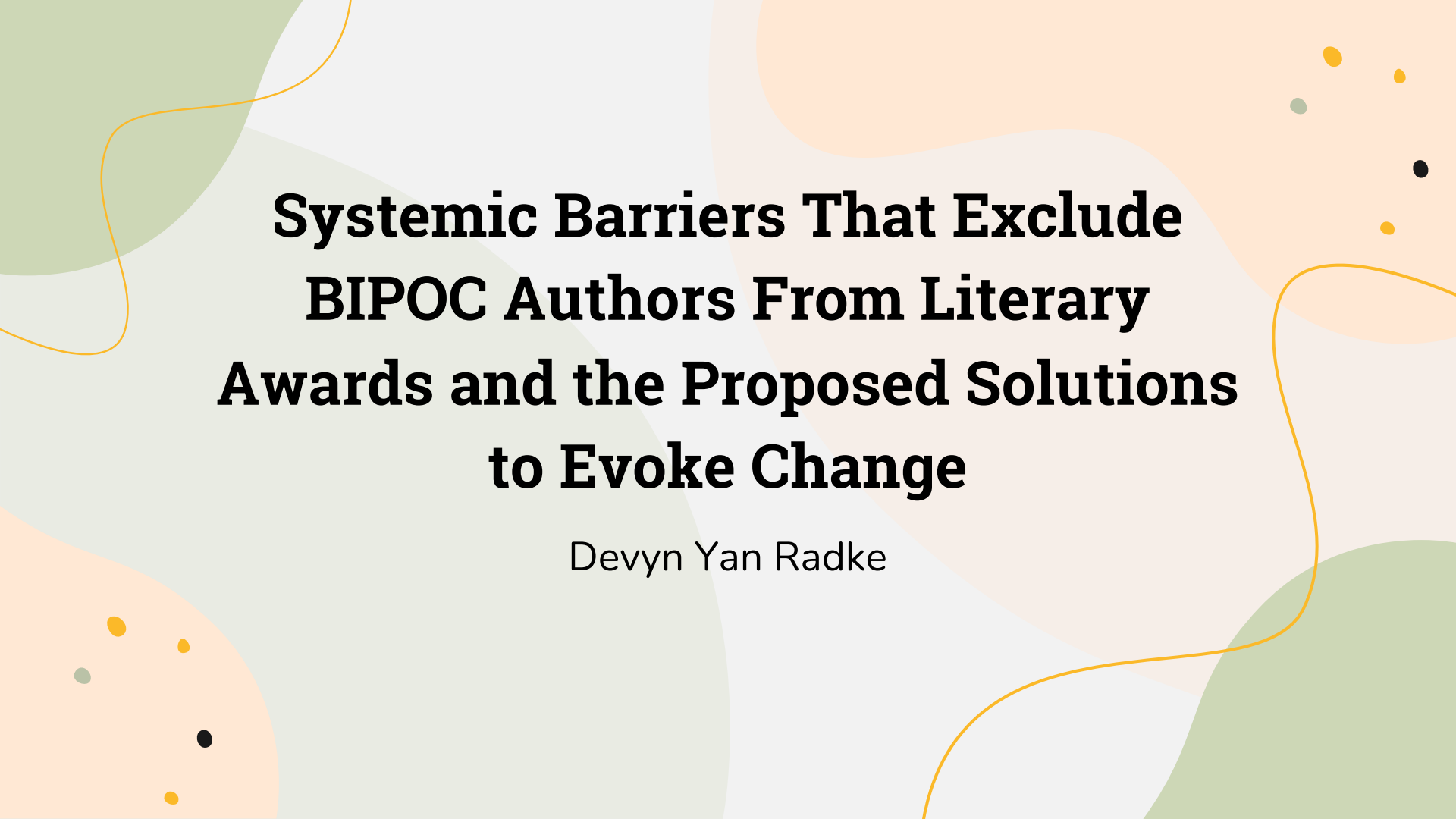


The background features a light blue-grey base with large, flowing organic shapes in muted green and soft orange. Thin, wavy yellow lines meander across the composition. Small, solid-colored dots in yellow, green, and black are scattered throughout, adding a playful, modern touch.

