



LOPE Ávila, Francisco Rafael (Mexico, 1952). Poet, flash fiction writer, creative writing coach, post-editor and proofreader. A keen sharer of his experience of the creation and review process in public and private literary workshops since 1977. Founding member of the Writers' Center of Yucatán (*Centro Yucateco de Escritores*), founder of the Zedík Writers' School for Children (*Escuela de Escritores Zedík para Niños*) and founding teacher of the Literary Creation School of the State Center of Fine Arts and the Writers' School of the Secretariat of Culture for Yucatán. He has also taught workshops to develop creativity and imagination in children from Maya communities and young people and adults in public and private institutions across all levels of education. His collections of poems *Orquídea de Luz*, *Tierra Prometida* and *Inventario* have all earned him awards, while his books *Historias de las vocales*, *Exilio y otros poemas*, *San Juan de las Maletas Fría* (Children's Literature Award 2015), *El Palabrario* and *Solicito espejo mentiroso* are being prepared for publication. He is a promotor and author of the *avel*, short for *aviso económico literario* ("economical literary announcement"). An avid reader and rereader, he writes (often) and publishes (less so) in magazines, anthologies and cultural supplements. His favorite authors include the storyteller Ermilo Abreu Gómez and poets Rubén Bonifaz Nuño and Saint-John Perse. He believes literary construction demands rigor of thought and calls on writers to play a role in building better forms of human coexistence that show respect for human dignity in democratic societies – and it was this mindset that led him to volunteer as a human rights defender in Yucatán. Today, he comments and publishes content on LinkedIn for the translation and interpretation companies *Interkultural* and *Certified Interpreting Services*, for which he serves as creative director.