

## "Writing Refugee Utopias: The Poetry of Hmong Diaspora"

Examining several of the most active poets from the contemporary Hmong literary movement, this presentation examines the ways in which spaces throughout the Hmong diaspora are constructed and memorialized as *refugee utopias*. These refugee utopias are true non-places—situated betwixt and between national borders, culturally imagined as sites of both power and impotence—but these utopias are, despite being ambiguous and fraught, critical sites wherein refugee communities fashion an identity that surpasses the stigmas of refugee-as-victim. The poets of the diaspora put forth striking voices that give radical reshaping to conventional notions of refugees and refugee communities.