

The Organizing Committee of IRSL Congress 2017 is pleased to announce a very special roundtable:

## The Medium & the Messengers: Local Artists, Globalized Genres, and Transnational Audiences

Monday July 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:00pm-5:30pm, Lillian Smith Library, 239 College St.

**This event is open only to delegates who have signed up for the excursion to tour the Osborne and Merrill Collections at the library.**

Canadian artists discussing how working in their chosen medium and genre has helped balance two, sometimes competing priorities: first, to expand assumed audiences for their work, partly to guard against being tokenized; and, second, to continue reaching underrepresented, misrepresented, or otherwise marginalized audiences featured in their work. The roundtable hopes to demonstrate how intersections between "the local" and "the global" demand diversifying how we imagine "diversity" when exploring cultures of childhood, children, and youth. Participants are Zetta Elliott, Shauntay Grant, Rukhsana Khan, and Vivek Shraya. Moderator: Gurbir Singh Jolly.



**Zetta Elliott** describes herself as "a Black feminist writer of poetry, plays, essays, novels, and stories for children." Raised in Canada, she has lived in the US for over twenty years. Her award-winning picture book *Bird* was followed by her YA novel *A Wish After Midnight*; *Ship of Souls* (2012) was named a Booklist Top Ten Sci-fi/Fantasy Title for Youth and was a finalist for the Phillis

Wheatley Book Award; her latest YA novel, *The Door at the Crossroads*, was a finalist in the Speculative Fiction category of the 2017 Cybils Awards, and her picture book, *Melena's Jubilee*, was named one of the Best Children's Books of the Year by Bank Street College of Education. Zetta was awarded the Children's Literature Association's article award for her 2014 essay, "The Trouble with Magic: Conjuring the Past in New York City Parks" in *Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures*.

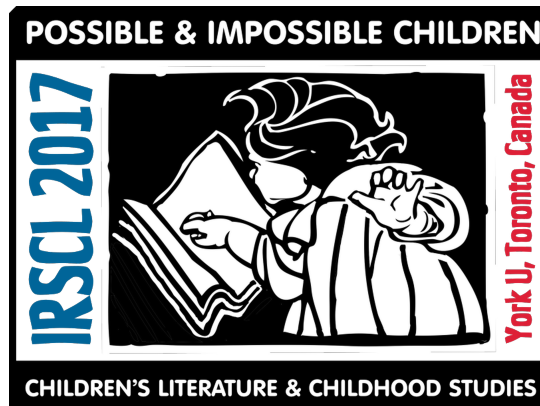
An advocate for greater diversity and equity in publishing, Zetta has self-published numerous illustrated books for younger readers under her own imprint, Rosetta Press.

See more information about Zetta and her books for children and young adults at <http://www.zettaelliott.com/>

**Shauntay Grant** is a writer and storyteller from Halifax, Nova Scotia. She publishes, performs, and teaches in several literary genres, and as Halifax's third Poet Laureate (2009-11) she organized Canada's first national gathering of Canadian Poets Laureate.

A descendant of Black Loyalists, Black Refugees, and Jamaican Maroons who came to Canada during the 18th and 19th centuries, Shauntay's love of language stretches back to her storytelling roots in Nova Scotia's historic Black communities. She is a multidisciplinary artist with professional degrees and training in creative writing, music, and theatre, and her homegrown artistic practice embraces African Nova Scotian folk tradition as well as contemporary approaches to literature and performance.

Shauntay's awards and honours include a Best Atlantic-Published Book prize from the Atlantic Book Awards, a Poet of Honour prize from Spoken Word Canada, and a Joseph S. Stauffer Prize in Writing and Publishing from the Canada Council for the Arts. She teaches creative writing at Dalhousie University, and as playwright-in-residence for 2b theatre company she is currently developing her stage play *The Bridge*. Her picture books for



children are *Up Home* (2008), *The City Speaks in Drums* (2010), *Apples and Butterflies* (2012), and *The Walking Bathroom* (forthcoming in fall 2017).

Please see additional information at <https://www.shauntaygrant.com/home>.



**Rukhsana Khan** is an award-winning author and storyteller who was born in Lahore, Pakistan and immigrated to Canada at the age of three. She has twelve books published (one of which was chosen by the New York Public Library as one of the 100 greatest children's books in the last 100 years). Some of her books have been published in other countries and in different languages. She has appeared on television and radio lots of times, and has been featured at conferences and festivals around the world. She lives in Toronto with her husband and family.

Her picture books, short story collections, and novels for children and youth include *King for a Day*; *Big Red Lollipop*; *Wanting Mor*; *A New Life*; *Many Windows*; *Silly Chicken*; *Ruler of the Courtyard*; *King of the Skies*; *Muslim Child*; *Dahling, If You Luv Me*; *The Roses in my Carpets*; and *Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk*.

Please see additional information at <http://www.rukhsanakhan.com/index.html>.

**Vivek Shraya** is a Toronto-based artist whose body of work includes several albums, films, and books. Her first book of poetry, *even this page is white*, won a 2017 Publisher Triangle Award and was longlisted for CBC's *Canada Reads*. Her debut novel, *She of the Mountains*, was named one of *The Globe and Mail's Best Books*, and her first children's picture book, *The Boy & the Bindi*, was featured on the National Post Bestseller List. Vivek has read and performed inter-nationally at shows, festivals and post-secondary institutions, including sharing the stage with Tegan & Sara. She is one half of the music duo Too Attached.

A four-time Lambda Literary Award finalist, Vivek was a 2016 Pride Toronto Grand Marshal, a 2015 Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award finalist, and a 2015 recipient of the Writers' Trust of Canada's Dayne Ogilvie Prize Honour of Distinction.

Please see additional information at <https://vivekshraya.com/>.



The organizers thank the Toronto Public Library, the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, and the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy for their generous support. Reception and book-signing to follow. Books will be available for purchase on-site by the York University Bookstore.

IRSL Congress 2017 is being made possible through support from the Faculties of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, Graduate Studies, and Education; the Academic Vice-President and Provost and the Vice-President of Research & Innovation; the Departments of Humanities, History, and Communication Studies and the Children's Studies Program; the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies and the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean; Winters College; as well as Toronto Public Library, TIFF Bell Lightbox, and the International Research Society for Children's Literature.

For more information: <http://irscl17.info.yorku.ca/>

