

University of Tampa MFA Program January 2020

Lectores Reading Series

(All readings begin at 7:30pm and are open to the public)

Thursday, January 9
Vaughn Center, 9th Floor



A 2019 MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient, **Valeria Luiselli** is the author of *Lost Children Archive*, a finalist for the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Fiction and longlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize. The volume was named a best book of 2019 by *Entertainment Weekly*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vulture* and *Time*. NPR called it "daring, wholly original, brilliant, fascinating." *Lost Children Archive* re-imagines the classic road trip novel as an urgent examination of the immigration crisis of the US Southern Border. It is also something of a companion piece to Luiselli's moving nonfiction volume *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*. Luiselli is also the author of the

novels *The Story of My Teeth* and *Faces in the Crowd*, and *Sidewalks*, an essay collection.
<https://www.emtagency.net/valeria>

Friday, January 10
Vaughn Center, 9th Floor

Initially associated with the New Weird literary genre, **Jeff VanderMeer** crossed over into mainstream success with his bestselling *Southern Reach Trilogy*, which Stephen King called "creepy and fascinating." The trilogy's first novel, *Annihilation*, won the Nebula and Shirley Jackson Awards, and was adapted into a Hollywood film by director Alex Garland. VanderMeer has been called "one of the most remarkable practitioners of the literary fantastic in America today," with *The New Yorker* naming him the "King of Weird Fiction." His work is noted for eluding genre classifications even as it employs themes and elements from a variety of subgenres, including ecofiction and post-pocalyptic fiction. Among VanderMeer's other novels are *Shriek: An Afterword* and *Borne*, which Colson Whitehead called "a thorough marvel." <http://www.jeffvandermeer.com/>



Saturday, January 11
Vaughn Center, 9th Floor



Fernanda Santos' "*The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots*," won the Western Writers of America 2017 Spur Award for Best First Nonfiction Book. *The Fire Line* tells the story of 19 firefighters killed in the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013, all of them members of the same team, the Granite Mountain Hotshots. It was the largest loss of firefighters since the 9/11 attacks and the largest loss of forest firefighters in nearly a century. Santos has written in English and Portuguese, for newspapers and magazines in the United

States and Brazil. She was the first Brazilian staff writer for The New York Times, where she worked for 12 years, most recently as its Phoenix Bureau chief. <https://www.fernandasantos.com/>

Sunday, January 12
Vaughn Center, 9th Floor

May-lee Chai's *Useful Phrase for Immigrants* was a 2019 American Book Award winner. *The Washington Post* called the short story collection "immersive and complex." *Forward Reviews* declared it "devastating and graceful in equal turns." Chai is also the author of three novels, *My Lucky Face*, *Dragon Chica*, and *Tiger Girl*, as well as a novella and two memoirs, *The Girl from Purple Mountain* (co-authored with her father, Winberg Chai) and *Hapa Girl*. Her work has been translated into German, Hebrew, and Chinese. She is also the English translator of Ba Jin's 1934 *Autobiography* (*Ba Jin Zi Zhuan*). <https://may-leechai.com/>



Tuesday, January 14

Scarfone/Hartley Gallery



Marcus Jackson studied poetry in NYU's graduate creative writing program and as a Cave Canem fellow. His poems have appeared in such publications as *The American Poetry Review*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. His second book of poems, entitled *Pardon My Heart* (Northwestern University Press/TriQuarterly Books), was recently released. Of *Pardon My Heart*, Jeff Gordinier for *The New York Times* writes, "Jackson's collection confirms the arrival of a thrilling new voice in American poetry, one whose writing, on page after page, has the fullness and glow of a jubilee." Jackson lives with his wife and child in Columbus, Ohio. <https://www.poetmarcusjackson.com/>

Wednesday, January 16
Vaughn Center, 9th Floor

Shane Hinton is the author of *Pinkies* and *Radio Dark* and the editor of *We Can't Help It If We're From Florida*. His work has appeared in *Clackamas Literary Review*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *The Rumpus*, *Fiction Advocate*, *storySouth*, *The Butter* and others. President of the Florida Literary Arts Coalition and a fiction editor for *Tampa Review*, he is a faculty member of the English and Writing Department at UT.



Sandra Beasley is the author of *I Was the Jukebox*, winner of the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and *Theories of Falling*, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize, and *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life*, a memoir and cultural history of food allergy. Her third collection of poetry, *Count the Waves*, was published by W. W. Norton in 2015. Recent honors for her work include two D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities Fellowships and the Maureen Egen Exchange Award from Poets & Writers.

Thursday, January 16

**Vaughn Center, 2nd Floor
Reeves Theater**



Alan Michael Parker has written four novels, *Cry Uncle*, *Whale Man*, *The Committee on Town Happiness*, and *Christmas in July*. He is also the author of eight collections of poems: *Days Like Prose*, *The Vandals*, *Love Song with Motor Vehicles*, *A Peal of Sonnets*, *Elephants & Butterflies*, *Ten Days* (with painter Herb Jackson), *Long Division* and *The Ladder*. He served as coeditor of *The Manifesto Project* (with Rebecca Hazelton), Editor of *The Imaginary Poets*, and coeditor of three other volumes. His poems have appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Pleiades*, and *The Yale Review*, among other magazines, and twice in *The Best American*

Poetry annual; his prose has appeared in journals including *The Believer*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *The New Yorker*. <https://alanmichaelparker.com/>



Aramis Calderon holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Tampa. He has published short stories in *The Deadly Writers Patrol*, *As You Were: The Military Review*, and *Incoming: Sex, Drugs, and Copenhagen*. His current area of operations is Tampa, Florida where every week he meets with fellow veteran writers in the DD-214 Writers' Workshop. His debut novel, *Dismount*, is due out fall 2019.