Literary Event Response 1 ---- Daniel Alarcón

Daniel Alarcón’s reading event was truly inspirational. The second reading of his allowed me to witness the power of second person view in fiction writings, something that I have never done before. The second person narration of the protagonist’s life story feels like a poem that is leading us to traverse from time to time how the protagonist evolves and grow in such a world. We are in the perspective of the narrator, a person both involved in the story but somehow feel very disconnected, so it allows the reader to be both immersed in the story and feel disconnected when they realize the emergence of the narrator. This was a truly amazing experience to actually hear the writer/narrator himself read the story, which I would never experience if I were to read it alone since the voice will always be my own. In that sense, the second person perspective also grants us a very powerful tool, making the reader the actual narrator of the story and thus creates a new level of immersion.

Besides that, I also learned how to properly write something outside of our own experience. And that is to either live or interview someone else who lived it. Mr. Alarcón’s pointed out this simple yet very important point to a new writer like me: you cannot create an experience out of thin air and if you do, the story, as well as the writing experience, are going to suffer. So many times have I tried to create an imaginary world, plot, and characters on paper but they never seem to work. Until today I learned from Mr. Alarcón that one simple philosophy is that, you cannot do such a thing.