Call for Proposals

The Writing Center Journal Special Issue: Transatlantic Writing Centers

The Writing Center Journal seeks contributions for a special issue, co-edited with Katrin Girgensohn from Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, focusing on the transatlantic writing center conversation. Originally created in the United States to address US-based educational concerns (Boquet, 1999; Lerner 2009), writing centers have now expanded globally, as has accompanying scholarship (Bräuer, Carlino, Ganobcsik-Williams, Sinha, 2012). Christiane Donahue has identified a tendency among US theorists towards “‘othering’ countries that have different, complex, but well-established traditions in both writing research and writing instruction” (2009). We recognize this othering tendency in the writing center community as well. Because the first writing centers outside the US were established in Canada in the 1960s and 1970s (Graves, 2017) and in Europe in the 1990s (Bräuer, 2002), they have a decades-long sustained engagement in writing center studies—with both reformulations and novel practices emerging (e.g. Scott, 2017). Study of transatlantic writing centers, which have evolved in their own right, thus has much to offer our increasingly globalization writing center community.

Possible topics include the following:

- History of writing center expansion in the transatlantic region
- Tutoring practices, particularly for multilingual centers, digital writing, and culturally-specific genres and pedagogies
- Work done with multilingual, first-generation, migrant, and non-traditional student populations
- Power dynamics within organizational and institutional contexts of writing centers
- Roles of peer tutors, academic staff, freelancers, faculty
- Functions of collaborations (e.g. conferences, writing center-hosted events, summer institutes, exchanges, working groups) in shaping the discipline

Submission Types

Collaborative projects are encouraged for all submissions. For all pieces of more than 3,000 words, submit a 3-page summary for consideration; for single book reviews, submit a 500-word summary. If the proposal is accepted for peer review, please note the full-submission timeline below. Because this is an international audience, please be explicit about defining key terms, as the same term can mean different things in different contexts.

- Long-form articles: 4,000-8,000 words
  - Theoretical, historical, and empirical projects are all welcome.
- Introducing a non-English text to a new audience: 3,000-8000 words
  - Choose a text that is meaningful to your work in writing centers, and reflect on it for readers, providing sufficient translation of key sections to allow readers to engage with the source.
- Written symposium or roundtable discussion: 4,000-8,000 words
  - Bring writing center practitioners from Europe, Canada, and/or the U.S. together to reflect on a mutually engaging theme.
  - Choose collaborators and a theme; co-author introductory and concluding questions and engage, together or separately, on these questions in the body of text.
- Book review essays: 3,000-6,000 words
  - Reflect on several books, putting them in conversation with one another.
- Single book reviews: 2,000 words

Issue Timeline

- January 30, 2019 - Deadline for submitting summary
- February 15, 2019 - Editorial decisions sent to authors; if piece is solicited, full submission due by April 15, 2019
- April 30, 2019 - Deadline for full submissions to be sent out for peer review
- May-September, 2019 - Review process and revision process
- October 1, 2019 - Final drafts due to editors
- Winter 2019-2020 - Special issue published

References

Scott, A. (2017). ‘We would be well advised to agree on our own basic principles’: Schreiben as an Agent of Discipline-Building in Writing Studies in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Liechtenstein. Journal of Academic Writing, 7(1), 43-58.

Please email your proposal – or any questions – to writingcenterjournal@gmail.com.