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EVIDENCE OF FETUS DIVERSITY



Editor, Eileen R. Tabios

Evidence of Fetus Diversity
(a one-week anthology)

Editor, Eileen R. Tabios

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Editor's Note

In mid-December 2017, media coverage revealed how, under the Trump Administration, officials at The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the nation's top public health agency, are discouraged from using seven words or phrases:

*vulnerable
entitlement
diversity
transgender
fetus
evidence-based
science-based*

While first reported as a "ban," the matter was subsequently fleshed out to be one of gauging the political temper of the times and CDC staff then concluding that these words would be best avoided in order to garner Administration support for its various (proposed) programs. Such conclusion is not as sexy headline-making as "ban" but probably a more nuanced assessment of the Administration's inclinations. So what does it mean to avoid words like "transgender," "fetus," and "science-based"? What does it mean to avoid the word "entitlement"? This anthology's poets respond.

This anthology was created within a week after the editor's Call for Work. Just a week, which is to say, this collection is just the tip of a response. The words are just beginning.

—Eileen R. Tabios
Editor

JOSE PADUA

**To My Father on What According to Evidence-Based
Assumptions Would Have Been His 102 Birthday**

You're not here to see this.
A president you would
have called *a son of a gun*,
not knowing the harsher, more
colorful, more beautifully
profane curses we have
in the English language.
You discovered the way
people speak here when
you came to America
from the Philippines
on the boat.
You learned how
to speak in America
while standing up
every day and walking,
lifting, getting, doing
the hundreds of things
they call work.
And when you spoke English
you spoke it
with an accent,
of course,
because unlike what
any all-American,
born-and-bred
sons of guns thought,
this is exactly
what made
the language
yours.

Metta Sáma

You say transgender I say diversity

You say fetus I say vulnerable

entitlement

evidence-based

science-based

safe space

Let's call the whole thing off

Barbara Jane Reyes

Fetus

When I was a tiny thing inside my mother's womb, I lived on Mission Street. I wish I could say I remember the vegetable vendors. That through the ocean that was my mother, I knew the speed of traffic, the tongues of the people. I want to say my mother learned to curse in this country. I want to say, this is my water.

Transgender

When I was the blind prophet, the people held me in high esteem. They called me oracle. They offered harvest and blood. And I sang, I versed, I named. Words came to me from where I cannot say. When I was the seed. When I was the source. When I was in my mother's womb, my little fishtail swished and I swam. I was a pocket of possibility.

Vulnerable

When they first arrived, they were so young. I never asked my father what it was like, did people mock his hard accented English. Did people think this foreigner didn't speak the language. Did they laugh in his face. Did they call him chink and monkey. Did he ever throw a fist. Is this why we tell those stupid jokes, is this why we pun. When he worked in Alabama, why did he buy a gun. What was it like, to be an accented Pinoy in the Heart of Dixie.

Entitlement

I have never had a divine right to anything. I only have people who tell me nothing is mine. I have people who tell me to stay in my lane. I have people tell me to my face that I do not belong. In the academy, an old woman told me I could not sit at her table. Of course she was white. Why would you even ask. Yes, she was a poet. Does this surprise you. You think poets should act better, but no, they don't.

Diversity

I believe in biodiversity. I believe in gender diversity. I believe in aesthetic diversity. I believe in linguistic diversity. I believe in dissent. Their data is fabricated. Their analysis sloppy. Let's move the outliers to different grid points. Let's re-map their maps. Let's throw some rocks. Let's muddy their sterile entryways. Let's muddy those whitewashed motherfuckers who barely make a peep, they're so scared their balance will tip. Let's tip them the fuck over. This works best when we disobey.

Evidence-based

History tells me affluence is a body that poisons itself, and a spirit that has atrophied from neglect. History tells me enough is always enough. We push back when you push us too far. The people will build the fire.

Science-based

When in good health, the body knows how to fight against attack. When wounded, the body repairs itself. When parasites come to devour us, the body will neuter them. In Latin, "immunis" means, "free," "untouched."

Mark Young

banned mots

*I'm allowed to say in
my reports that you
might have bubonic
plague, said the Secretary
of Health & Human
Services, but I'm not
allowed to say what
other pandemics
you're vulnerable to.*

The Assistant Secretary
for Health concurred.
*Diversity is not permitted.
Why do you think we
talk about the universe?
& entitlement to know-
ledge is not a right, it's
a privilege of rank, added
the Surgeon-General.*

A Greek Chorus, in
lockstep, all wearing
Anonymous masks
& T-shirts with the
message ~~transgender~~
on them, entered the
office of the Federal
Budget Director. *I am
an unborn child not*

*a fetus, they sang. Life
left me behind. So did
we, admitted the CDC
Director. You were lost
in translation. We mis-
read "intelligent design"
as "evidence-based" &
decided there was no
place available for you.*

Outside the Verdant
Meadows Funeral Home
in Atlanta is a sign that
says *Go Out in Style at a
budget price. &, slightly
smaller: In Coffins, Caskets
& Urns that have fallen
out of favor because their
design is science-based.*

Janice Lobo Sapigao

An Evidence-Based Sestina

*The Trump Administration prohibits the use of the words “vulnerable,” “entitlement,” “diversity,” “transgender,” “fetus,” “evidence-based” and “science-based” in the CDC’s official 2018 prepared budget documents.
– The Washington Post*

Your president threatens to rob people of diversity
Denying scholarship and truth in science-based
evidence; Confusing due process with entitlement
His cronies single us out: women, Muslim, transgender—
He leaves your country as vulnerable
as a fetus

Confused for a human life, a fetus
proves white Republicans don’t know diversity,
How can the CDC progress without citing science-based
research? Why does white entitlement
deny consequences? All laws have targeted us: students, poor,
transgender,
People of color, no access to healthcare leaving us vulnerable,

to a man whose self-security is vulnerable
to cable news; shrinking a political landscape to the size of a fetus.
Whitewashing one policy at a time diversity
Replacing de facto, science-based
Arguments for silence and entitlement.
Removing from our lexicon words and identities like transgender

I think your president is afraid of that which he doesn’t understand;
transgender
folks who’ve served in your military were left vulnerable
to his executive orders developed like a fetus
and too seen as his attack on diversity.

