



OCT
20
TUE

5:00 – 6:15 PM
Zoom | FREE
Registration required at
<http://bit.ly/Ward-IHC>

JESMYN WARD

Join us online for a conversation between Jesmyn Ward, the 2020 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-in-Residence, and IHC Director Susan Derwin. Audience Q&A will follow. ASL interpretation will be provided.

MacArthur Genius and two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward has been called “the new Toni Morrison” (American Booksellers Association). In 2017, she became the first woman and first person of color to win the National Book Award twice. Ward’s novels, primarily set on Mississippi’s Gulf Coast, are deeply informed by the trauma of Hurricane Katrina. *Salvage the Bones*, winner of the 2011 National Book Award, is a troubling but ultimately empowering tale of familial bonds set amid the chaos of the hurricane. Ward’s memoir, *Men We Raped*, deals with the loss of five young men in her life—to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that follows people who live in poverty. In 2016, Ward

edited the critically acclaimed anthology *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race*, a *New York Times* bestseller. Her newest novel, the critically acclaimed *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, won the 2017 National Book Award. *Sing* was also nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Aspen Words Literary Prize. An associate professor of creative writing at Tulane University, Ward received the 2016 Strauss Living Award and a 2017 MacArthur Genius Grant, and she was named one of Time’s 100 most influential people of 2018.

Sponsored by the Diana and Simon Raab Writer-in-Residence program, created to bring distinguished practitioners of the craft of writing to the UCSB community, and co-presented by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center’s Living Democracy series and the Writing Program

Photo credit: Beowulf Sheehan