Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Proposal?

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

in Collaboration with the National Women's Studies Association



Photo Credit: Natalia de la Rosa Reyes



"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
The Virtual Remix!

Through several 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 supports scholars developing academic book proposals in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and/or kin disciplines like Black Studies, American Studies, and Disability Studies.

March 9-12, 2027



HOST BIO

Dr. Heidi R. Lewis (she/her) is Professor of Feminist & Gender Studies at Colorado College; inaugural Editor-in-Chief of Oxford Bibliographies in Gender & Women's Studies; and Series Editor for Expanding Frontiers: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (University of Nebraska Press).

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.

Photo Credit: Natalia de la Rosa Reyes



TESTIMONIALS

"I appreciate the above-and-beyond approach Heidi took to this event. As just one person organizing the whole event, I was impressed."
—Dr. Crystal Jackson

"Communication and support were TOP TIER. Leading up to the retreat, en route, there, and even afterward. I always felt comfortable voicing any questions and concerns. And our retreat materials offered extremely detailed, thoughtful, comprehensive information that covered every anticipated concern and beyond."
—Dr. Chelsea Bouldin

"Thank you to Heidi for taking the time to talk through my career goals, as well as the way the book project fits in with these. I truly appreciate it."
—Dr. Jordan Lea Johnson

"What an amazing experience...Every detail was meticulously planned by our host. This was no easy feat, and it made the retreat valuable in so many unique ways. This experience will hold a special place in my heart for a long time!"
—Dr. Samina Gul Ali

"These writing blocks were EVERYTHING! Time and space to think? AMAZING. An accountability partner to keep me focused? GOLD. Others working on their own projects near me? INSPIRING. I felt my intellectual curiosity wake up from a long, long slumber...Dr. Lewis offered me such razor-sharp insight during our one-on-one that my mind is still swirling with her advice! What a gift to have someone respond to you as both an academic *and* a human. I felt seen and heard in a way I haven't in years."
—Dr. Sarah Kersh

PROGRAM FEE



The $725 program fee includes seven writing workshops, a 30 minute 1:1 meeting with the host, and signed copies of *In Audre's Footsteps* and *Make Rappers Rap Again*.

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 $325 deposit is due by January 15, with the $400 balance due by March 1. Deposits will only be refunded if the retreat is cancelled by the host for any reason.



STRUCTURE

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

7:30AM	Welcome Session*
8:00AM	Writing Workshop #1*
9:30AM	Setting Intensions with Accountability Partners*
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

Required Zoom sessions, indicated by asterisks (*), total approximately 4½ 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 a 30-minute 1:1 meeting with the host, participants may also sign up for an optional webinar with the Expanding Frontiers team, including the Acquisitions Editor.

APPLICATIONS



The application portal will open on August 15 and close on November 15. Decisions will be announced by November 20, and selected participants must confirm attendance by paying the $325 non-refundable deposit on or before January 15.

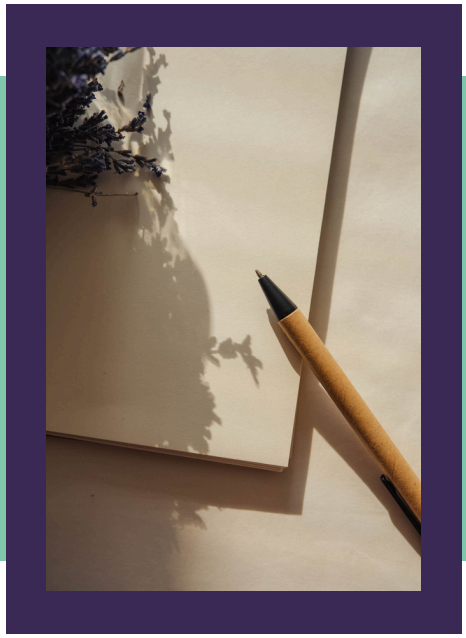
Participants are also strongly encouraged to attend a pre-retreat webinar with the host on February 15 to discuss any questions and/or concerns.

While the retreat is open to all scholars developing book proposals in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and/or kin disciplines like Black Studies, American Studies, and Disability Studies, priority will be given to applicants interested in developing proposals for Expanding Frontiers.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The online retreat evaluation should be submitted 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.







For More Information:

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