

2026 MIRANDA JOSEPH ENDOWED LECTURE



with

Paula Ramos

Public Lecture

Friday, February 20th, 2026

6:00-7:00pm

In-person registration: tinyurl.com/MJEL2026

Virtual registration: tinyurl.com/MJEL2026Virtual

Student Workshop

Friday, February 20th, 2026

10:00am-12:00pm

In-person registration: tinyurl.com/MJEL26Workshop

Virtual registration: tinyurl.com/MJEL26VirtualWorkshop

FREE!

Paula Ramos



About the lecturer:

Paulo Ramos is born from the womb of his mother, Terezinha Ramos de Jesus. He is an Afro-Brazilian visual artist, performer, actor, and poet whose multidisciplinary work spans video, performance, and poetry. His acclaimed poetry book, *Corpos d'água*, was published in 2023 in Brazil. And in 2026, the book, titled *Bodies of Water*, will be released in the United States, in English, by NP-PRESS and Counterpath Press. Ramos' compelling performance piece, presented at the 12th At First Sight New Works Festival Indiana University and in venues across São Paulo and Tepoztlán, gave rise to the thought-provoking and, art installation "Bodies of Water, a way" in Center Research of Race and Ethnicity and Society Paulo Ramos is a Ph.D. in Social Science in Gender and Black Studies in PUCSP. Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Paulo Ramos continues to explore and amplify the narratives of Afro-Brazilian identity.



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This is a public lecture that is free and open to all individuals. You do not have to be affiliated with the University of Arizona to attend.

Lecture Topic: *Bodies of Water*

In his dissertation, *Bodies of Water: EthnographWE of Black Poetics of Feeling-Doing* (2025) [Corpos d'água: A etNÓSgrafia do sentir-fazer negra] is a multidisciplinary work that combines art, literature, and anthropology of the senses and images transformed into emotions. *Corpos d'água* is about my mother, grandmother, and aunt and the relationship these Black women had with the waters of the Bahia River, an aquatic current between the river, the mangrove, and the sea which becomes the Atlantic Ocean. The work-research him analyzes these geographies as spaces of escape, freedom, and energy connected to Black women mothers. Paulo's art is a meditation on water and Black women in literature and art as a diasporic force that, even though traversed by the rupture and violence of colonialism, does not erase ancestry or Black life.



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This free workshop is limited to students. Students at any university or college is welcome to attend.

Workshop Topic:

Embodied poetics: letters in breath

This workshop is conceived as a study of the body, art, literature, anthropology, and the senses. It departs from a form of writing produced in and through the body, understood as a poetic space. As a result of this dynamic, a breathing letter will emerge, a living letter. The workshop proposes a collective process of poetic creation, of writings that breathe and speak of the experience of becoming, of becoming an element through water: in its process of condensation through rain; as the river that flows toward the sea and transforms into a wave; as the brackish waves of the sea, which thicken within sensory experience; and as the body in the touch of ice, which dissolves and melts under the temperature of this poetry produced by corporeality.

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