Gender Studies at Colorado College; inaugural Editor-in-Chief of Oxford Bibliographies in Gender & Women's Studies; Series Editor for *Expanding Frontiers: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality*; and immediate past President of the National Women's Studies Association.

Heidi's publishing record spans more than a decade. In addition to several academic articles and book chapters, she has published with *NewBlackMan*, *The Feminist Wire*, *Ms.*, and many other online publications. She also co-edited *In Audre's Footsteps: Transnational Kitchen Table Talk* (edition assemblage, 2021), the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Ingeborg Bachmann prizewinner Sharon Dodua Otoo's *Witnessed Series*, with Dana Asbury and Jazlyn Andrews; and she recently published *Make Rappers Rap Again: Interrogating the Mumble Rap "Crisis"* (2025), the first in the Oxford University Press *Theorizing African Music Series*.

To learn more, visit [www.heidirlewis.com](http://www.heidirlewis.com).

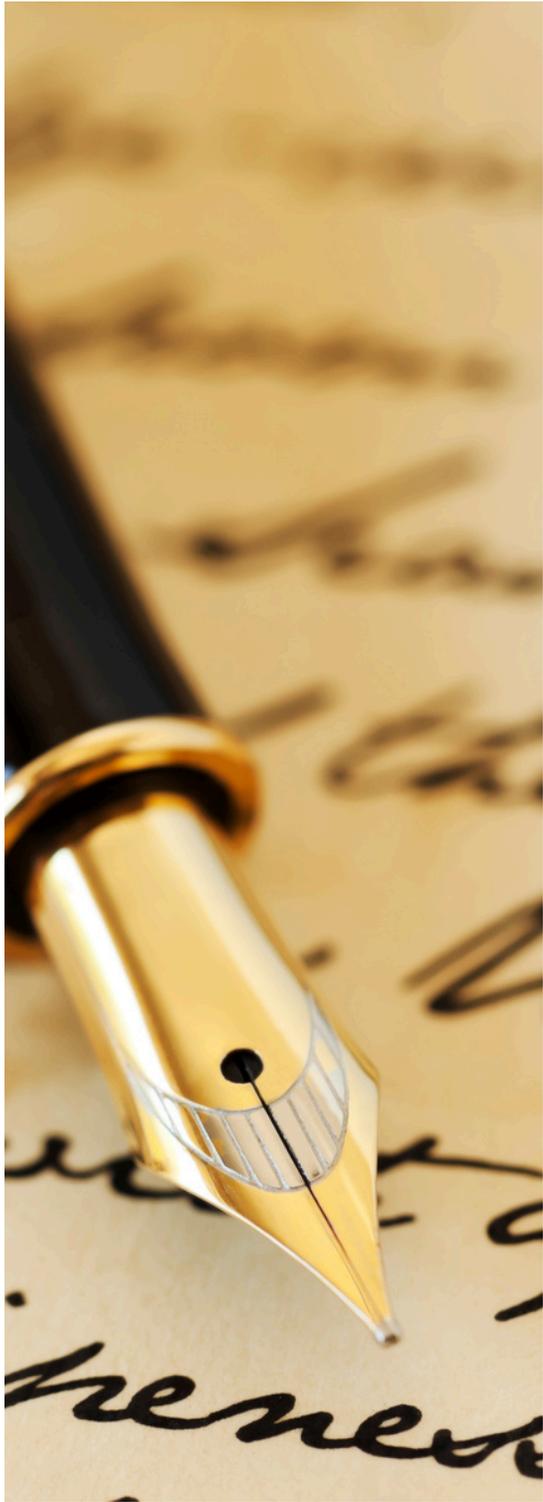
# PROGRAM FEE



The \$1,375 program fee includes roundtrip transportation from the Colorado College Main Campus to the Baca Campus, five nights in Baca lodging, a welcome dinner, daily continental breakfasts, seven writing workshops, meeting space in the Anabel & Jerome P. McHugh Conference Center, printer paper, and a signed copy of *Make Rappers Rap Again*. The fee does not include airfare, transportation to and from the Main Campus, and most meals.

Current members of the National Women's Studies Association will receive a discount of \$175, more than 10% of the program fee.