Systemic Barriers That Exclude BIPOC Authors From Literary Awards and the Proposed Solutions to Evoke Change

Devyn Yan Radke

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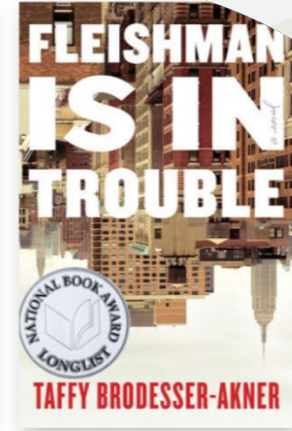
Conclusion

Research Question

What are the systemic barriers that exclude BIPOC authors from major literary awards and, using the scope of the National Book Award for Fiction, what can literary committees do to eliminate those barriers?



2020



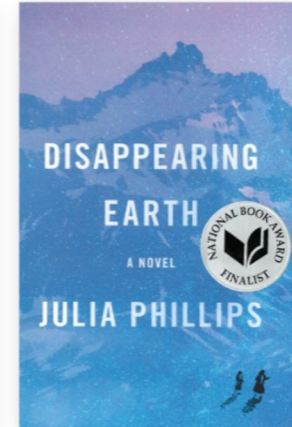
2019



2019



2019



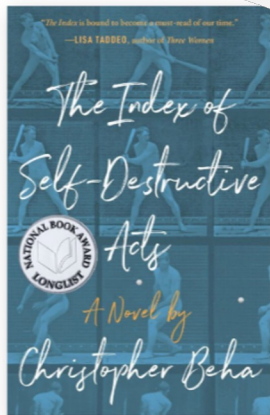
2019



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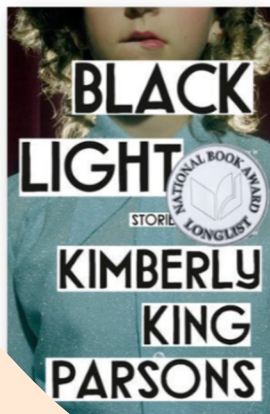
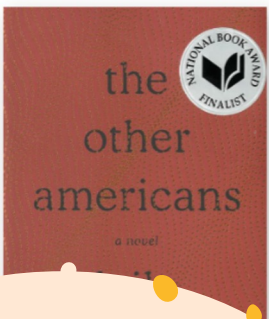
2020



2020



2020



2019



01

Abstract & Introduction

This research aims to...



Provide an in-depth case study analysis of the National Book Award (NBA)



Identify the systemic barriers BIPOC authors may experience that are setbacks from being recognized in literary awards



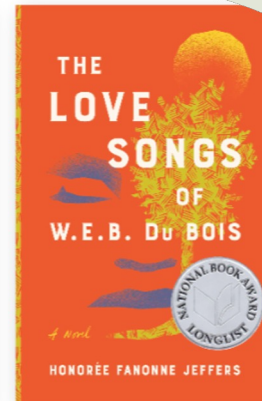
Show the importance of diversity in book publishing professional executive positions.

02

The National Book Award for Fiction



2021



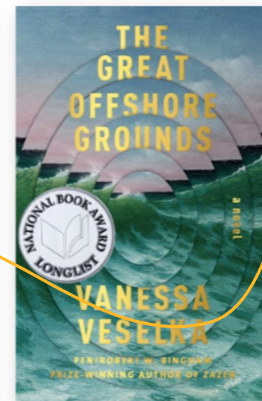
2021



2021



2020



2020



2020



“...to celebrate the best literature in America, expand its audience, and ensure that books have a prominent place in American culture”

—**National Book Award**



Milestones

1936: National Book Awards was founded.