How many scientists used science-based
Expertise to rightly diagnose his entitlement?

Does your president reflect your own entitlement?
He makes his victims: immigrants, refugees, and folks who are
transgender,
We will come for him when he makes us vulnerable
We will be a mass growing like a fetus
in armed resistance will be our diversity
We will defend the science-based.

We will protect the science-based
community; we'll reject uninformed entitlement
working against civil rights, murdering our environment, limiting
rights of transgender
individuals; leaving your institutions vulnerable
to your own demise; to your own fetus
of loss in diversity.

Look at what scholars brought us: science-based diversity.
To prosecute transgender folks with your entitlement
Makes you small—a fetus, left vulnerable.

Aileen Cassinetto

SHOPTALK

“A lot of people claim to hate jargon, but what they hate is other people’s jargon.”

—*Britton Marketing and Design Group*

Jargon can force us to pause, to ponder, to question.”

—*Colleen Glenney Boggs, Dartmouth College English professor*

If
we must
dejargonize, then by

all
means, let
us refrain from

talking
shop. No
more diversity!¹ Fetus²

and
transgender³ are
not allowed. Can’t

be
too vulnerable.⁴
And you may

kiss
your entitlement⁵
goodbye. Just so

we're
clear, we
no longer accept

science-
based⁶ research
and evidence-based⁷

diagnoses.
But why
stop there? Why

not
eschew the
word “sad”⁸ (if

the
situation does
not really constitute

true
sorrow); and
while we're at

it,
why not
forswear all “fake

news”⁹
(i.e., those
unsupported by NotAlternative

Facts)?
Lastly, can
someone please stand

up
in church
and testify that

“love
on”¹⁰ is
irritating as hell.

¹ Used 779,079 times in peer-reviewed journals.

“An essential aspect of the scientific process in the life sciences is the thorough examination of manuscripts by other scientists. They read the article critically and then either suggest that it is accepted, rejected, or—most frequently—revised and improved before it is published. In fact, most scientists will not consider a scientific pronouncement as valid unless it has been approved by this anonymous process, known as peer review. Without such an external seal of approval, they would consider any results presented as preliminary, potentially flawed and generally of the same self-serving status as a press release.”—National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

² Used 34,681 times in peer-reviewed journals.

³ Used 5,770 times in peer-reviewed journals.

⁴ Used 264,979 times in peer-reviewed journals.

⁵ Used 45,854 times peer-reviewed journals. Example: Harvey, Paul and Mark J. Martinko. “An Empirical Examination of the Role of Attributions in Psychological Entitlement and Its Outcomes.” *Journal of Organizational Behavior* 30, no. 4 (2009): 459-76.

⁶ Used 1,430,294 times in peer-reviewed journals. Example: Jones, C. L., G. M. Littlejohn, and A. F. McPherson. “Predicting Science-Based Study at University.” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Series A (General)* 137, no. 1 (1974): 48-59.

⁷ Used 1,646,988 times in peer-reviewed journals. Example: Llewelyn, Huw, Ram Kumar, G H Hall, Oscar M Jolobe, and David A Haslam. “Evidence Based Diagnosis.” *BMJ: British Medical Journal* 333, no. 7567 (2006): 549-50.

⁸ Tweeted by POTUS45 229 times since September 1, 2011.

⁹ Tweeted by POTUS45 145 times since January 10, 2017.

¹⁰ Martin Saunders, “Press in and love on: The new wave of Christian jargon and why it’s not half as clever as we think it is,” *Christian Today*, May 11, 2016, <http://www.christiantoday.com>

Dina Paulson-McEwen

Caring inspo

Male gentoos rock
by rock beak by
beak make house so
female gentoos
choose so careful
evidence-based
caring inspo

She growls gets
closer to a
1,000 pound
male (polar bears)
starved everyone
the faultless sun
her twins aside
growl follow
mama's lead fend
& he retreats
so they all wait
to walk over
a frozen sea
no mangle foe
science-based
caring inspo

Maybe she likes
to dive (dolphin)
or just dives to
travel fast to
Alaska fins
dice water like
steel drums eat

squid lollipops
entitlement
caring inspo

El rojo di-
ablo eats its
own seduces
by color. A
body who bleeds
a message not
a message starts
lustrous braining
lose rust running
diversity
caring inspo

We make bread seek
council be breasts
we need to eat
sink blood creatures
who disrupt think
with white action
we learn to knead
vulnerable
caring inspo

Spinner dolphin
mamas and papas
and their babies
stay together
protect & swim
make space for a
doctor seuss tree
& conviction
free earth's body
transgender
caring inspo

When you beat when
you become the
size of corn husk
we need to know
qualities &
language also
for marking an
estuary
“x” we need words
to turn pages
rest our hands on
turn our throats on
run our nose home
fetus
caring inspo

Agnes Marton

Nemesis

The boundaries of loss I can't fathom.
Of vulnerable diversity. Leaking
boats slide, my migrant feet
trot the furrowed frost of the sea.
Hell without flames. The egg I plopped
won't hatch Helen of Troy, Clytemnestra,
nor Castor and Pollux, drunken
fists punch away its corpse-like shell.
My cosmic fetus. All she recalls (he?)
is an ungainly hangover. Querulous,
I swallow a blown sense of 'Entitlement.'
A squeak stumbles through my cliffened lips.
A science-based dream of a fence. The only door
I've known is not to be used as an exit
or an entrance.

