Diversity and Pay Equity in Publishing: The Importance of Industry Surveys and Activism

Developing the conversation on issues of diversity and pay equity is crucial today, especially in the publishing industry, which employs a large number of women and publishes books and articles for broad and diverse audiences. Four influential voices within the literary world will discuss the necessity of analyzing and documenting the make-up of the workforce, the importance of balanced and equal representation in book reviews, and the need for books to be written by diverse authors with a plurality of narratives to promote literacy and social justice. Join Amy King of VIDA, Jamia Wilson of Women, Action & the Media, Jim Millot, Editorial Director, Publishers Weekly, Preeti Chhibber, Senior Editorial Manager for Teens & Bookbeat – Scholastic, Sona Charaipotra, co-founder of CAKE Literary, and moderator Jane Kinney-Denning, President WNBA-NYC, as they discuss their work and activism, the progress that has been made, and what still needs to be done.

Thursday, April 21, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Random House, 1745 Broadway

Amy King’s forthcoming book, The Missing Museum, is a winner of the 2015 Tarpaulin Sky Book Prize. King joins the ranks of Ann Patchett, Eleanor Roosevelt & Rachel Carson as the recipient of the 2015 Winner of the WNBA Award. She serves on the executive board of VIDA: Women in Literary Arts and is currently co-editing with Heidi Lynn Staples the anthology, Big Energy Poets of the Anthropocene: When Ecopoets Think Climate Change. She is also co-editing the anthology, Bettering American Poetry 2015, and is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at SUNY Nassau Community College.

Jamia Wilson has been movement building, media making, and storytelling for over a decade. Wilson has previously served as the Executive Director of YTH (Youth Tech Health), the TED Prize Storyteller, the Vice President of Programs at The Women’s Media Center, and the principal for Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s youth outreach program. A leading next-generation voice on feminism and gender justice, her work and words have appeared in and on outlets such as New York Magazine, The Today Show, CNN, Ms, The Washington Post and more. A southerner who grew up in Saudi Arabia, Jamia holds a B.A. in communications from American University and a M.A. in humanities and social thought from New York University.

Jim Milliot is editorial director of Publishers Weekly and vice president of PWxyz, the company that acquired PW from Reed in April 2010. Jim has been with PW for 22 years, starting as the business and news editor. He served as co-editorial director of the magazine between 2010 and June 2014 when he was named editorial director. Prior to joining PW, Jim was executive editor at Simba Information, a publisher of newsletters and market studies on various media segments, including trade and educational book publishing. Jim served on the statistics committee of the BISG and is now a board member at IBPA.

Preeti Chhibber is currently the Senior Editorial Manager for the Teens & BookBeat Scholastic Reading Clubs in New York, NY. She is currently sitting on the Scholastic Diversity Committee and the CBC Diversity Committee. She earned her B.A. in English at the University of Florida and her M.S. in Publishing at New York University. Hailing from West Palm Beach, Fl, she is a contributing writer for Book Riot and Panels.Net as well as a co-host on the Bookrageous and Oh, Comics! podcasts.

Sona Charaipotra is a journalist and author who’s written for everyone from the New York Times to Teen Vogue. The co-founder of CAKE Literary, a boutique book packaging company with a decidedly diverse bent, she spends much of her time poking plot holes in TV shows like Pretty Little Liars — for work of course. She’s the co-author of the dance drama Tiny Pretty Things and its sequel Shiny Broken Pieces, due July 12 from HarperTeen. She is proud to serve as VP of content for We Need Diverse Books. Find her on the web at SonaCharaipotra.com, or on Twitter: @sona_c.

Moderator: Jane Kinney Denning is the President of the Women’s National Book Association-NYC and the Vice President and President Elect, WNBA-National. Jane is also the Executive Director of Internships and Corporate Outreach for the MS in Publishing program at Pace University.