



## Call for Proposals

“To raise new questions, new problems, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and makes real advances.”

Albert Einstein

“Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs, now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head behind Christopher Robin. It is as far as he knows the only way of coming downstairs, but somewhere he feels there is another way, if only he could stop for a moment and think of it.”

A. A. Milne

## Connect & Reflect

When we connect, we establish relationships. We join old things in new ways, making connections between theories, practices, programs, facilities, and colleagues. Connecting moves us forward into a future defined by new possibilities.

When we reflect, we look to the past; we evaluate relationships. We revise the connections we have formed between theories, practices, programs, facilities, and colleagues. Reflecting allows us to make new connections, and so, the act of reflection also moves us forward into new possibilities.

Connecting and reflecting mirror each other; it’s difficult to do one without the other.

As Writing Center experts we spend a great deal of energy making connections on campus that add to the quality of the work we do. We take an eclectic approach to theory, integrating multiple disciplines to support our work: composition theory, rhetoric, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, educational philosophy, creative writing, and literary theory. We extend our services to multiple diverse populations; we pair tutors with professors; we form partnerships with first-year composition programs, ESL programs and content tutoring facilities. We work in libraries, dormitories, satellite campuses, and online.

Where, in all of this activity, do we find the time for reflection? The truly reflective mind requires rest, relaxation, and time away from daily activities. We typically find this retreat from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives by attending conferences and connecting with our colleagues. Traveling to a new place and collaborating with colleagues we see only once or twice a year sets the scene for purposeful reflection about what we do and how we do it.

At the same time, conference work also provides the ideal location for the kind of collaborative work that our keynote speaker, Lisa Ede, has promoted in her many theoretical contributions to the fields of rhetoric and composition and writing center pedagogy. In “Collaboration and

Concepts of Authorship,” coauthors Ede and Andrea Lunsford argue that we “must make space for—and even encourage—collaborative projects in the humanities” (364). They promote this work while acknowledging the difficulties inherent in such participatory scholarship, asking whether we are willing to create the material conditions necessary to do the work, as well as to redefine the roles we play as researchers and contributors to the academic enterprise. Can we collaborate with each other while learning to “take pleasure, as well as pride, in our scholarly work when the traditional egocentric rewards of proprietary ownership and authority must be shared?” (364). We invite conference participants to consider this challenge and to take advantage of the virtual space we will provide to facilitate such collaboration. Please visit the conference blog for information on collaborating with others.

<http://scwca2011conference.blogspot.com>

We hope that the venues we have selected for our 2011 conference will provide the ideal setting for both connecting and reflecting. South Shore Harbor Resort, situated on the shores of beautiful Clear Lake, offers luxurious guest rooms, waterfront views, and a state-of-the-art fitness facility, complete with available spa therapies. The campus at the University of Houston-Clear Lake offers fully equipped teaching classrooms, computer labs, and meeting rooms. We look forward to two days of stimulating conversations and relaxing social activities at these two venues.

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### **Send a proposal!**

We invite proposals that consider and explore the connections we make as writing center professionals, along with the types of reflection that will best stimulate our creative imaginations. We are particularly interested in proposals that describe collaborative efforts across disciplines, between university facilities, or among multiple writing centers. The conference will feature the following types of sessions:

**Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions will be scheduled for 75 minutes.**

**Individual presentations:** Individual presenters will have 20 minutes each and will be grouped with two other presenters with similar topics.

**Panel Presentations:** Three to five presenters will speak on a common theme. Please leave 15 minutes for questions and answers.

**Roundtables:** Three to five presenters will briefly address a central issue or question followed by audience participation. These sessions should be highly interactive.

**Workshops:** Leaders will provide participants with a chance to share knowledge and experience around specific topics and new developments in the field.

### **Poster Presentations:**

There will be two thirty-minute poster sessions scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2011. Presenters will be assigned to one of these two times to discuss their work with conference

participants, but they are welcome to be present for both. All posters must be installed by 9:00 a.m. on Friday. Please see the conference blog for tips on creating a poster presentation.

<http://scwca2011conference.blogspot.com>

### **Program Format**

The conference will open with a plenary session featuring founding members Drs. Barry Maid, Sally Crisp, and Jim McDonald on Friday morning. The keynote address by Dr. Lisa Ede will be delivered at lunch on Friday. Poster sessions will be scheduled for Friday and concurrent sessions will run from Friday through Saturday until noon. We will conclude with a plenary lunch session led by our keynote speaker, Dr. Lisa Ede, in collaboration with founding member Dr. Kevin Davis.

### **Proposal Deadline**

To ensure prompt notification of program participation, proposals must be submitted by **October 1, 2010. Notification of acceptance will be made by November 1, 2010.**

### **Proposal Review**

If you are new to the proposal writing process, or simply wish to have another writing center professional read and respond to your ideas, please take advantage of our proposal review option. To submit your proposal, simply attach a Word file to an email addressed to [SCWCA2011@gmail.com](mailto:SCWCA2011@gmail.com) with the subject line "Proposal Review." The deadline for the review process is September 15, 2010. We will review your work, respond to any questions you might have, and reply by September 22, 2010.

For tips on writing a proposal, please visit the conference blog:

<http://scwca2011conference.blogspot.com>

### **Audiovisual Equipment**

Friday sessions will be held at the University of Houston-Clear Lake campus in classrooms that are technologically equipped. Those scheduled for Friday will have PowerPoint 07, internet and projection capabilities. Please be sure to check the relevant boxes on your proposal submission form so we can schedule you according to your technology needs.

### **Works Cited**

Ede, Lisa and Andrea A. Lunsford. "Collaboration and Concepts of Authorship." *PMLA* 116.2 (2001). 354-369. Print.