Lurana Donnels O'Malley

"Despite"

Many moons ago, I felt so vulnerable

when we lost the fetus,

but the evidence-based science of the xray

told me that I had no entitlement to that dream,

despite all our science-based efforts to keep him healthy, despite our desire to raise him in the glorious diversity of this island, despite how we would have loved him in any form,

whether he had turned out to be an MBA or a transgender performance artist.

hashtagkeepusingyourwords

EVIDENCE-BASED
VULNERABLE
UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE
GENDER
EVIDENCE-BASED
VULNERABLE
IDENTITY
MENT

EVIDENCEBASED
FETUS
VULNERABLE
UNIVERSITY
SCIENCE
GENDER
EVIDENCE
IDENTITY
MENT
BASED
EVIDENCE

uyen hoang

cancel this

sticks and stones may break my bones,
but your words will never hurt me.

what bullshit are you trying to pull?

bloated off your self perceived entitlement,
you grin, gloat, and fancy yourself king,
with laws ready to pounce,
licking its lips,
waiting for bodies to be drawn and quartered,
with regulations, sharpening its claws,
ready to tear into flesh.

you don't want science based facts.
you don't want evidence based programs.
tell me how you will prove america will be great again.
tell me with your words,
dribbling down your chin like vomit
how *you* will save *us*
from the suffering
you insist on stuffing down our throats.

but

we will survive.
we will thrive.
we have died many times,
crumpled under your lukewarm, self serving dedication to “diversity”,
only to live again.
resistance begins in the womb,
a fetus nurtured from necessity.
we cannot be stopped

because
we cannot be silenced.

can you hear it?

the whispers and roars
from our siblings—*transgender, queer, people of color, femme,*
incarcerated,
disabled, poor, undocumented, working class, immigrant, refugee,
muslim—
these "vulnerable" populations;
vulnerability, a euphemism for the symptomatic symptoms,
stemming from white supremacy.
vulnerable not because of our own accord,
but left sick and dying from the festering disease.

all these beautiful faces with sweet voices,
carrying the songs and incantations
older than the cells in our body,
tied together by the blood in our veins,
a steady heartbeat,
constant in time.

we have been singing throughout history.

who the fuck do you think you are,
to think that you can be louder than us?
keep your hands off our bodies.
keep your hands off our words.
we will tear you down
and tear you apart,
uncensored.

Carol Dorf

On the Evidence

In an evidence-based world
we would admit that every male fetus
is transgender before transitioning
from female to male. How vulnerable
the fetus. Admitting this leads to
science-based decisions
about how diversity of need
effects environmental degradation.
Call it “entitlement.”

Tania Perez

A Banned Existence

When did you start to hate me?
Was it when I was a fetus
In the belly of my beautiful brown mother?
Or perhaps you started with mami
Who dances while she cooks and loves me more than herself
The one who continues to believe in you
Despite it all
Or was it when I realized I was just a diversity token?
The one you made believe that she was better than all that she had left
behind
I felt like you had chosen me
That I was worthy of your affection
All I needed to do was not be like *them*
Then one day you asked me to set myself on fire
There I stood
Charred in front of you smiling
But then you asked me something I couldn't do
You asked me to light *them* on fire too
You never loved me
I have this burned skin to prove it

Now that I have you on trial
For the violent acts you've committed against me
Jury, if I may, let me show you the evidence-based facts

Your entitlement allows you to walk the world
Unafraid of taking too much space
Ignoring children left without parents, at the hands of the men we pay
to protect you
Reaping the unconditional love that this place gifts you with everyday
Basking in the light you have built for only yourself
And then still feeling dissatisfied

When the sun shines on everybody
Because on some days having the upper hand to a rigged game of
chess is
Simply not enough

I wish you were the vulnerable population
Vulnerability in the purest form
That way you could at least feel something for those I love

When did you stop feeling?
Was it when you saw the blood of Native Americans on your hands
slip through your fingers?
Or when you heard the backs of Black people breaking underneath
your weight?
Maybe it was when you created a system that depended on people
living in the shadows
Perhaps when you started a war you couldn't win
It was probably when you were rejected by that girl at the dance and
decided to teach her a lesson
Come to think of it, it was probably the day you figured out you
weren't free either

To free the oppressed, we must also free the oppressor
You, the one who stays awake at night thinking of ways to show me
how you hate me,
How do I save you?
How do I do this
When you have spent hundreds of years keeping me from saving
myself

I will employ science-based methodologies
I will study you and your intricacies
I will look at your face and not see any resiliency
I will abort mission because you are nothing like me
I will doubt your strength and start believing in my own
I will look down at my brown skin and see my grandmothers *smiling*
at me

I will remember and never forget that until Black transgender women
are free
No one is free
I am not free
You are not free

When did you start to hate me?
It's been so long that I forgot

E.E. Nobbs

SEVEN WORDS

(—a triolet of sorts, after CDC list December 2017*)

One good thing about banning words
— it makes you want to use them;
No! say some bureaucratic herders.
Yes, the advantage of banning words
is this: it reminds us that freedoms blur
— reminds us now to ask, How come?
Who exactly banned these words?
We must find ways to use them.

