



**Finding Your Place in Ortigia, Sicily
Writing Workshop
with John S. Summerfield Jr., USA
8-10 July 2021**

"Write the poem only you can write" Billy Collins (U.S. Poet Laureate)

Inspiration, intimacy, and singularity are the foundations of writing practices. Translating them into forms and words, writers share their emotions that come from the deepest well of their souls. Nobody else knows that place. Readers need permission to unlock the entryway to that place.

Departing from the lectures and tools of Richard Hugo's *Triggering Town* (1979), **John S. Summerfield Jr.**, MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College, author of *I, Suwannee & Poems*, *Remembering Sicily*, *Table Five* (with Sue Brannan Walker, former Poet Laureate of Alabama), and *Hunger* and New Plains Press publisher, will lead new and seasoned writers alike to their triggering town, their hometown, "*not just any town [...] though [...] never seen before, it must be a town you've lived in all your life. You must take emotional possession of the town and so the town must be one that [...] you feel is your town*".

Participants will work on their own, outside and inside the classroom, in pairs and in groups. They will receive peer feedback, experience collective reading sessions and, at the end of the workshop, individual consultation. From drafting to creating and publishing, participants will be coached to succeed in finding their writing place.

Held in breathtaking Ortigia, a place which has itself 'triggered' many writers, the workshop is sure to be an invaluable adventure on the unforgettable path toward self-discovery, productivity, and networking.

Numbers of participants will be limited, to make sure everyone can benefit from individual attention and to permit social distancing in the classroom.

Complete 3 days including coffee/tea breaks
150 euros -full
100 euros - reduced (students, unemployed)

One full day only including coffee/tea breaks
60 euros - full
35 euros - reduced (students, unemployed)





Draft Timetable (March 2021) TBC

8 July 2021

8:30 Welcome breakfast and Introductions

9:30 Tools and theories by Richard Hugo (author of *The Triggering Town*)

11:00 coffee break

11:15 Work in pairs to share inspiration/triggering town.

12:15 Lunch on your own

After lunch write a long poem or short story about **YOUR** triggering town.

From 4:30 Afternoon refreshments

5:00 till 7:00 Afternoon Peer Review session

9 July 2021

8:30 Recap as a single group.

9:30 Read and discuss published pieces that have similar themes to inspire.

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Break for work or to write a new piece.

4:30 till 7:00 for public readings (community invited). Refreshments provided

10 July 2021

8:30 Critiquing works with Hugo's example

10:00 Publishing practices and opportunities - Where will you publish?

11:00 Coffee break

Work in groups for brainstorming and final feedback.

12:00 Break for Lunch

From 4:30 Afternoon refreshments

5:00 onwards for individual consultation (early sign-ups recommended).

The workshop will be held in English but participants can write in their own language; English /Italian speakers will be present to help with translation/interpreting.

Students/unemployed may be asked to provide proof of status when applying for the discounted course fees.

N.B. If the COVID 19 situation makes it impossible to hold the course in Sicily in person, the workshop will be held online in an appropriately modified format.

For more information, please contact info@exedramc.com

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HOW TO PAY

The course fee must be paid in full by **8 June 2021**, unless otherwise agreed with Exedra Mediterranean Center.

You will receive a pro-forma invoice via Paypal which can be paid

- ❖ using Paypal (plus transaction fee of €15)
- ❖ by card
- ❖ by bank transfer

Beneficiary name : EXEDRA s.r.l.s.

Bank name : BANCA AGRICOLA POPOLARE DI RAGUSA

Address: Corso Umberto - Agenzia n. 1

Account number/C.C: 1351661933

IBAN : IT 96 G05036 17101 CC 1351661933 BIC : POPRIT31135

Please indicate for whom the payment is being made by stating clearly the **student's name** and the **name of the course**.

WITHDRAWAL

If a participant has already paid the workshop fee and then withdraws, **Exedra Mediterranean Center will withhold an administration fee of 30 euros**.

If the participant decides not to attend sessions after the workshop begins, he/she is not entitled to any refund.

COVID 19

Participants will be expected to comply with the Italian government's anti-Covid guidelines for July 2021. This may include wearing a mask indoors. Exedra Mediterranean Centre reserves the right to exclude anyone who refuses to comply.

PERSONAL DATA

The participant authorises Exedra Mediterranean Center to use his/her personal data in accordance with the current GDPR EU law. The participant may request at any moment that all of this information is deleted.

The participant authorises Exedra Mediterranean Center to send information and promotional material periodically about the center and the courses offered.

USE OF PHOTOS AND COMMENTS

Permission is given for the use of participant's comments or testimonials and photographs/ images of participants in the official promotional material for Exedra Mediterranean Center by the participant or their parents or legal guardian with acceptance of these terms and conditions.

QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

Participants should bring any problems to the center's attention immediately, in order to receive all the assistance needed to resolve any issues arising during the stay at Exedra Mediterranean Center.

We do not accept retrospective complaints or queries.