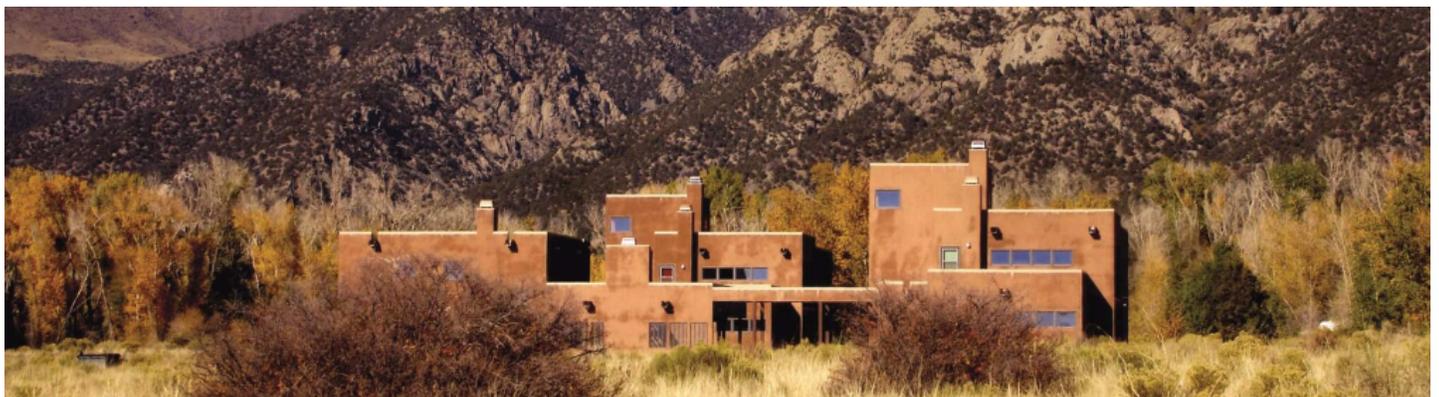
If you are selected to attend, a non-refundable \$475 deposit is due by February 28, with the \$900 balance due by April 1. Deposits will be refunded if the retreat is cancelled by the host for any reason.



# THE BACA CAMPUS

Located three hours from its Main Campus in Colorado Springs, the Colorado College Baca Campus in Moffat is nestled at the base of Crestone Peak in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range.

Writing workshops will be held in the Anabel & Jerome P. McHugh Conference Center, which is equipped with two meeting rooms, a printer, writing tables, and chairs. Participants will also have access to a library with lounge seating, a table, chairs, and TV. Some audiovisual equipment and WiFi are also available.





## MOFFAT, CO

Moffat is a very small and remote town in Saguache County. The Volunteer Fire Department is 15 minutes away. However, the nearest emergency rooms in Alamosa and Salida are approximately one hour away. Especially because Emergency Medical Services can take up to 50 minutes to arrive, the Baca Campus is equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator, Narcan, EpiPens, and other basic medical technologies.

On climate, Moffat is cool, dry, and windy. In June, temperatures range from 47° to 82°, and with an altitude of 7,566', the air is thinner and less dense than it is in places with lower elevations. Mosquito activity also increases in June, especially after wet periods and at dawn and dusk.

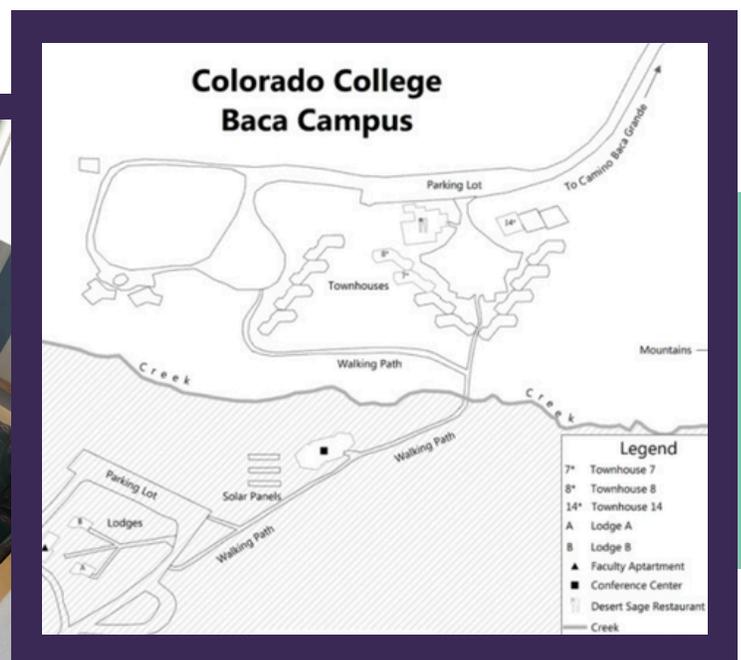
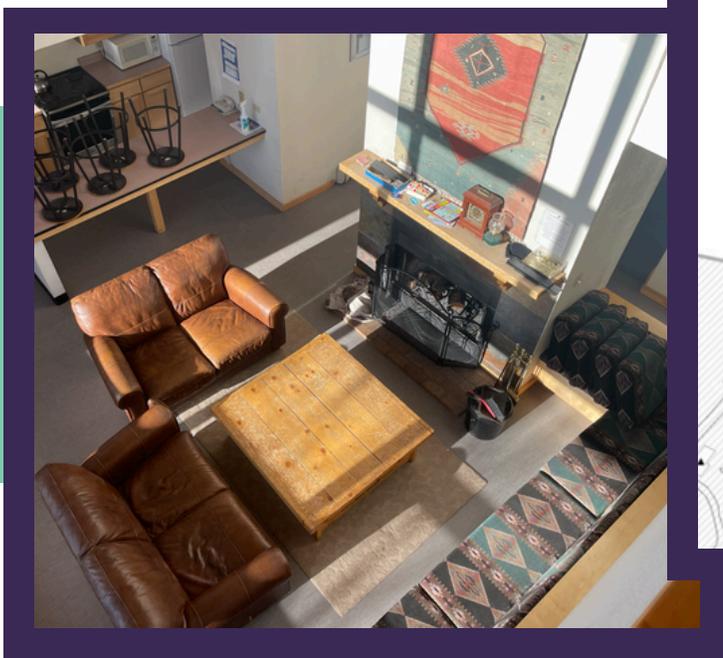
So, you are encouraged to bring warm, protective clothing and insect repellents approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. You're also encouraged to stay hydrated and move as slowly as possible while retreating.