* As reported by the *Washington Post* — diversity, entitlement, evidence-based, fetus, science-based, transgender & vulnerable
[alphabetized by EEN]

Gillian Parrish

from “Fikr Series”

#7

then the women said *hurry* then said *too late*
flown from the sparrow house

no more ‘vulnerable’ ‘diversity’
wildfires tightening the shoulders

the plot against truth
the pull of Goodwill

'wool-worker, walk slowly'
let forth lightning

#8

a dream crowded with sound
when they come for the wounded

sirens to the south
'the voice of the Desert'

'we're on a bad path'
no (evidence-based) heart

breath warm under wool
path of Love

Ed Go

every fetus is transgender

every embryo vulnerable
to the diversity entitlement entitles

this is science
based on evidence
based on faith
based on culture
based on society
based on conditioning
based on boundaries
based on reconditioning
based on reconstruction
based on violence
based on sex
based on love
based on hate
based on hope
based on deep devotion
 departing dreams darkly
 art deco nostalgia
based on appreciation of
 the human being in multi
 manifestations—staring
 out the window of the train with her beats
 on—looking at himself in an electric mirror—
 two boys holding hands
 —me with chemicals in my bloodstream—
 she with that thing you bought at the sex shop
 all are vulnerable
 to the knife at the neck
 the dollar on the floor
 the sweatshop condition

—unconditioned as we are
to decay & conditioned
to consume

Melinda Luisa de Jesús

Letter to the CDC

Dear Sir/Madam:

My diverse transgender entitlement cannot be banned just because it is rooted in science-based and evidence-based knowledge. Behold, my bad-ass fabulousness comes from God herself.

Toodles,
Vulnerability Fetus

Exegesis on Seven Banned Words: A Proof

If:

(Banned)

(Promoted)

Instead of science

READ religion

Instead of evidence

READ faith

Instead of entitlement

READ disadvantage

Instead of vulnerability

READ strength

Instead of fetus

READ person

Instead of transgender

READ gender-conforming

Instead of diverse

READ white

Then:

white

faith-based men

and women, strong

people,
feel disadvantaged
by science- and evidence-based

thought.
gender-conforming snowflakes
demand white evangelical

power: the church-based
state. So unconstitutional!

Q.E.D.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER!
TRANS FOLKS LIVES MATTER!
FIGHT AUTHORITARIANISM EVERYWHERE!**

Sheila Bare

i

The edict came from above. a boy

ii

living in a big white house. belongs in big house.
living in white house paid for by his people. he
can't see all the people. stories written in a box. stories
disbursed across the
land. (he)stories were not **evidence-based**
(he)stories ignore science
disregard logic. (he)stories alternative

iii

facts. *anarchy loosed upon the world.* center unravelling *somewhere
in sands of the desert* they celebrate his coming on the west bank on
the east side they take to the streets his effigy burned *spiritus mundi*
fetus **vulnerable** turns over in (m)other watery
womb/tomb double

iv

helix marked as other **diversity** not belonging no
privilege. (he)stories *center cannot hold* (he)stories ensnarl
women **(trans) gender** others take to streets
with knitting needles . stories disbursed across the
land climate
changing no belief in **science-based** phenomena

v

banning language antipathetic intolerant. ignores the flooding islands
snow in deserts
wildfires in december

vi

no help for people take away **entitlements**
they labored in vain

vii

the edict the boy and his stories unravel. women and others take to
the streets knitting needles in hand. their stories disbursed across the
lands

richard lopez

First Language

look you into my face & see
me dressed for a banquet
thought proper for cosmic poverty

look you find me vulnerable
the fetus in my womb
thought proper for this defense

for i am bereft of words
mine entitlement not booked
& stript of diversity

my tongue is dry & twisted
& my soul is housed empty
of candor & wit nor is it

evidence-based in facts nor
is it trans-gendered in the things of
this world you mind

fake mystic cousin of the science-
based planet that fails you by facts
blinkered by unreason & false ideology

Surazeus

Choir Of Our Universe

I look inside the abyss of my heart
and see countless billions of flashing worlds,
teeming with conscious living souls, that spin
around all the stars of the universe.

This strange quotidian multitude of souls
that bubbles from the hot chemical soup
of countless worlds, spinning so far apart
in the void, nourishes my heart with love.

I lounge in safe phrontistery of truth
to gaze at twinkling stars so far away
till I can see the individual souls,
on each distant world, looking back at me.

The rich diversity of conscious life
who rise from lake of dreams at dawn of time
explore their strange worlds that mirror our own
since we live in one vast galactic sea.

How vulnerable we are, fragile life forms
composed of atoms that pulse with desire
when molecules interact through weird flash
of electrons that spiral carbon rings.

No conscious spirit designs or creates
this proton-woven tapestry of worlds
but God is transgender spirit of life
who divides itself into male and female.

The single cell spirit who first evolved
in the warm chemical womb of the ocean

mutates into sperm who swims swift toward light
and egg who preserves souls of our ancestors.

When transgender God, first mother egg cell,
divides itself into thousands of eyes,
we seek some mate unlike our own gene coil
so we can weave new spirit in the brain.

Split from ourselves, in the transforming womb
of mothers who weave our bodies from matter,
we seek the other half of our mirrored mind
so we can engender new dreaming souls.