1953: The first African-American author awarded was Ralph Ellison for *Invisible Man*.

1983: The first African-American female to be awarded was Alice Walker for *The Color Purple*.

2012: The first Native-American author awarded was Louise Erdrich for *Salvage the Bones*.

1950: The first award for fiction went to Nelson Algren for *Man with the Golden Arm*.

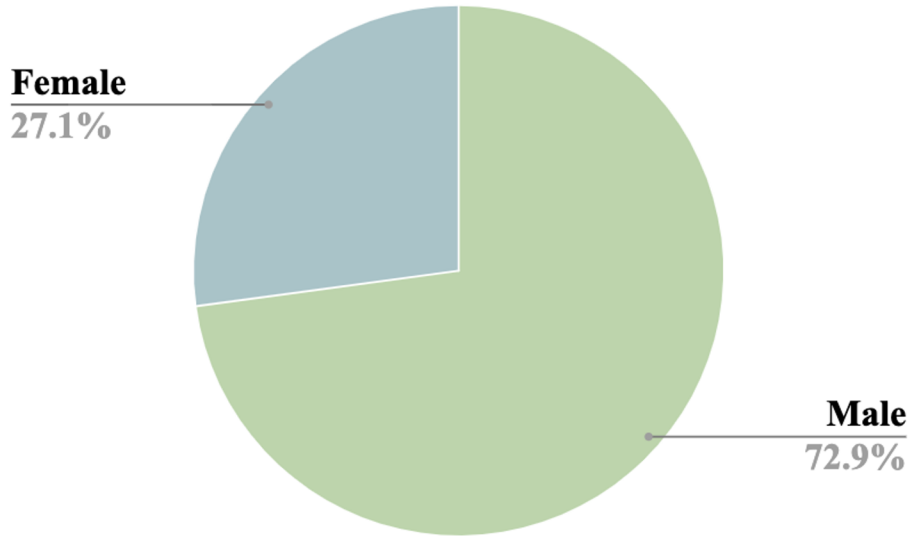
1966: The first female to be awarded was Katherine A. Porter for *Collected Stories*.

1999: The first Asian-American to be awarded was Ha Jin for *Waiting*.

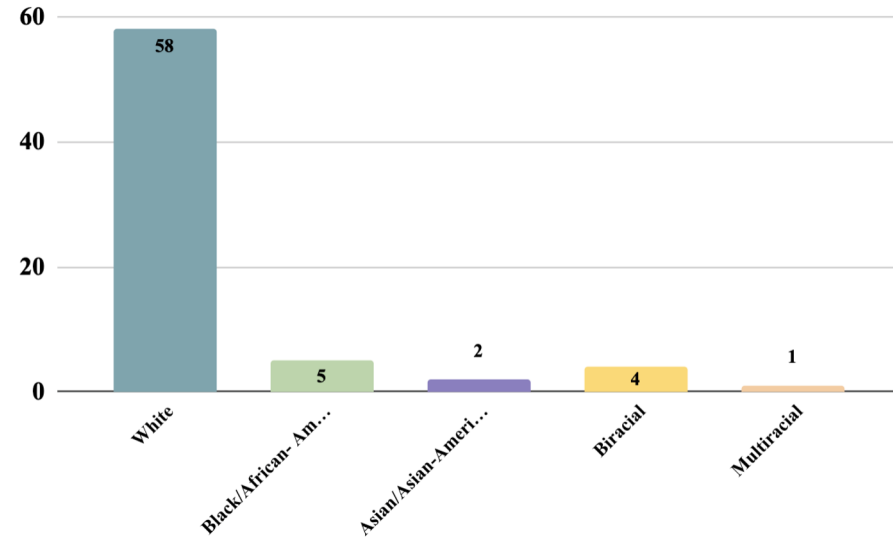
2018: The first multiracial author awarded was Sigrid Nunez for *The Friend*.

