We are excited to present another book in our Pre-Education Book Club, a collection of short stories entitled *Octavia’s Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements* edited by Adrienne Maree Brown and Walidah Imarisha. This collection of stories (named in honor of Black feminist sci-fi writer and MacArthur “Genius” award winner, Octavia Butler) meets the intersection of social justice and the power of the imagination. Imarisha writes in the Introduction:

> Visionary fiction encompasses all of the fantastic, with the arc always bending toward justice. We believe this space is vital for any process of decolonization, because decolonization of the imagination is the most dangerous and subversive form there is: for it is where all other forms of decolonization are born. Once the imagination is unshackled, liberation is limitless.

In this anthology, 20 visionary activist-writers explore their hopes, fears, and fantasies about the future of war, prisons, race, capitalism, and mental health, among other vital themes. As with the work that drama therapists do each day, the writers in this book “attempt to inject a healthy dose of imagination and innovation into our political practice and to try on new ways of understanding ourselves, the world around us, and all the selves and worlds that could be.” The book can be purchased from AK Press, and a select number of stories on Google Books.

**FUN FACT!** The story “Small and Bright” was written by Autumn Brown, who will be the Special Guest Diversity Trainer at this year’s conference!

### If you only have time to read a few stories, here are a few to begin with:

- "Evidence" by Alexis Pauline Gumbs tells a beautiful story of future projection
- "Little Brown Mouse" by Tunde Olaniran paints a new portrait of mental “illness”
- "Children Who Fly" by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha addresses dissociation as a superpower among survivors of sexual assault

We love all of the stories in this collection, but choose your favorite one or two and discuss with a small (or large) group of your colleagues/peers/friends

- What would be the social justice topic that you would want to address in your “visionary fiction”? What is the story that you want to write?
- What are the social justice issues most salient for your clients? How can engaging imaginatively around these issues lead to their (or your own) change within difficult systems?
- Many of the stories in *Octavia’s Brood* center around characters from race, class, ability, and gender backgrounds we don't typically see in fiction. How does this relate to yours and your clients’ visible and/or invisible identities and the ways in which those identities play out in your co-created fictions?

**Host your own Book Club** and send us your questions, thoughts and reflections after reading this book. **We want to host your Book Club’s reflections on our blog.**
Feel free to send your reflection(s) in creative form: a poem, short story, image, picture or any other expression.

Send us your thoughts!!! We look forward to hearing from you!!

*Please note: all book club submissions will be posted to the conference blog pending approval.*