Born in the communal group of gendered souls,
we organize ourselves around wise leader
who plays the role of God that we designed
based on our highest values of good action.

When honest gods rule based on principles
of social interaction to achieve
greatest good for each person in our tribe
we thrive to populate the wilderness.

When cruel gods rule based on entitlement
of blood inheritance, to maintain state
of power for their own good over all others,
we stagnate to wander the sterile waste land.

When sperm of the father will fertilize
egg of the mother through pleasant desire
eternal tribal soul will reincarnate
in the fetus who transforms into new person.

I feel every planet, that teems with life
in the vast shimmering sea of pulsing stars,
spinning bright through the neurons of my brain
to populate the abyss with our love.

From beach to grove to cave to ziggurat
to palace to castle to house I move
through labyrinth of doors to find the gate
where children play secure in paradise.

I feel them in the abyss of my heart,
every world that will ever foster life
sparkling alphabet to transmit their dreams
as we sing in choir of our universe.

Stephen Paul Miller

My Fetus Has Risen

My fetus has risen.
I become transgender and suddenly
You say I am too full of diversity and
Entitlement. I cannot play what is
Evidence-based off what is science-
Based. Suddenly I see
My fetus has risen.

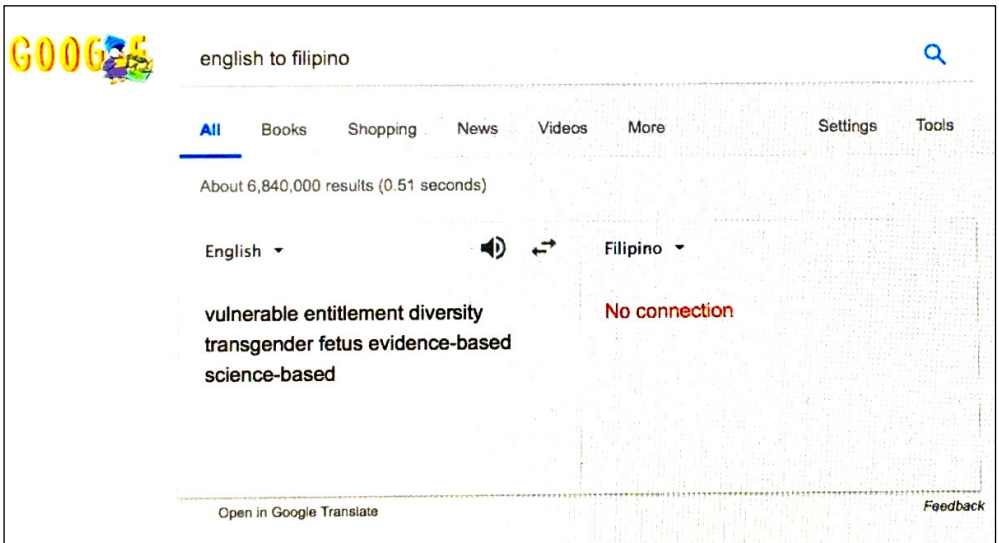
Beth Baugh

My inner fetus,
Entitled
By accident of birth,
To a life
Of evidence-based relative ease,
Is feeling vulnerable
to the goons,
Pseudo-religious
Deniers of science-based reality.
But we the people—transgender, cis, all colors of the rainbow—
Will rise up.
In our diversity
Lies our power.

Eileen R. Tabios

“Colonial Mentality”

“colonial mentality is characterized by automatic preference for anything American”
—from “Activation and Automaticity of Colonial Mentality” by E.J.R.
David and Sumie Okazaki



The image is a screenshot of a Google search interface. At the top left is the Google logo. The search bar contains the text "english to filipino". Below the search bar are navigation tabs: "All", "Books", "Shopping", "News", "Videos", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 6,840,000 results (0.51 seconds)". There are two dropdown menus for language selection: "English" on the left and "Filipino" on the right. A speaker icon and a bidirectional arrow are between them. Below the "English" dropdown, the text "vulnerable entitlement diversity", "transgender fetus evidence-based", and "science-based" is visible. Below the "Filipino" dropdown, the text "No connection" is displayed in red. At the bottom left, there is a link "Open in Google Translate". At the bottom right, there is a link "Feedback".

Veronica Montes

The Year in Review

I am not a poet, and this is not a poem. By admitting as much, I've exposed a tender bit of my neck. I'm like a hermit crab trolling the beach in the moon glow, searching for a new seashell abode. But, wait. Is that a science-based supposition? *Do* hermit crabs feel vulnerable without their shells?

Let's begin again. The topic is: vulnerability. I feel vulnerable as a naked man in a sword fight or a very small pea shoot in winter. If pressed, I'm confident that I could prove the accuracy of these descriptions to a jury of my peers. I believe we can safely categorize them as evidence-based metaphors.

This fetus and that fetus are vulnerable, too, curled up into themselves like tiny question marks. Perhaps the question they're asking is this: dear god-fearing congressional cadre, can we claim an entitlement to health and happiness, even when we emerge as Other? When we are dark or transgender or poor.

Maybe it doesn't matter that I am not a poet, and that this is not a poem. Diversity is not a dirty word. Is it?

About the Participants

Mark Young's most recent books are *random salamanders*, a Wanton Text Production, & *Circus economies* from gradient books of Finland.

