

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Margaret D. Bauer, Editor
North Carolina Literary Review
Department of English
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
office extension: (252) 328-1537
www.NCLR.ecu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Novelist Elaine Neil Orr to Read at ECU

Elaine Neil Orr will read from and answer questions about her latest novel, *Swimming Between Worlds*. This event will be held in Joyner Library at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 28th in the Faulkner Gallery on the 2nd floor. The event is free and open to the public and Orr's books will be available for purchase at the event.

Swimming Between Worlds, Orr's second novel, is set during the 1960s in Winston-Salem. The coming of age story centers on two white Southerners recently graduated from college, Tacker Hart and Kate Monroe, who struggle to gain a new understanding of social justice in the Civil Rights era. The novel uses the perspectives of its protagonists to create a compelling narrative about what it means to be a productive citizen in a changing South. *Deep South Magazine* observes, "Orr succeeds in injecting romance and a certain hopefulness into a story . . . without trivializing the historical situation or falling into a pit of white savior complexes."

Elaine Neil Orr was born in Nigeria to missionary parents from North Carolina. Upon returning to the US, she earned an MA in English from the University of Louisville and a PhD at Emory University. She is now an English Professor at NC State University, where she recently received a Distinguished Alumni Research Award and will be inducted into the NCSU Research Academy.

The author's diasporic upbringing is covered in her memoir, *Gods of Noonday: A White Girl's African Life*. Her first novel, *A Different Sun*, tells the story of a young 19th century missionary's wife whose new husband takes her from their Southern home in the US to live in West Africa for the first years of their marriage.

Read more about Elaine Neil Orr and her first two creative works in the 2015 issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review*, and attend this reading to learn more about her latest novel. This reading is sponsored by the ECU Department of English and hosted by the staff of the *North Carolina Literary Review*.

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