



You are invited to attend the upcoming session of the Forksville Philological Society, an online discussion forum for any and all topics related to languages, linguistics, and literatures.

Dr. Tania Ramalho will be the featured session leader and will be reading some of her personal and political poetry. From the foreword to her forthcoming chapbook (available soon on the FPS website at <https://forksphil.org>):

“Not until recently did I accept calling myself a poet (of sorts...). I knew about what the world considers “real” poets, and I certainly did not qualify. But now, OK, if I write what may be regarded as poems, so be it: I am a poet too.

Acceptance as a participant in Marge Piercy’s 2023 summer poetry intensive, reinforced my budding identity. I am a poet without any formal training in poetry, with scant reading (never enough!) of American, Latin American, or Brazilian poets, and with just two poems published in newsletters. No major publication. And one hand-full of public readings only. English is my second language since high school.

In other words, poet drawbacks. However, I love languages. I love to play with words. I love words sounds and rhythms. I love to string them together to say what I want, what I see. I like to name what could be different than what it is. Some say I am a wishful thinker, a dreamer; I prefer the word utopian. I am a seeker of utopias. I believe we are constructing utopias, slowly and painfully, like Queops, the pyramid in Egypt: so many big rocks to cut, pull and mount.

Born and raised in Brazil, I was an American Field Service exchange student who returned to the United States for graduate school and later legally immigrated. Brazilian Portuguese is my first language. I speak English in my daily life. The two languages, cultures and schoolings combine in what I express in the poems.

My examples of political poetry have been Marge Piercy and Margaret Randall. My poems say what I see, feel, and wish for society and the world, and me in/with it. This can be summarized in the expression, *social justice*, which includes and requires a commitment to peace.”

Tania Ramalho is a former professor, now retired, at the State University of New York at Oswego. Of particular note in her poetry is her use of altered orthographies to facilitate alternative approaches to a range of topics, often concluding her works with insights that both surprise and inform. Tania will be reading some of her poetry, followed by a discussion with the membership. We hope you are able to join us.

**Monday, June 5, 2023, at 1900 Eastern Time (2300 GMT), via Google Meet**

General instructions:

- Entire this URL into your browser: <https://meet.google.com>
- Enter this meeting code into the box next to the blue, "New Meeting" box: <https://meet.google.com/orc-hkvb-eep>.
- The discussion session will be at this code: <https://meet.google.com/asd-uqdz-eek>
- If your computer is set up for other video-conference programs, Google will be able to access your speaker and microphone. If not, you might need to configure your video and speaker settings to be accessible for online conferencing.

This invitation can also be found on the FPS website at <https://forksphil.org>. Any other questions/comments should be sent to Marla Perkins, Ph.D., at [forksphil@gmail.com](mailto:forksphil@gmail.com).

**Please feel free to send this invitation to your language-loving friends and colleagues.**