Eileen R. Tabios loves books and has released over 50 collections of poetry, fiction, essays, and experimental biographies from publishers in nine countries and cyberspace. Inventor of the poetry form “hay(na)ku,” she has been translated into eight languages. She also has edited, co-edited or conceptualized 13 anthologies of poetry, fiction and essays as well as served as editor or guest editor for various literary journals. Her writing and editing works have received recognition through awards, grants and residencies. More information is available at <http://eileenrtabios.com>

Surazeus is the pen name of Simon Seamount, who was born in Oregon, grew up in Texas, then lived in Seattle. Eager to explore the country, and learn more about the ancient folk tradition of oral narrative poetry, Simon traveled around the United States with his guitar, playing folk music and writing poetry in the 1990s. Simon worked as a web designer in Michigan, then, after earning his masters degree, he has worked in North Carolina and Georgia as a cartographer. Simon earned a BA in Liberal Arts at Washington State University in 1988, and a MS in Geographic Information Science at Michigan State University in 2008. A descendant of Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet, Simon has been writing poetry since 1983, exploring various narrative techniques in both music and academic lyrics. Inspired to compose an epic about philosophers and scientists, Simon started writing the Hermead in 2011 which is currently at 126,000 lines of blank verse. Simon currently lives in Georgia with his wife and two children.

Janice Lobo Sapigao is a daughter of Filipina/o immigrants. She is the author of two books of poetry: *Like a Solid to a Shadow* (Timeless, Infinite Light, 2017) and *microchips for millions* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc., 2016) and two other

chapbooks. She is a VONA/Voices and Kundiman Fellow, and the Associate Editor of *TAYO Literary Magazine*. She co-founded Sunday Jump open mic in L.A. She earned her M.F.A. in Writing from CalArts, and she has a B.A. in Ethnic Studies with Honors from UC San Diego. She teaches English at San José City College

Metta Sáma is author of the forthcoming poetry collection, *Swing at your own risk* (Kelsey Street Press), the web-book, *Nocturne Trio* (YesYes Books) and the chapbooks, *The year we turned dragon* (Portable Press @ Yo-Yo Labs), *le animal and other creatures* (Miel) and *After After/After Sleeping to Dream* (Nous-zōt Press). A member of Black Radish Books' Advisory Board, Sáma is also a fellow of the Black Earth Institute and a founding member of Artists Against Police Brutality/Cultures of Violence.

Barbara Jane Reyes is the author of *Invocation to Daughters* (City Lights Publishers, 2017), and four previous poetry collections, *Gravities of Center*, *Poeta en San Francisco*, *Diwata*, and *To Love as Aswang*. She has also authored three chapbooks, *Cherry*, *Easter Sunday*, and *For the City That Nearly Broke Me*. She teaches in the Yuchengco Philippine Studies program at the University of San Francisco, and lives in Oakland. Find her at <http://barbarajanereyes.com>.

Tania Perez is a Latinx public health professional, whose interests include the intersection of education and health looked at through a critical race theory lens.

Dina Paulson-McEwen is the author of *Parts of love* (Finishing Line Press, 2018), a 2017 finalist in the Finishing Line Press New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition. Her work appears in *Flash Fiction Magazine*, *FlashFlood*, *Minola Review*, *Dying Dahlia Review*, *The Ham Free Press*, *The Hungry Chimera*, and elsewhere and has been exhibited at Hudson Guild Gallery and San Juan Capistrano Library. Dina is the assistant managing editor at *Compose | A Journal of Simply Good Writing* and an editor at *Flash*

Fiction Magazine. She works with creative thinkers through her company, Aqua Editing. She lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Gillian Parrish is the mothership of *spacecraftproject*, a journal that comes together through conversation and coincidence. A student of somatic practices and an assistant professor in the MFA program at Lindenwood University in St. Louis, she also writes on teaching and ecopoetics (Thalia Field, Yang Jian). Her first book of poems, *of rain and nettles wove*, is forthcoming from Singing Horse Press in 2018. Her poems are from a series made from the body of the day, weaving lines drawn from news of the world far and near. This series includes lines from a beloved book on Sufism that sustained her long ago, brought down from the shelf following the massacre at the Al Rawdah mosque, as well as words from Trump's CDC censorship.

Jose Padua's poetry, fiction, and non-fiction have been published in many journals and anthologies. He lives in the Virginia's Shenandoah Valley with his wife, the writer Heather Davis, and their daughter and son. He regularly posts his work at <http://shenandoahbreakdown.wordpress.com>

Lurana Donnels O'Malley is Professor of Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where she teaches in the areas of theatre history, research, and directing. She is the author of *The Dramatic Works of Catherine the Great: Theatre and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Russia* and has published in *Comparative Drama* and *Text & Presentation* on the topic of African American pageant drama. Lurana is the daughter of New Orleans artist Johnny Donnels.

E.E. Nobbs lives in the small province of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and is glad to be part of a global online community of poetry friends. Her collection *The Invisible Girl* (2013) was published after winning the Doire Press 2nd Annual International Chapbook Contest. Find out more at her website/ blog: <https://ellyfromearth.wordpress.com/>

Veronica Montes is the author of *Benedicta Takes Wing & Other Stories*.

Stephen Paul Miller's books of poetry include *Being with a Bullet* (Talisman) and *Lies through Love* (Marsh Hawk). His scholarly books include *The Seventies Now* (Duke University Press) and *The New Deal as a Triumph of Social Work* (Palgrave Macmillan). He is a Professor of English at St. John's University.

