

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



Photo Credit: Natalia de la Rosa Reyes

"If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

Toni Morrison
Speech to the Ohio Arts Council (1981)

"By writing, I can live in ways that I could not survive."

Louise Erdrich
"The Art of Fiction No. 208"
The Paris Review (2010)

Table of Contents

04 Program Description

05 Host Bio

06 Program Fee

07 Program Structure

08 Applications

09 Program Evaluation



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The Virtual Remix!

Through seven 90-minute workshops, seven 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 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

March 9-12, 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 7th 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.

PROGRAM FEE



The \$725 program fee includes seven writing workshops, a 30-minute 1:1 meeting with the host, and a signed copy of *Make Rappers Rap Again: Interrogating the Mumble Rap Crisis*.

Current members of the National Women's Studies Association will receive a discount of \$75, more than 10% of the program fee.

If you are selected to attend, a non-refundable \$325 deposit is due December 31, with the \$400 balance due January 15. Deposits will be refunded if the retreat is cancelled by the host for any reason.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Most days will be structured as follows (times in MT):

- 7:45AM Welcome Session*
- 8:00AM Setting Intentions with Accountability Partners*
- 8:30AM Writing Workshop #1*
- 10:00AM Writing Block #1
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- 1:00PM Writing Workshop #2*
- 2:30PM Writing Block #2
- 4:30PM Debriefing with Accountability Partners*
- 5:00PM Adjourn

Zoom sessions, indicated by asterisks (*), total approximately 4 hours each day.

In late January, 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.

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 November 15. Decisions will be announced by November 30.

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).

PROGRAM 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.





For More Information:

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