



## EMERGING POETS FROM SHINGAL AND THE ROLE OF TRANSLATION IN CREATION.



**David Shook**

Poet, translator, editor

David Shook is a Los Angeles-based poet, translator, and editor. Their debut collection *Our Obsidian Tongues* was longlisted for the 2013 International Dylan Thomas Prize; poems from that book have been translated into Arabic, Kurmanji, Sorani, and seven other languages. The book was adapted into a short film in Rwanda, and published in Chile as *Lenguas de obsidiana* in late 2019.



**Zêdan Xelef**

Poet and translator

Zêdan Xelef was born in the village of Izêr, on Shingal Mountain in northern Iraq, in 1995. Displaced from his home by the Islamic State's attempt to exterminate the Êzîdî, he arrived with his family to the Chamishko IDP camp in late 2014. He studied translation at the University of Duhok, and his current projects include translating Whitman's *Song of Myself* into Kurmanji and a selection of poets from Rojava into English. His poems have appeared in *World Literature Today* and on the Poetry Foundation website.