Agnes Marton is a poet, writer, librettist, Reviews Editor of The Ofi Press, founding member of Phoneme Media, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Recent publications include her collection *Captain Fly's Bucket List* and three chapbooks with Moria Books. She won the National Poetry Day Competition in the UK.

richard lopez is a poet, essayist, occasional reviewer, editor and blogger living with his wife and son in Sacramento, California. He is currently co-editing an anthology of poets writing about, and in response to, Climate Change and living in the Anthropocene with poet John Bloomberg-Rissman. Please visit richard at reallybadmovies.blogspot.com

uyen hoang (she/hers) is currently a graduate student pursuing her Masters in Asian American Studies and Masters of Public Health at UCLA. Hailing from Garden Grove, Orange County, she is the middle child of five in her immigrant Vietnamese American family. She likes puppies, flowers, and is not lactose intolerant, which is important because she lives for cheesy puns.

Ed Go's work has appeared in *Busk*, *Underground Voices*, *Bastards and Whores*, *Boston Poet Journal: Bad-Ass edition*, *Breadcrumbs Scabs*, *In Between Altered States*, *Poets on the Great Recession* and others. His chapbook *Deleted Scenes from the Autobiography of Ed Go as told by Napoleon Id* was published in 2014 by Other Rooms Press. Find him online at edgosblog.wordpress.com.

Carol Dorf has two chapbooks available, *Some Years Ask* (Moria Press) and *Theory Headed Dragon* (Finishing Line Press.) Her poetry appears in *The Mom Egg*, *"Sin Fronteras*, *E-ratio*, *Great Weather For Media*, *About Place*, *Glint*, *Slipstream*, *Surreal Poetics*, *About Place*, *The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, *Scientific American*, and *Maintenant*. She is poetry editor of *Talking Writing* and teaches math at Berkeley High School.

Melinda Luisa de Jesús is Chair and Associate Professor of Diversity Studies at California College of the Arts. She writes and teaches about Filipin@/American cultural production, girl culture, monsters, and race/ethnicity in the United States. She edited *Pinay Power: Peminist Critical Theory*, the first anthology of Filipina/American Feminisms (Routledge 2005). Her writing has appeared in *Completely Mixed Up: Mixed Heritage Asian North American Writing and Art*; *Approaches to Teaching Multicultural Comics*; *Ethnic Literary Traditions in Children's Literature*; *Challenging Homophobia*; *The Lion and the Unicorn*; *Journal of Asian American Studies*; *MELUS*; *Meridians*; and *Delinquents and Debutantes*. She is also a poet and her work has appeared in *Rigorous*, *Rat's Ass Review*, *Konch Magazine*, and *Rabbit and Rose*. Her chapbooks, *Humpty Drumpfty and Other Poems*; *Petty Poetry for SCROTUS Girls*; *Defying Trumplandia*; *Adios, Trumplandia!*; *James Brown's Wig and Other Poems*, and *Vagenda of Manicide* were published by Locofo Chaps/Moria Poetry in 2017. She is a mezzo-soprano, a mom, an Aquarian, and admits an obsession with Hello Kitty. For more info: <http://peminist.com>

Aileen Cassinetta is a small press publisher (Paloma Press) and poet laureate finalist of San Mateo County. She's the author of a poetry collection, *traje de boda* (Meritage Press), and four poetry chaps through Moria Books' Locofo series.

Beth Baugh is a teacher, songwriter and poet. Much of her teaching and writing focuses on social justice and positive change. In the era of 45, she feels more and more need to raise her voice.

Sheila Bare loves to read. she is learning to love to write. it helps that she also loves wine. when not reading or writing or drinking, she is in the kitchen cooking. otherwise, you may find her on the yoga mat, the hot sweaty kind. or out on a run. she is part of the diaspora living on planet earth. she is an advocate of sustainability, compassionate living, and interdependency. metta.

Sacha Archer is an ESL instructor, childcare provider, writer, and visual artist, as well as being the editor of *Simulacrum Press* (simulacrumpress.ca). His work has appeared in journals such as *filling Station*, *h&*, *BlazeVox*, *illiterature*, *NōD*, *Timglaslet*, *UTSANGA*, *Matrix*, *Word for/Word* and *Otoliths*. Archer's first full-length collection of poetry, *Detour*, was recently published by gradient books (2017), followed by *Zoning Cycle* (Simulacrum Press, 2017). His most recent chapbooks are *The Insistence of Momentum* (The Blasted Tree, 2017) and *upROUTE* (above/ground press, 2017). He has a chapbook of visual poems forthcoming from Inspiritus Press entitled *TSK oomph*. He reviews, interviews and writes what he pleases at sachaarcher.wordpress.com. Archer lives in Burlington, Ontario.

