

## Writing Workshop

Friday, April 1, 2022

8:00am - 12:00pm

Workshop coordinators: Patrick James and Francisco Sánchez

This workshop will be led by Jon Carter. Dr. Carter is a sociocultural anthropologist interested in criminality, aesthetics, and politics. His research focuses on gang communities in northern Central America, and their reinvention of political subjectivity through the deconstruction of everyday notions of law, beauty, and violence. For more information on Dr. Carter: <https://anthro.appstate.edu/directory/dr-jon-h-carter>

Description: What is at stake in the movement from field experience to text? While discussions about ethnographic methods are indispensable in our conversations, to privilege a discussion about writing in our workshop is to foreground that ethnography is a creative process that requires that one make choices about representation. In writing up, there is a pull to do justice to encounters in the field. Yet rather than approaching writing as a movement toward some ideal form, requiring mastery over one's experience, what possibilities emerge when we begin with the assumption that writing is always a selective process? Under such a paradigm, the ethnographer might look to poetry and literature as instructive material. Here, writing preserves and mobilizes the force of story—vessels that draw human experience out of the immanence that is everyday life and allows for contemplation of it. In this case the gap between the thing and its representation provides a distance critical for cognition. To take the gap as constitutive is thus to ask how to gather the force of experience in a creative movement rather than beginning with a problematic—one that measures writing against positive experience. Central to this topic is a tension between signification and expression, information and the unknowable, non-fiction writing and literature. In this workshop we invite participants to share writing that reflects an ethnographic attunement, from fieldwork or from any form of experience-close inquiry.

Submit abstracts as a Word document (with the author's last name as the file name) to Patrick James, [jamesp@ufl.edu](mailto:jamesp@ufl.edu) with the e-mail subject "Writing Workshop." Proposals must arrive by 11:59 p.m. on, March 1, 2022. Abstracts should briefly explain your research and/or creative activities and how it intersects with the workshop. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words. Include your name, email address, institutional affiliation, and a short biography not exceeding 100 words below the abstract.