Demographics of Prizewinners

Gender (1950 - 2021)

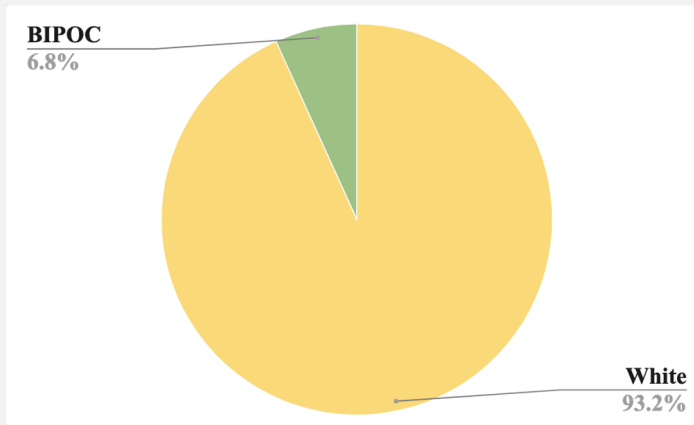


Race (1950 - 2021)

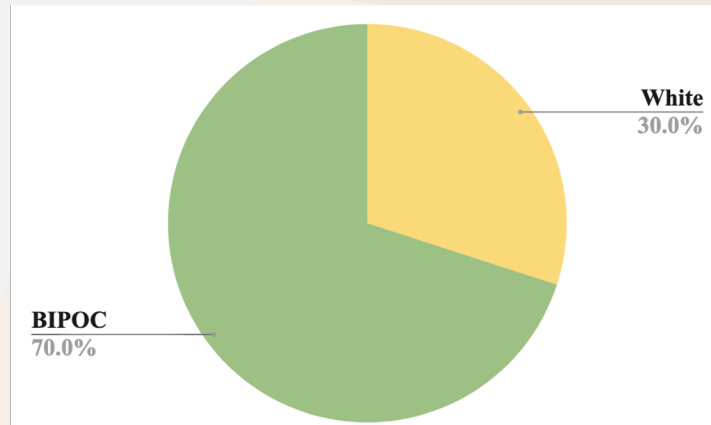


Race of Prizewinners: A Comparison

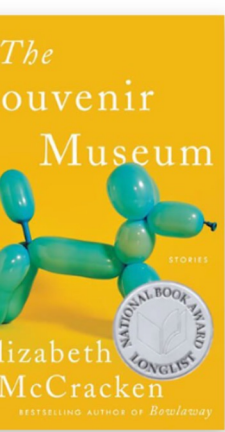
1950 to 2010



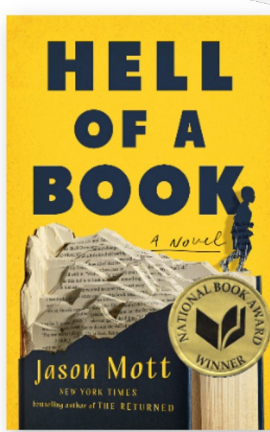
2011 to 2021



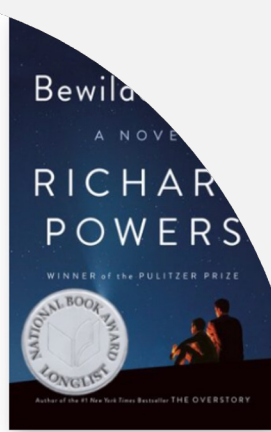
*****Splitting up the data analysis into sectioned years shows how diversity has changed drastically over a limited time frame.**



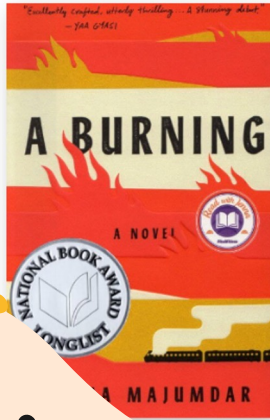
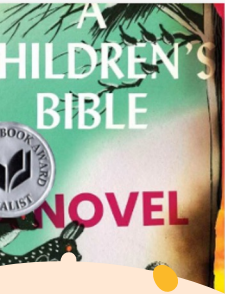
2021



2021



2021



03

Barriers BIPOC Authors Experience

What are some barriers?