# LODGING

Participants will reside in lodges or townhouses with 2-4 rooms (2-4 single beds each), 2-3 bathrooms, full kitchens, common areas, terraces or patios, and WiFi. Bedding, bath towels, and washcloths are provided, but participants may bring additional items to make their stay as comfortable as possible. As the lodging is BNB style, housecleaning services are not provided except before participants arrive. However, some cleaning supplies (e.g., dish detergent and disinfectant wipes) will be available.

Participants will not share rooms unless they express a willingness to do so on their application. However, they may share apartments with other participants who do not share their same gender.

The lodges and townhouses are less than a 5-minute walk (approximately) to the McHugh Conference Center.





## MEALS

The program fee includes a welcome dinner and daily continental breakfasts consisting of fresh fruit, yogurt and granola, bagels and cream cheese, boiled eggs, wheat toast and jam, oatmeal, cereal, whole and almond milk, coffee, tea, orange juice, and apple juice.

You may join group orders for catered lunches and dinners at your own expense, and/or you may purchase ingredients for homemade meals, along with snacks and beverages, during a trip to Elephant Cloud Market on the day of arrival.

Given Baca's remote location, food delivery services like DoorDash are not available.



# TRANSPORTATION

The program fee does not include transportation to and from the initial meeting point on the Colorado College Main Campus. However, it does include transportation to and from Baca. A driver will transport the group there on Sunday and return on Friday to transport you back to the Main Campus. Additionally, Heidi will have her personal vehicle during the retreat for urgent trips.

Participants traveling to Colorado by air should fly in and out of the Colorado Springs Airport (COS), as the Denver International Airport is approximately one hour and 20 minutes from the Main Campus. The Main Campus is approximately 25 minutes from COS, so flights should arrive no later than 12:30PM on Sunday, whether or not participants check luggage. Participants will be dropped off at the Main Campus at approximately 11:30AM on Friday, so return flights should depart no earlier than 1:30PM.

Local participants are welcome to drive to and from Baca, or they can take advantage of paid, metered visitor parking on the Main Campus and ride to Baca with the group.



# Structure

Most days will be structured as follows:

8:00AM	Continental Breakfast
8:30AM	Writing Workshop #1
10:00AM	Setting Intentions with Accountability Partners
10:30AM	Writing Block #1
12:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Writing Workshop #2
3:00PM	Writing Block #2
5:00PM	Debriefing with Accountability Partners
5:30PM	Adjourn

In early March, participants will receive the complete itinerary, participant bios, and a list of brief, informal assignments to aid in workshop preparation.

Participants will not submit these assignments. However, they will be discussed with accountability partners and the larger group. While there may be time to complete the assignments during travel or after arrival, it is ideal that participants complete them beforehand so there's ample time for rest and relaxation during the retreat.

In addition to one 30-minute meeting with the host, participants may also sign-up for an optional 1H webinar with members of the Expanding Frontiers team, including the Acquisitions Editor.

# APPLICATIONS



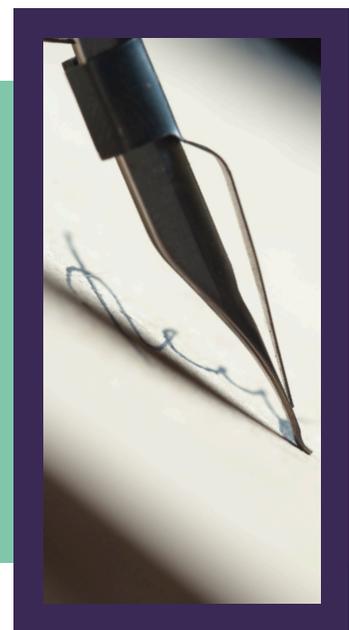
The application will open on August 15 and close on January 15. Decisions will be announced by January 20, and selected participants must confirm attendance by paying the \$475 non-refundable deposit by February 28.

While the retreat is open to all scholars developing in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and/or kin disciplines like Black Studies, American Studies, and Disability Studies, priority will be given to those submitting proposals to the Expanding Frontiers (University of Nebraska Press).

# EVALUATION

The online evaluation should be completed no sooner than 48 hours after the retreat but no more than one week after, so participants have enough time to rest and reflect and so the experience is still fresh in their minds. In addition to strengthening the quality of future retreats, these evaluations may be used to promote them. Testimonials will either be shared anonymously or consent will be requested to share participants' first names.

If you have feedback on the grocery store and/or restaurants, they should contact those establishments directly.





*For More Information:*

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[HeidiReneeLewis@gmail.com](mailto:HeidiReneeLewis@gmail.com)