

**FY2016**  
**Fiction/Non-Fiction**  
**Panelist Biographies**

**Michael Burke** has been a Professor of English at the University of Maine at Farmington (Farmington, ME) since 1987. From 1998-2008, he was Director of the Honors Program. His articles and essays have appeared in international, national, and regional publications such as *Sunday Times* (South Africa), *The New York Times*, *Islands*, *Outside*, *Down East*, *Yankee*, and *The Boston Globe*. He is the author of *The Same River Twice* (University of Arizona, 2006) and editor of *Maine's Place in the Environmental Imagination* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009). He has taught courses in Creative Nonfiction, Feature Writing, American Literature, the Environmental Imagination, South African Literature, and Composition. Michael received his M.F.A. in English-Creative Writing from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Amherst, MA) and his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley (Berkeley, CA).

**Meagan Cass** is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Illinois Springfield (Springfield, IL) where she concentrates her teaching in Creative Writing, Contemporary American and British literature, Composition, ghost stories, Women's Literature and Feminist Theory, and sports literature. She is currently the fiction coordinator for the *Best of the Net Anthology* and the former founding editor and editor-in-chief of the literary journal, *Rougarou*. She also was the former head fiction editor for *Stirring: A Literary Collection*. Her current project, *The Night Game and Other New American Pastimes*, is a collection of short fiction that explores the themes of sports, games, gender, memory, and love in the suburbs of New York City in the late 1980's and 1990's. Meagan received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Louisiana Lafayette (Lafayette, LA) and her M.F.A. in Fiction from Sarah Lawrence College (Yonkers, NY).

**Geeta Kothari** is the non-fiction editor of *The Kenyon Review* as well as the Writing Center Director and Senior Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA). She is a two-time recipient of the fellowship in literature from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the editor of '*Did My Mama Like to Dance?*' and *Other Stories about Mothers and Daughters*. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in various journals and anthologies, including *The Kenyon Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Best American Essays*. In 2004, she received the David and Tina Bellet Award for Teaching Excellence.