

# Literature & Philosophy Distinguished Lecture



**Title: “Fates of Origin: Fiction & Reality in California”**

**Speaker: Rachel Kushner**

**Time and Date: 3 p.m. – Monday, April 20, 2026**

**Location: COB1 – Room 116**

**About the speaker:** Rachel Kushner’s most recent novel, *Creation Lake* (2024), was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. She has also authored the award-winning novels *The Mars Room* (2018), longlisted for the Booker Prize, *The Flamethrowers* (2013), and *Telex from Cuba* (2008). Kushner’s collection of short stories *The Strange Case of Rachel K.* appeared in 2015 and an essay collection titled *The Hard Crowd: Essays: 2000-2020* was published in 2021. Kushner has received Der Spiegel Book Prize (2025), the Prix Médicis étranger (2018), and has been named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Folio Prize, and the National Book Award in Fiction. A Guggenheim Foundation Fellow (2013) and the recipient of the Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award (2016) from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Kushner’s essays and prose fiction have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, the *Paris Review*, *Artforum*, *Bookforum*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. Kushner’s writing on California has featured developments, phenomenon, and locales across the state, including the Central Valley. Kushner received a B.A. in political economy from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Columbia University.



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