



WRITERS IMMERSION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE  
RMIT COPYRIGHT AGENCY  
ASIA-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

## Call for Expressions of Interest: WRICE Early Career Fellowship Applications

WRICE (Writers Immersion and Cultural Exchange) is a program of reciprocal cultural exchange and cultural immersion focused on writers and writing. Applications are open for an **Early Career Fellowship** for participation in the WRICE China collaboration in 2016. The Early Career Fellowship is open to writers across the full spectrum of practice. Applicants should be in the early stages of their career, with one published book or equivalent writing success. WRICE is an initiative of the nonfictionLab at RMIT University, generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

The Fellowship is valued at \$9000, inclusive of all residency costs and award for participation. The Fellow will join a face-to-face community of writers through participation in a collaborative immersion residency with other emerging and established writers. The collaborative residency will take place in Guangzhou and Yangshou, China in April 2016 and will be followed by activity later in the year in Melbourne, in association with the Melbourne Writers Festival. Fellows will also contribute to a virtual community of practice through an ongoing digital online project space and will enjoy time and space for their own writing. Early Career Fellows are expected to participate in both Chinese and Australian activities and events.

Previous WRICE Early Career Fellows include Omar Musa and Maxine Beneba Clarke who were joined by Established Fellows Melissa Lucashenko in Penang, Cate Kennedy in Vietnam, and Asia-Pacific writers Alvin Pang, Eddin Khoo, Xu Xi, Bernice Chauley, Laurel Fantauzzo, Robin Hemley, Suchen Christine Lim, Jhoanna Cruz, Nyein Way and Nguyen Bao Chan. These writers were also joined by emerging student writers Harriet McKnight, Jennifer Down, Laura Stortenbeker, Amarlie Foster, Melody Paloma and Joe Rubbo.

Omar Musa - WRICE Vietnam Early Career Writer

*"I have long been interested in the overlapping cultures and societies of South East Asia and how they relate to Australia. I think it's imperative that we as Australian artists engage with these cultures, as Australia is part of the region but often uneasy about its neighbours. As a person whose heritage straddles both South-East Asia and Australia, much of my work has dealt with this push-and-pull. I see this is a unique opportunity to explore a rich culture that is rapidly modernising, but has ancient roots, through poetry, music and art."*

Maxine Beneba Clarke - WRICE inaugural Early Career Writer (Malaysia and Singapore)

*"The fostering of a strong Asia-Pacific writing community, and the exchange of ideas and experiences within that community, is vital to the growth and survival of Australian literature. The WRICE program offered me the most fundamental of resources for any early career writer: time and mind-space to write. Meeting other writers from diverse backgrounds who are also bringing their experiences to the page has reaffirmed my belief that in order to flourish, Australian literature must be locally grounded, but globally minded."*

## **Background**

The WRICE program contributes to an Asia-Pacific community of writers, sparking networks and connections and raising the professional profile of writers across the region. It provides a solid framework for intercultural dialogue — the exchange and furthering of knowledge, creativity, skills and cultural perspectives — that is underpinned by principles of mutual respect and a desire for genuine reciprocity. Between 2013 and 2015 WrICE has brought together 24 emerging and established writers from the across the region for collaborative residencies and public events in Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Melbourne.



**Guangzhou, China**



**Yangshuo, China**

Email expressions of interest to [wrice@rmit.edu.au](mailto:wrice@rmit.edu.au) by **Friday 31 July 2015**. Your application should include a CV, 100 word biographical note and a 250 word statement outlining why you would like to participate in WrICE.

Applications will be considered by a WrICE Fellowship panel, made up of a combination of publishers, writers and writing educators. The panel will consider applicants who demonstrate an understanding of the possibilities around this opportunity, who are likely to benefit from workshopping and working outside their normal experiences, as well as on the basis of what they can bring to others.

[www.wrice.com.au](http://www.wrice.com.au)

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