

Cecilia Woloch, an award-winning poet and celebrated teacher, conducts workshops for writers across the United States and around the world. She has served on the faculties of a number of graduate and undergraduate creative writing programs, including her most recent tenure as Associate Professor, Teaching, in the creative writing program in the Department of English at the University of Southern California, where she founded the month-long “The Poet in Paris” program as well as “The Writer in the Community,” a course that trained undergraduate creative writing majors to lead poetry workshops in local schools. At USC, she was recognized by The Center for Excellence in Teaching and awarded a grant from USC’s Fund for Innovative Undergraduate Teaching for “The Writer in the Community.”

She co-founded and for ten years directed the annual week-long conference Summer Poetry in Idyllwild. The founding director of The Paris Poetry Workshop and The Istanbul Poetry Workshop, she has served as guest faculty at the Geneva Writers Conference in Switzerland, the San Miguel Writers Conference in Mexico, and numerous U.S. writers’ conferences, including the Sarah Lawrence College Summer Seminars for Writers and the University of Mississippi’s Grisham Visiting Writers Series. She has also conducted workshops for thousands of children and young people in schools and community centers, as well as in-service workshops for classroom teachers; her work in the community includes workshops for participants in Elderhostel programs for senior citizens, for inmates at a prison for the criminally insane, and for residents at a shelter for homeless women and their children. She leads private workshops for emerging poets in Los Angeles and organizes independent workshops for writers wherever she travels in the U.S. and Europe.

Participants in Cecilia Woloch’s workshops include published and professional writers, as well as those just beginning to explore the power of imaginative language. She is able to work with writers at all stages of development, to encourage them to move forward in their creative work, to experiment, to take risks and to go farther, in terms of both subject matter and technical skill. She creates a democratic and inclusive environment in all of her workshops, an environment that gives rise to both rigor and camaraderie, and one that stimulates writing ideas and the flow of creative energy. Employing a series of exercises and strategies that she has developed over several decades of teaching, and drawing extensively on works from contemporary and classical literature as models, she shares her insights into the creative process and her passion for language in ways that inspire workshop participants to give voice to their own stories and poems. As one recent workshop participant attested, “Cecilia invites us to concentrate on the essential.”

Cecilia Woloch is the author of six acclaimed collections of poems, in addition to essays, reviews, flash fiction, autobiographical prose/memoir and a novella. Her work has been translated and published in Germany, France, Poland and Ukraine. She has collaborated with visual artists, choreographers, composers and filmmakers. The text of her second book, *Tsigan: The Gypsy Poem*, has been adapted for the stage as a multi-media production, first presented in Los Angeles in 2013, as part of the University of Southern California’s Visions and Voices Initiative, and subsequently given multi-lingual presentations in Paris and Warsaw.

link to video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXYZHP6tkGc>
link to website: www.ceciliawoloch.com

