

## Write the One Percent: Creating Diverse, Inclusive Fiction

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**Start date** 3 November 2019**End date** 3 November 2019**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge**Tutor** Lauren James**Course code** 1920NDX203**Director of Academic Centres** Dr Corinne Boz**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration  
Katherine Roddwell[katherine.roddwell@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.roddwell@ice.cam.ac.uk) | 01223 746 223**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746 262

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### Tutor biography

Lauren James is the author of Young Adult science fiction, including *The Quiet at the End of the World*, *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe* and *The Next Together* series. She teaches creative writing for Coventry University and Writing West Midlands, and has written articles for numerous publications, including the Guardian, BuzzFeed, The Toast, and the Children's Writers and Artist's Yearbook. You can find her on Twitter at @Lauren\_E\_James or her website <http://www.laurenejames.co.uk>.

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## Course programme

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>The basics of diverse fiction</b>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Writing outside of your own experience</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Respectfully writing about sexuality and race in prose</b>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Discussing political and social issues in fiction</b>
16:45	Day-school ends

## Course syllabus

### Aims:

- 1) To introduce the core concepts of diversity in writing, and explain why it is important for writers of all kinds to make their work inclusive
- 2) To define some of the most under-represented identities and explain the common pitfalls in writing about them
- 3) To guide students through the steps of researching an identity before writing, to make sure it is as accurate as possible

### Content:

**Session 1: The basics of diverse fiction** – The first session will introduce the relevant terminology needed to understand what we mean when we talk about minorities, diversity and inclusivity. We will highlight the dangers of stereotyping and slurs, with examples of these which should be avoided. We will also discuss ‘token characters’ and intersectionality between BAME (Black, Asian, and minority ethnic), LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), mentally ill and disabled characters. Examples of diverse writing and characters will be given through recommended reading to show how much depth and richness a new perspective and identity can bring to writing.

**Session 2: Writing outside of your own experience** – We will discuss the methods used by writers to research identities when writing, such as #ownvoices sensitivity readers and writing. We will work as a group to research and learn more about a chosen minority through online blogs, social media hashtags, YouTube videos and Goodreads reviews, as an example of how this can be done by writers for their work.

**Session 3: Respectfully writing about sexuality and race in prose** – This session will involve analysing examples of text taken from published work, and using them to discuss how to write respectful, realistic representation. Students will then have time to work individually on a diverse piece of writing based on the research done in the previous session.

**Session 4: Discussing political and social issues in fiction** – We will discuss the dangers of inaccurate representation, using case studies of authors who have faced consequences due to poorly researched writing. We will discuss some common criticisms given by reviewers about diversity, and students will then have an opportunity to edit their writing from the previous session, with a focus on improving the representation through further research to address issues.

### Presentation of the course:

The course will include lectures, guided group discussions, activities based around extracts of text taken from fiction books and writing exercises.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Feel confident in their ability to begin researching minorities for future projects
- Have a broader knowledge and context of the current social conversation surrounding representation in fiction
- Be more aware of representation in writing, and have an understanding of when the writing is successful in being inclusive

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
<u>Contemporary Fiction</u>		
Thomas, Angie	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Walker Books, 2017
Dawson, Juno	<i>Proud</i> (anthology)	Stripes, 2019
Wang, Jen	<i>The Prince and the Dressmaker</i>	First Second, 2018
Okparanta, Chinelo	<i>Under the Udala Trees</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015
Gino, Alex	<i>George</i>	Scholastic, 2015
<u>Genre Fiction</u>		
Cho, Zen	<i>Sorcerer to the Crown</i>	Macmillan, 2015
Jemisin, N. K.	<i>The Fifth Season</i>	Orbit, 2015
Rowland, Alexandra	<i>A Conspiracy of Truths</i>	Saga Press, 2018
de Bodard, Aliette	<i>In the Vanisher's Palace</i>	Jabberwocky, 2018
Bardugo, Leigh	<i>Six of Crows</i>	Orion, 2016
<u>Non-fiction</u>		
Eddo-Lodge, Reni	<i>Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race</i>	Bloomsbury, 2017
Nelson, Maggie	<i>The Argonauts</i>	Melville House, 2015
Various (anthology)	<i>The Bi-ble: An Anthology of Essays on Bisexuality</i>	Monstrous Regiment, 2017
Shukla, Nikesh	<i>The Good Immigrant</i> (anthology)	Unbound, 2016
Huxley-Jones, Lizzie	<i>Stim: An Autism Anthology</i>	Unbound, forthcoming
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	<i>Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions</i>	Knopf, 2017

## Website addresses

<http://writingwithcolor.tumblr.com/>

<https://diversebooks.org/>

<https://lgbtqreads.com/category/authors-in-conversation/>

<http://blobolobolob.blogspot.com/2014/05/blogging-against-disablism-day-2014.html>

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## Additional information

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### Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

### Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 12 March 2019