



Talk:
Writing Our Californias

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THU

4:00 – 6:00 PM
McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB
Learn more: bit.ly/Straight-IHC

SUSAN STRAIGHT

UC Riverside

For decades, America has imagined California novels as placed in locations like Hollywood or San Francisco. But, as Susan Straight will discuss in her presentation, other geographies are as beautiful, tragic, full of narratives set in remote canyons, inland citrus groves, ancient ranchos, and hidden deserts. Straight's characters, who might be seventh generation Californian or people just arrived, live in the places she's known forever, hidden kingdoms of love and redemption amid the sycamore trees.

Susan Straight was born and continues to live in Riverside, CA, where she serves as Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at UC Riverside. Her most recent novel, *Mecca*, was a finalist for The Kirkus Prize and named a best novel of the year by *The Washington Post* and NPR, as well as a Top Ten California Book

by the *New York Times*, and it was the winner of the Southwest Book of the Year for Fiction. Her other books include the national bestseller *Highwire Moon*, a finalist for the National Book Award, and *A Million Nightingales*, a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, as well as the memoir *In the Country of Women*, named a best book of 2019 by NPR and *Real Simple*. She is the recipient of the Edgar Award for Best Short Story, the O. Henry Prize, the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and her stories and essays have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere.

Sponsored by the IHC's Imagining California series and the Diana and Simon Raab Writer-in-Residence Program

