

SHUMAILA HEMANI, PH.D.

AUTHOR, WRITING IN THE WOUND

Dr. Shumaila Hemani, a PEN Canada Writer in Exile, is a creative nonfiction writer based in Mohkinstasis (Calgary). Her jury-commended short stories and essays have been accepted and are forthcoming in the International Human Rights Arts Movement's (IHRAM Press) special issue on Hannah Arendt, alongside publications in Westword Magazine, SUSPECT: Journal of Asian Diaspora, and the Wise Brain Bulletin.

Through her memoir, *Writing in the Wound*, Dr. Hemani has extended the discourse on freedom of expression in Canada by sharing her experience of 17 years of immigration precarity without permanent residency or citizenship on public platforms, including the University of Alberta, Mount Royal University, Action Dignity's *Echoes of Equity*, and mental health platforms, including TWLOHA, *Wise Brain*, *OC87 Recovery Diaries*, *The Artsy Raven Podcast* and more.

Dr. Hemani holds a PhD from the University of Alberta, previously served as Music Faculty with Semester at Sea and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension, and was nominated by Memorial University for the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Her work has received regional and international recognition, including Women in Music Canada's Honour Roll, the Cultural Diversity Award, First Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology, and Second Prize in the Listening During COVID contest.



ENDORSEMENTS

"Shumaila is a really fine writer," Professor Michael Frishkopf, University of Alberta

"Shumaila Hemani's work is multifaceted, beautifully lyrical, and crystal clear. She's a gem in the Canadian arts community."

Barb Howard, author of *Happy Sands* (University of Calgary Press)

"Writing in the Wound contributes to collective human strength to heal the planet — in such a loving, powerful way."

— Norine Braun, award-winning Indigenous singer-songwriter

FOR INTERVIEWS, READINGS, AND SPEAKING INVITATIONS:

WWW.WRITINGINTHEWOUND.COM
WWW.DEEPLISTENINGPATH.ORG

+1 403-467-8791
SHUMAILA@WRITINGINTHEWOUND.COM
DR.SHUMAILA@DEEPLISTENINGPATH.ORG

ALBERTA'S 2025 FAVORITE READS



ABOUT THE BOOK

Writing in the Wound is a memoir exploring the psychological toll of immigration precarity in Canada. Through personal narrative, music, and reflection, Dr. Hemani reveals how prolonged bureaucratic uncertainty shapes mental health, identity, and belonging.

BOOK READINGS

SEP'25: ACTION DIGNITY'S ECHOES OF EQUITY

OCT'25: CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ETHNOMUSICOLOGY (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA)

OCT'25: ARTISST SPEAK, MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

REVIEWS

"Writing in the Wound is arresting, thought-provoking, and fiercely alive. Hemani writes as if sound were breath, shelter, lineage, prayer, argument, and last defense all at once—deeply moving."

LITERARY TITAN

"This fascinating memoir covers Hemani's journey through three continents, her studies as an ethnomusicologist (way more interesting than you might think!), her growth and multiple awards as a Sufi poet and musician, and 17 years of being denied permanent residency by the Canadian government."

**BARB HOWARD, AUTHOR
OF HAPPY SANDS
(UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
PRESS)**

PODCASTS & INTERVIEWS

THE ARTSTY RAVEN PODCAST, JAN 2026

U-MULTICULTURAL (FORTHCOMING)

CDLI'S STORYTELLING (FORTHCOMING)

INTERVIEW WITH THE IHRAM PRESS
(FORTHCOMING)

SPEAKING TOPICS

DR. HEMANI IS AVAILABLE TO SPEAK ON:

1. IMMIGRATION PRECARIETY AND MENTAL HEALTH
2. ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
3. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND STORYTELLING
4. MUSIC FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
5. MUSIC, MIGRATION, AND CULTURAL MEMORY

WATCH THE BOOK TRAILER