History of Systemic
Oppression and
Minority Exclusion



Committee Boards & the
Status Quo



Institutionalized Racism
and Implicit Bias in the
Publishing Industry



Tokenization



Credentials

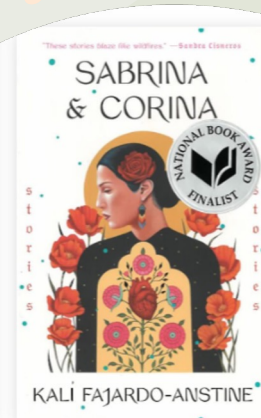


04

Solutions for Literary Committees



2019



2019



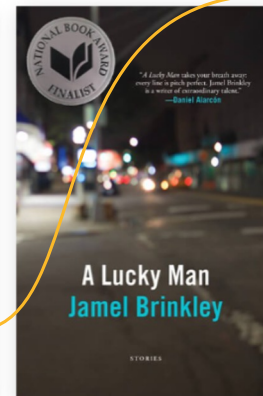
2019



2019



2019



2018

What are some solutions?



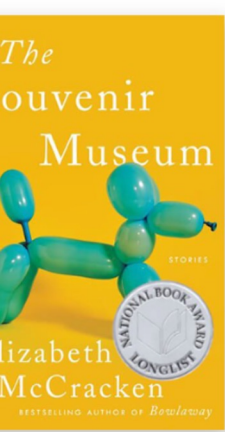
● —◆ **Appoint BIPOC to Executive Positions**



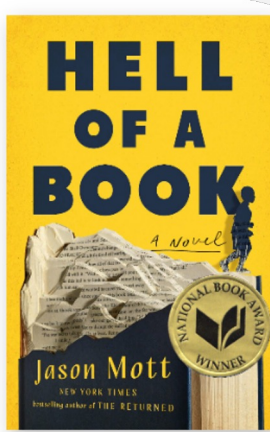
● —◆ **“Affirmative Action to Affirming Diversity”**



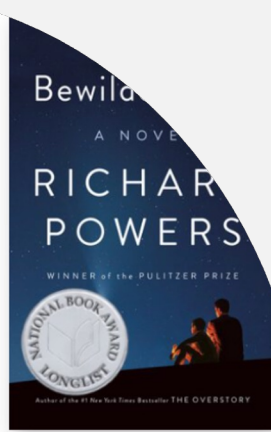
● —◆ **Enlarge the Judge Panel**



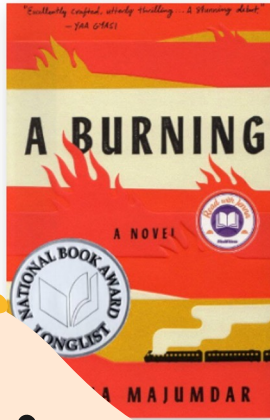
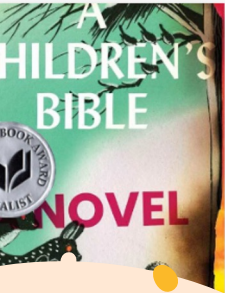
2021



2021



2021



05

Conclusion



Literary awards are controversial and political. They raise issues of gatekeeping, judgment, and lack of representation. The stride to eliminate the barriers that BIPOC authors might experience in the publishing industry, and when being recognized for literary awards, is an uphill battle that can't be solved overnight.

THANK YOU!

Read the full paper on PDXScholar:

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/eng_bookpubpaper/68/



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Reach out if you have any questions!

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