

# Writing as Repair/Repair as Writing

A workshop part of the British Sociological Association (BSA)  
Postgraduate Forum Event series



Supported by the British Sociological Association (BSA) and the LSE Phd Academy, *Writing as Repair/Repair as Writing* is a day of talks, discussions and workshop encouraging participants to think critically and in an interdisciplinary way about writing practices in academia.

By investigating the diverse shapes, strategies, praxes, politics and experiences of (academic) writing, this workshop intends to invite participants to engage with writing as repair, and repair as writing. To think sociologically about writing, as [Paul Jones and Priya Sharma](#) recently noticed, is to 'illuminat[e] the various normalised conventions, inclusions and exclusions that characterise the process.' For instance, how does the politics of citation challenge our understanding of knowledge and power? To whom or with whom are we writing, and why does it matter? How do we narrate the lives and experiences of those for who writing has meant/means violence? In our digitalised world where words spread almost instantly, what is the place of slow-writing and slow-reading? How does fiction animate our writing process? Considering sociology's haunted past and, as [Gala Rexer](#) puts it, how words have failed us, can we envision repair through writing and writing as repair? Finally, on a more practical level, for doctoral students, writing may also mean engaging with various feelings from the joy of the first publication, and the excitement of fieldnotes to the almost existential angst of the blank page?

The day will include an opening talk by Dr Gala Rexer, a writing workshop led by Heba Hayek and a panel and group discussion chaired by Anna Nguyen. Participants are expected to take part in the whole event.

## Registration

As the numbers are **limited**, we ask potential participants to fill in [this form](#). Please don't feel pressure to write very elaborate answers, this is just to try to form a coherent group.

Please notice that there is small participation fees of £5 for BSA members and £15 for non BSA members.

We have **five** (5) bursaries available to help people coming from outside of London and/or low-budget.

All candidates will receive a confirmation by **1st May 2023**. If you wish to reconsider your participation before that date, please send an email to [sarai.kirshner@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sarai.kirshner@kcl.ac.uk).

## Speakers

**Dr Gala Rexer** (she/her) is a sociologist conducting research at the intersection of race, gender, and the body. Broadly, her writing identifies how racial capitalism and settler colonialism affect birthing people's reproductive health and rights. She is currently working on her first book project on reproductive justice in Israel/Palestine, focusing on the multiscalar borders that impede Palestinian women's reproductive movements and outcomes. She also works on a second project which explores how waste and pollution affect marginalized people's reproductive practices and outcomes, both biologically and socially.

Gala received her PhD in Sociology from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2021, where she was a Heinrich Böll doctoral fellow. She was the academic curator of "<Interrupted =>Cyfem and Queer", a three-part interdisciplinary symposium on technology, gender, and sexuality, and research associate of a research project on Body Politics in Israel/Palestine, Germany, and Turkey. Her writing has appeared in *Ethnic & Racial Studies* and *Comparative Sociology*.

**Heba Hayek** (she/they) is a London-based, Gaza-raised Palestinian author, creative and facilitator. She completed an MFA in Creative Writing at Miami University, Ohio, and studied for an MA in Social Anthropology at SOAS University of London. Rooted in anti-nation-state, decolonial, queer, Afrikan feminist thought, Heba's work navigates topics such as disposability, Global South solidarity movements, land justice, Palestinian drill music, and more.

Heba's first book, *Sambac Beneath Unlikely Skies*, won the Creative Award in the 2022 Palestine Book Awards and was chosen as a 2021 Book of the Year by The White Review, Middle East Eye and The New Arab.

**Anna Nguyen** (she/her/hers) left her PhD studies and is now an MFA student at the Stonecoast Program in the University of Southern Maine. In her writing, she likes to blend theoretical creative non-fiction while thinking about food, the literary studies of science, institutional critiques, and the mundane without enforcing academic conventions. Her recent memoirs-in-novella, *Paperwork & Borders: A Marriage*, documented some of her institutional experiences in different countries and cities. She hosts a podcast, *Critical Literary Consumption*.

## Questions and comments

For questions and comments, please write to [sarai.kirshner@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sarai.kirshner@kcl.ac.uk).

## Summary

**Date/Time:** 12th May, 10:00-17:30

**Location:** LSE PhD Academy, Lionel Robbins Building (4th floor), 10 Portugal Street, London, WC2A 2HD

**Fees:** £5 (BSA member) / £15 (non-BSA member)

**Registration:** Fill in [this form](#) before **21 April 2023** (midnight)

### Programme

9:30-10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00 - 11:00: Opening talk by **Dr Gala Rexer**

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 1:00 Writing workshop with **Heba Hayek**

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 Interventions/feedback by participants

3:30 - 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 - 5:30 Closing panel discussion with **Anna Nguyen**