Locofo Chaps

2017

Eileen Tabios — *To Be An Empire Is To Burn*
Charles Perrone — *A CAPacious Act*
Francesco Levato — *A Continuum of Force*
Joel Chace — *America's Tin*
John Goodman — *Twenty Moments that Changed the World*
Donna Kuhn — *Don't Say His Name*
Eileen Tabios (ed.) — *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry*
Gabriel Gudding — *Bed From Government*
mLEKAL aND — *Manifesto of the Moment*
Garin Cycholl — *Country Musics 20/20*
Mary Kasimor — *The Prometheus Collage*
lars palm — *case*
Reijo Valta — *Truth and Truthmp*
Andrew Peterson — *The Big Game is Every Night*
Romeo Alcala Cruz — *Archaeoteryx*
John Lowther — *18 of 555*
Jorge Sánchez — *Now Sing*
Alex Gildzen — *Disco Naps & Odd Nods*
Barbara Janes Reyes — *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 2*
Luisa A. Igloria — *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 3*
Tom Bamford — *The Gag Reel*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús — *Humpty Drumpfty and Other Poems*
Allen Bramhall — *Bleak Like Me*
Kristian Carlsson — *The United World of War*
Roy Bentley — *Men, Death, Lies*
Travis Macdonald — *How to Zing the Government*
Kristian Carlsson — *Dhaka Poems*
Barbara Jane Reyes — *Nevertheless, #She Persisted*
Martha Deed — *We Should Have Seen This Coming*
Matt Hill — *Yet Another Blunted Ascent*
Patricia Roth Schwartz — *Know Better*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús — *Petty Poetry for SCROTUS' Girls, with poems for Elizabeth Warren and Michelle Obama*
Freke Rähkä — *Explanation model for 'Virus'*
Aileen Cassinetta — *The Art of Salamat*
Eileen R. Tabios — *Immigrant*
Ronald Mars Lintz — *Orange Crust & Light*
John Bloomberg-Rissman — *In These Days of Rage*
Colin Dardis — *Post-Truth Blues*
Leah Mueller — *Political Apnea*
Naomi Buck Palagi — *Imagine Renaissance*
John Bloomberg-Rissman and Eileen Tabios — *Comprehending Mortality*
Dan Ryan — *Swamp Tales*
Sheri Reda — *Stubborn*
Aileen Cassinetta — *B & O Blues*
Mark Young — *the veil drops*
Christine Stoddard — *Chica/Mujer*
Aileen Ibardaloza, Paul Cassinetta, and Wesley St. Jo — *A Force With No Name*
Nicholas Michael Ravnika — *Liberal elite media rag. SAD!*
Mark Young — *The Waitstaff of Mar-a-Largo*
Howard Yosha — *Stop Armageddon*
Andrew and Donora Rihn — *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt — *Extreme Vetting*
Michael Dickel — *Breakfast at the End of Capitalism*
Tom Hibbard — *Poems of Innocence and Guilt*
Eileen Tabios (ed.) — *Menopausal Hay(na)ku For P-Grubbers*
Aileen Casinetta — *Tweet*
Melinda Luisa de Jesús — *Defying Trumplandia*
Carol Dorf — *Some Years Ask*

Marthe Reed — *Data Primer*
 Amy Bassin and Mark Blickley — *Weathered Reports: Trump Surrogate Quotes From the Underground*
 Nate Logan — *Post-Reel*
 Jared Schickling — *Donald Trump and the Pocket Oracle*
 Luisa A. Igloria — *Check & Balance*
 Alike Barnstone — *So That They Shall Not Say, This Is Jezebel*
 Geneva Chao — *post hope*
 Melinda Luisa de Jesús — *Adios, Trumplandia!*
 Magus Magnus — *Of Good Counsel*
 Matina L. Stamatakis — *Shattered Window Espionage*
 Steve Klepetar — *How Fascism Comes to America*
 Bill Yarrow — *We All Saw It Coming*
 Jim Leftwich — *Improvisations Against Propaganda*
 Bill Lavender — *La Police*
 Gary Hardaway — *November Odds*
 James Robinson — *Burning Tide*
 Eric Mohrman — *Prospectors*
 Janine Harrison — *If We Were Birds*
 John Moore Williams — *The Milo Choir Sings Wild Boys in Trumplandia*
 Andrea Sloan Pink — *Prison and Other Ideas*
 Stephen Russell — *Occupy the Inaugural*
 James Robison — *Burning Tide*
 Ron Czerwien — *A Ragged Tear Down the Middle of Our Flag*
 Agnes Marton — *I'm the President, You Are Not*
 Ali Znaidi — *Austere Lights*
 Thérèse Bachand — *Sanctuary*
 Chuck Richardson — *Poesy for the Poetus. . .Our Donaldcito*
 John M. Bellinger — *The Inaugural Poems*
 Kath Abela Wilson — *The Owl Still Asking*
 Ronald Mars Lintz — *Dumped Through*
 Michael Vander Does — *We Are Not Going Away*
 Maryam Ala Amjadi — *Without Metaphors*
 Kathleen S. Burgess — *Gardening with Wallace Stevens*
 Jackie Oh — *Fahrenhate*
 Gary Lundy — *at | with*
 Haley Lasché — *Blood and Survivor*
 Wendy Taylor Carlisle — *They Went to the Beach to Play*
 Melinda Luisa de Jesús — *James Brown's Wig and Other Poems*
 Tom Hibbard — *Memories of Nothing*
 Kath Abela Wilson — *Driftwood Monster*
 Barbara Jane Reyes — *Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 3*
 Barbara Jane Reyes — *Nevertheless, #She Persisted, Number 2*
 JJ Rowan — *so-called weather*
 Jared Schickling — *Donald Trump in North Korea*
 Eileen Tabios — *Making National Poetry Month Great Again!*
 Allison Joseph — *Taking Back Sad*
 Nina Corwin — *What to Pack for the Apocalypse*
 E. San Juan, Jr. — *Punta Spartivento*
 Daniel M. Shapiro — *The Orange Menace*
 Joshua Gage — *Necromancy*
 Kenneth Sherwood — *Code of Signals*
 George J Farrah — *Walking as Wrinkle*
 Steve Abbott — *Kicking Mileposts in the Video Age*
 Randy Cauthen — *Wall of Meat*
 Serena Piccoli — *silviotrup*
 Matt Hill — *Tertium Quid*
 Eric Allen Yankee — *Bees Against the War*

More information on Locofo Chaps can be found at www.moriapoetry.com.