



NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 3, 2020
CONTACT: Troi Gale, West End Library Manager
360.374.6402; TGale@nols.org
RE: Humanities Washington presents *Tangled: Why Your Hair Matters to Society*
ATTACHED: *Taranath_header.jpg, Taranath.jpg, Humanities-WA-logo.jpg*

As part of the Summer Reading Program, the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) will host the Humanities Washington lecture *Tangled: Why Your Hair Matters to Society* on Tuesday, July 14 at 6pm on Zoom. Join professor Anu Taranath to untangle the meaning of hair, and better understand the stories we tell about beauty, bias, and belonging. Registration is required to receive Zoom meeting information; visit www.nols.org/nols-events, or call your local branch to register.

Hair is simply a collection of protein filaments that sprout from our scalp, yet it carries great meaning for us and our society. From twists and tapers to braids and buns, what's on top of our head and how it is received by others often reflects society's standards of beauty and desirability. Using song, video, poetry, and imagery, this interactive presentation encourages us to examine our cultural conceptions of gender, class, and race. Why, for example, is one kind of hair or hairstyle understood as "better" than another? Who says so? What are the consequences of sporting an unruly doo, and how has that changed over the years? Join professor Anu Taranath of Humanities Washington to untangle the meaning of hair, and better understand the stories we tell about beauty, bias, and belonging.

Anu Taranath is a member of the Humanities Washington Speaker's Bureau, and professor at the University of Washington specializing in global literature, identity, race, and equity. She has received University of Washington's Distinguished Teaching Award, a "Best of Seattle" designation from *Seattle Weekly*, and multiple national Fulbright awards and fellowships. She is the author of the book, *Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World*, as well as a consultant for schools, colleges, libraries, community organizations, and government agencies on social justice and global issues.

About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across the state. Speakers Bureau is one of Humanities Washington's oldest and most popular programs. A roster of 34 cultural experts and scholars provides low-cost, high-quality public presentations across the state, encouraging audiences to think, learn and engage in conversation. For more about Speakers Bureau, visit www.humanities.org/programs/speakers.

About the Summer Reading Program

The theme for the 2020 Summer Reading Program is *Imagine Your Story*. Due to COVID-19, the Summer Reading Program looks a little different than past years, with events being virtual, but still includes a reading challenge with incentives to earn a special NOLS T-shirt and chances to win awesome grand prizes. Visit www.nols.org/srp to learn all about it! The program runs through August 15. For additional activities that encourage reading, writing, creating, and connecting, be sure to follow North Olympic Library System on Facebook and Instagram.

The Summer Reading Program is generously supported by the Friends of the Library at all four NOLS libraries. For more information about the Summer Reading Program, visit www.nols.org/srp, call 360.417.8500, or email Discover@nols.org.



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Join NOLS on Zoom for a discussion with Humanities Washington.
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