

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Location: Zoom (please [RSVP](#) for link)

4:30pm- 6:00pm

“For the Time Being” *This poem can be read at <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/153961/for-the-time-being>*

Poetic Expressions of Illness and the Changed Sense of Time

Carmen Bugan, PhD

Language and experience are in constant conversation. Experience prompts us to look for the right words that help us process changes in our lives. Thus, we enter a journey in language that, in turn, affects our experience. Language is the way we maintain equilibrium between the inner self and the outer world.

In this talk I explore the altered perception of time that we experience during illness. Creative writing is a process that fuses language and experience in a unique way: it literally “makes” language. The expressive qualities of lyric language are “transporting”: they allow both the writer and reader to traverse turbulent time by providing images and associations that speak to the universal human experience, thereby easing the weight of personal grief into a communal sense of shared consolation. I use poetry as a particular vehicle of language, and I explore poetic expressions that absorb and attempt to make sense of the notion of time, and of the evolving self in time.

Please RSVP [here](#) or to bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu



Carmen Bugan, George Orwell Prize Fellow, is the author of five poetry collections, among which *Lilies from America: New and Selected Poems* (a PBS Special Commendation). Her memoir, *Burying the Typewriter: Childhood Under the Eye of the Secret Police*, was a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, and her monograph on *Seamus Heaney and East European Poetry in Translation: Poetics of Exile* has received wide recognition. Her book, *Poetry and the Language of Oppression: Essays on Politics and Poetics* (Oxford University Press, 2021), was named "an essential book for writers" by Poets & Writers; her new book of poems, *Time Being*, was praised by the Irish Times poetry editor for its "disciplined precision". Bugan was a Creative Arts Fellow in Literature at Wolfson College, Oxford University, a Hawthornden Fellow, the Helen DeRoy Professor in Honors at the University of Michigan, and has also taught at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. She has a doctorate in English literature from Balliol College, Oxford. Dr Bugan is on the faculty at the Gotham Writers' Workshop in Manhattan, The Poetry School in London, the Oxford Writing Mentors, serves on the Advisory Board of the Geneva Writers' Group, and teaches creative writing worldwide.

To learn more about the **Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics** and the Master of Arts program, please visit stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters