

GRADUATE SPECIALIZATIONS AND CONCENTRATIONS IN WRITING STUDIES

For 27 years, the Center for Writing Studies (CWS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has promoted scholarship and graduate study in writing studies and related areas of composition, rhetoric, literacy, language, and language education.

As an interdisciplinary center, CWS offers a cross-disciplinary PhD concentration aligned with graduate degree programs in English; Communication; Curriculum & Instruction; Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership; and Linguistics.

CWS also leads our campus Writing Across the Curriculum initiatives for faculty and teaching assistants and an innovative campus writing center, the Writers Workshop.



CWS faculty, students, and guests at our annual Gesa E. Kirsch Graduate Student Symposium



CWS graduate students after presenting research at the Conference on College Composition and Communication 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA



One of the Center's graduate students celebrating a successful dissertation defense with his committee

"I really enjoy the interdisciplinary nature of CWS. As graduate students, we have a lot of freedom to follow our own interests and to forge our own paths through the field."

—CWS PhD Student Nicole Turnipseed

FACULTY

known for scholarship and educational leadership

CWS Core Faculty Include:

David Cisneros, Associate Professor of Communication (Research Interests: rhetorics of resistance and social movements, immigration, citizenship, Latinx identity, and race/ethnicity)

Anne Haas Dyson, Professor of Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership (Research Interests: ethnographies of childhood, literacy and childhood, written language in contemporary childhoods, the politics of identity and language in school)

John Gallagher, Assistant Professor of English (Research Interests: Audience theory, digital media, participatory cultures, interface and design theory, computational methods)

Cara Finnegan, Professor of Communication (Research Interests: Visual rhetoric, rhetorical criticism, U.S. public address, contemporary rhetorical theory, public sphere theory, U.S. rhetorical history)

Sarah McCarthey, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction (Research Interests: Writing curricula and pedagogy, global K-12 teacher training)

Peter Mortensen, Associate Professor of English (Research Interests: Histories of rhetoric and literacy in the U.S., ethnographic studies of literacy in institutions)

Ned O'Gorman, Professor of Communication (Research Interests: Histories of rhetoric, media studies, rhetorical theory, 20th century U.S. political culture)

Catherine Prendergast, Professor of English (Research Interests: Writing studies, disability studies, ethnography)

Paul Prior, Professor of English and the Director of the Center for Writing Studies (Research Interests: Cultural-historical activity theory, dialogic semiotics, sociocultural theories of writing, disciplinarity, and writing across the lifespan)

Kelly Ritter, Professor of English and Associate Dean of Curricula and Academic Policy (Research Interests: Composition pedagogy, historiography, writing program administration)

Lindsay Rose Russell, Associate Professor of English (Research Interests: English language lexicography, rhetorical theory and practice, rhetorical genre studies, feminist historiography, queer theory, histories of the English language)

Carolyn Wisniewski, Director of the Writers Workshop (Research Interests: Composition pedagogy; writing center theory, research, and practice)

"Researching in CWS has allowed me to pursue interdisciplinary solutions to the problem of online harassment and social media conflict"

—CWS Assistant Professor of English
John Gallagher

Recent Courses Taught by Core CWS Faculty:

Rhetorics of Recognition

Researching Pedagogical Research

Rhetoric and the Body

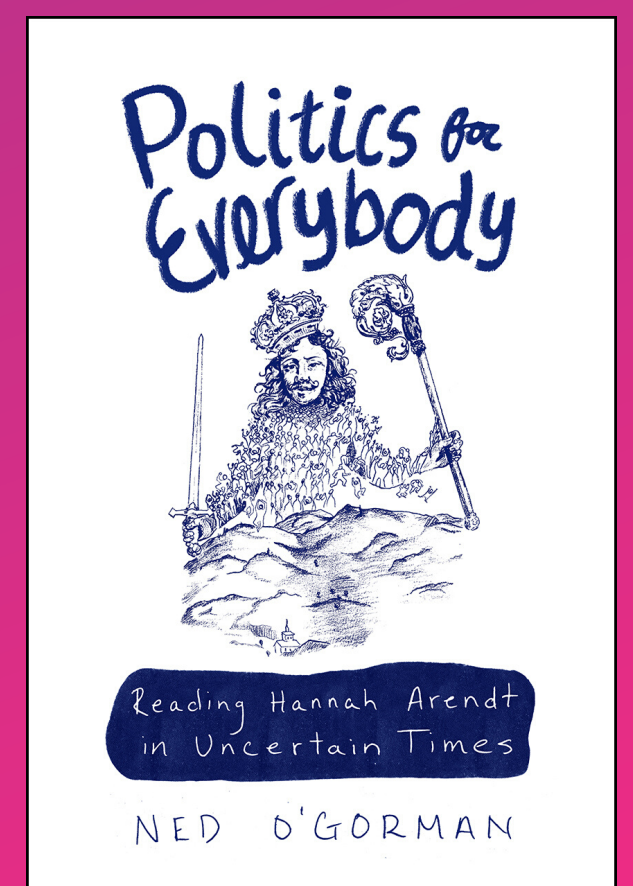
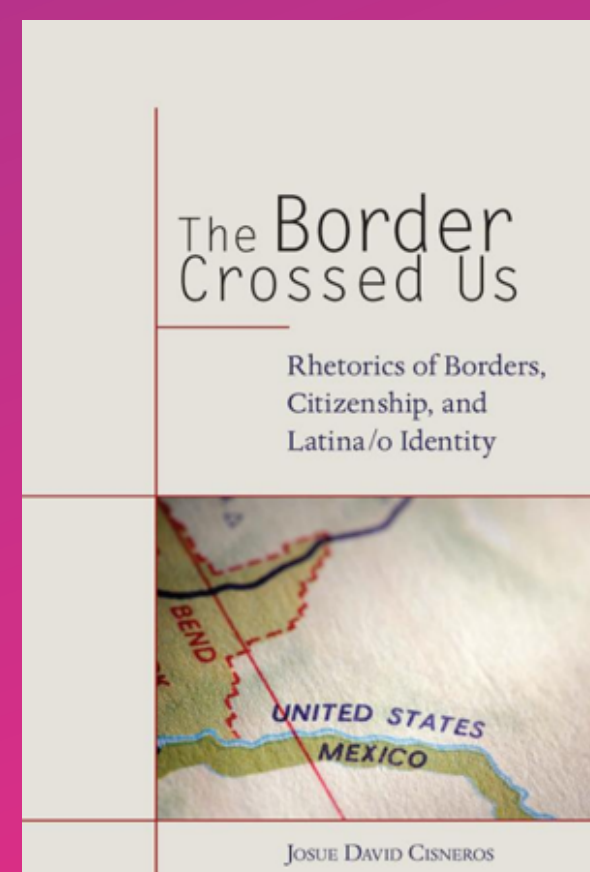
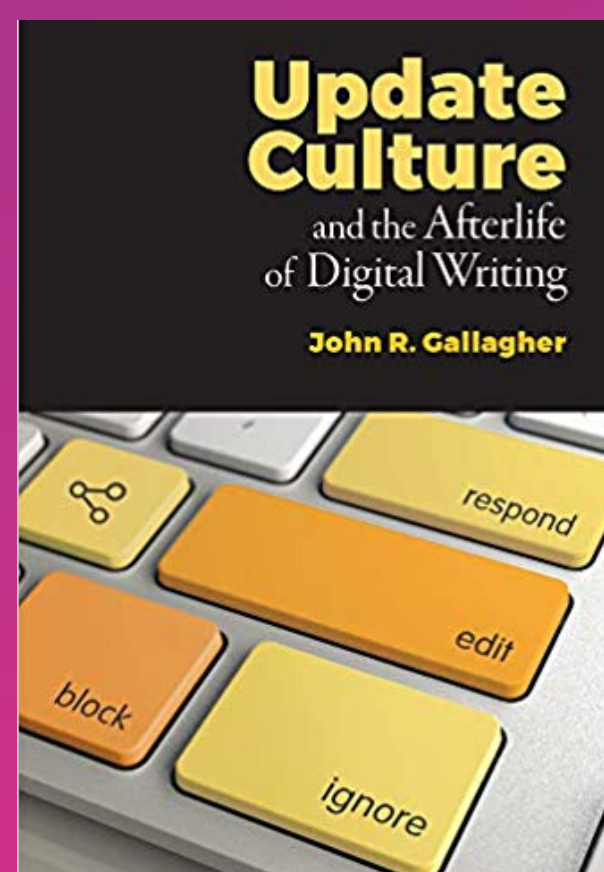
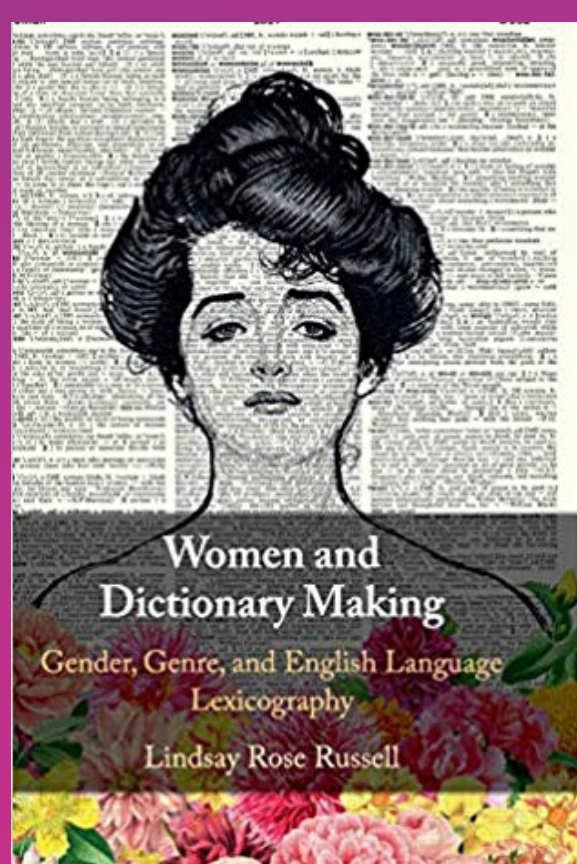
Linguistics and the School Curriculum

Ethnographic Methods in Education

Seminar in Rhetorical Theory: Sight, Sound, and Sense

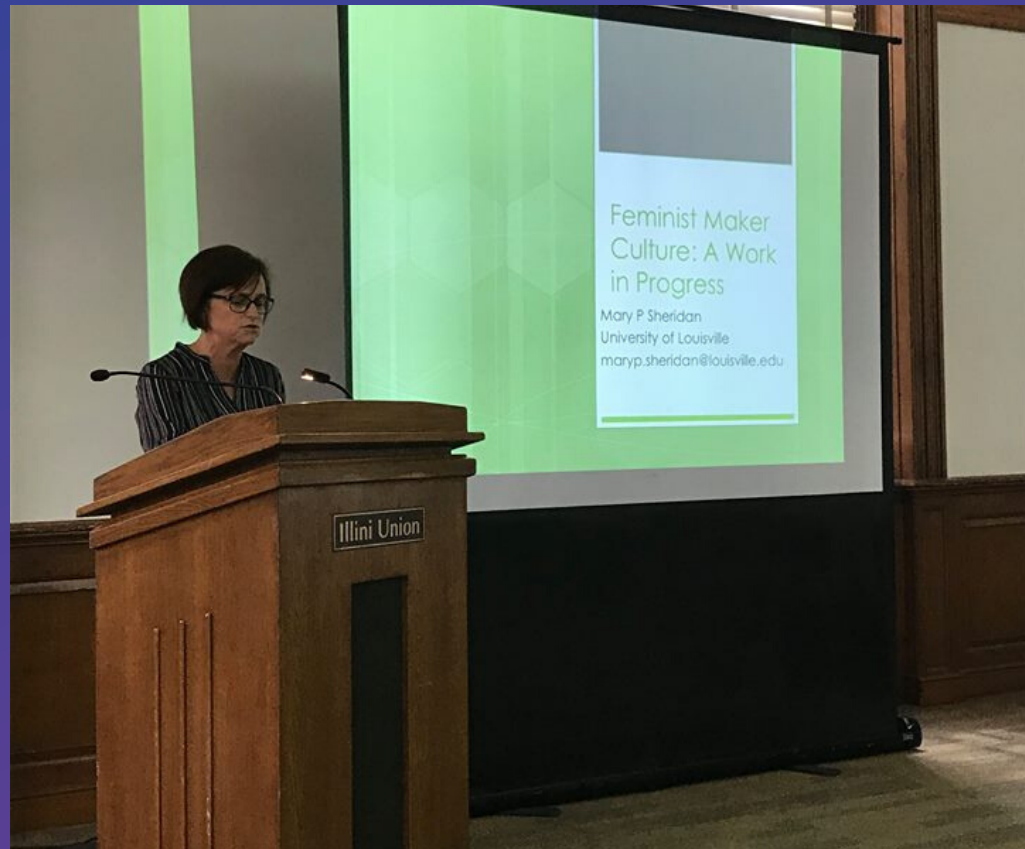
Writing Centers: Theory, Research, Practice

RECENT BOOKS BY CWS FACULTY



ALUMNI

have taken up leadership positions in the field and their institutions

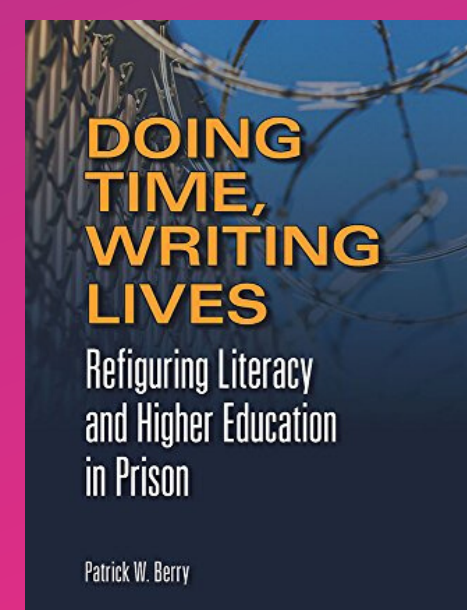
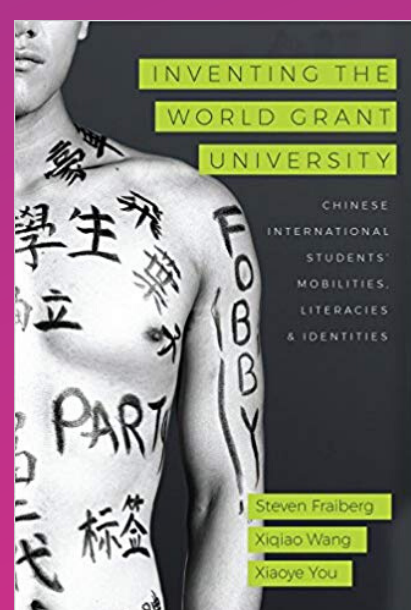
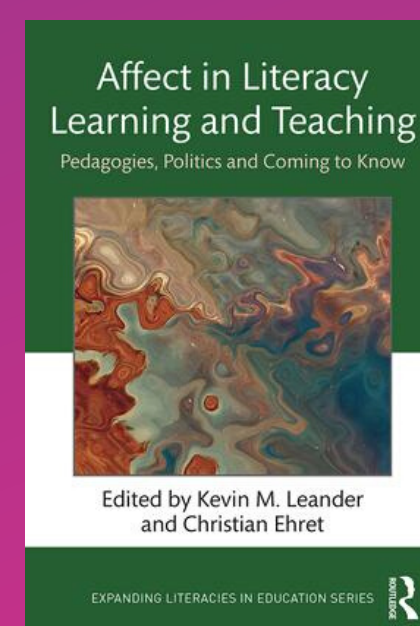
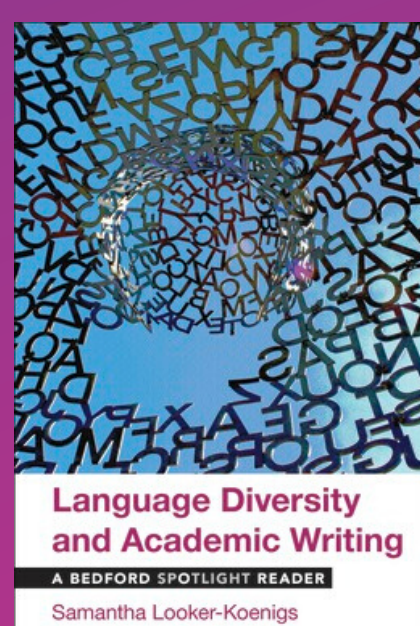
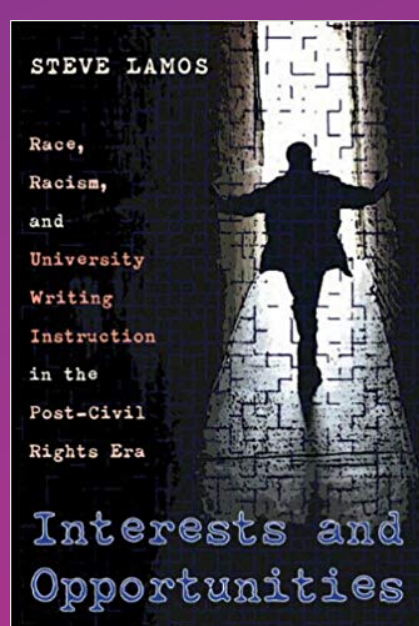
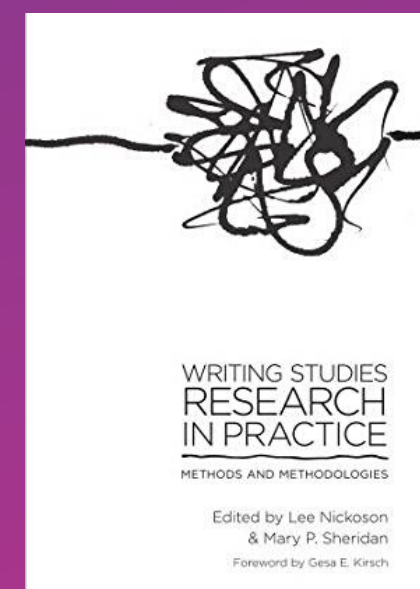
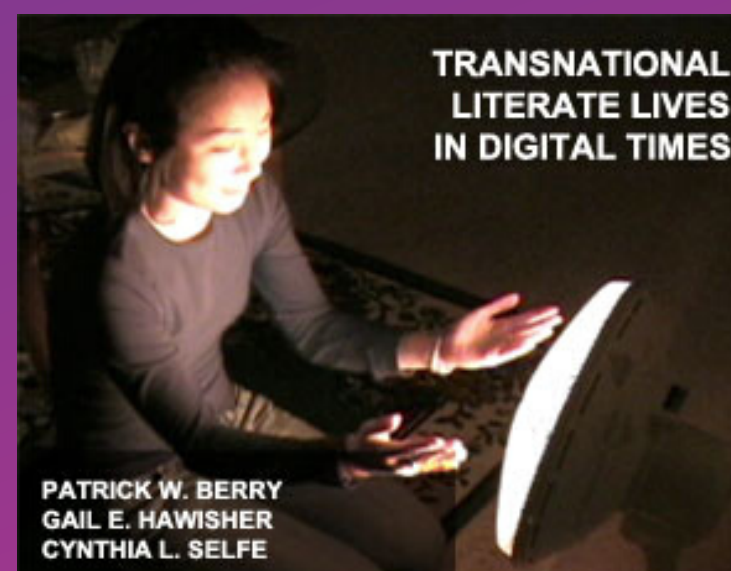
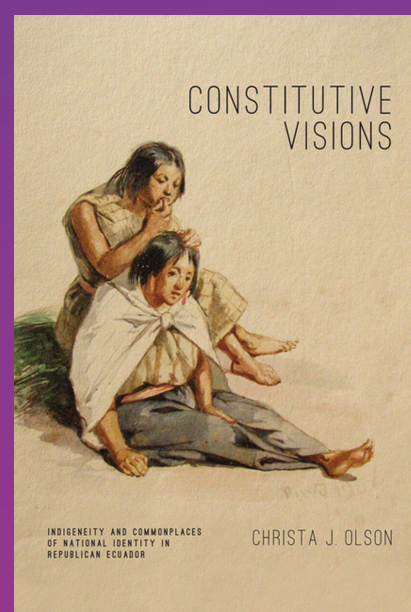


Our alumni are now on faculty at many colleges and institutions including:

Gonzaga University
Illinois State University
Juniata College
Kent State University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State
Northern Arizona University
Queen's College, CUNY
Syracuse University
University of Alabama
University of California-Davis

University of California-Santa Barbara
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado-Boulder
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Louisville
University of Pittsburgh
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin (Eau Claire & Oshkosh)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
West Chester University

ALUMNI BOOKS IN THE LAST DECADE INCLUDE



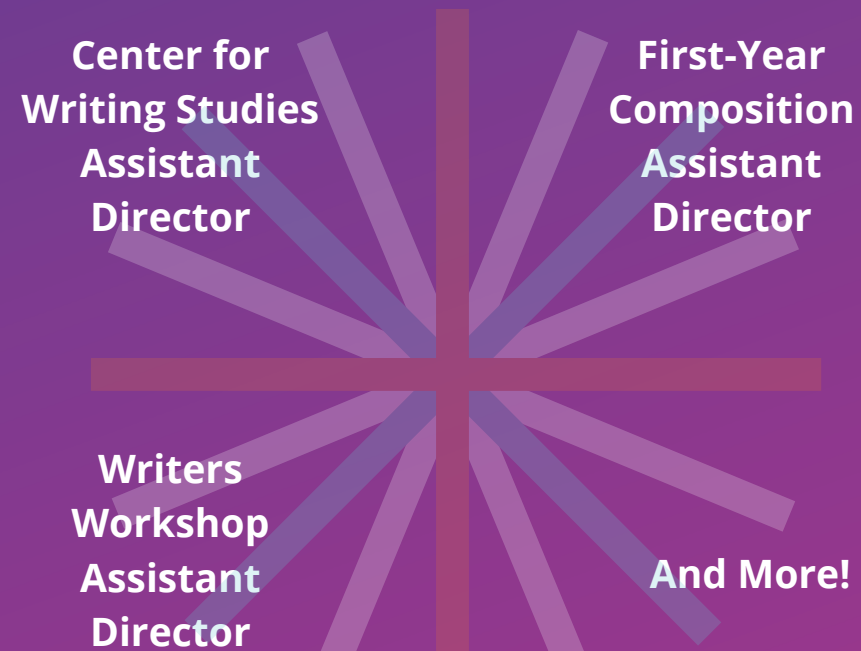
GRADUATE STUDENTS

committed to cultivating an engaged, supportive, and intellectually rich community

Our program has always specialized in working with students to pursue their own interests and visions. Graduate students are able to tailor courses of study to their needs rather than fitting into a set curriculum designed to transmit fixed knowledge.

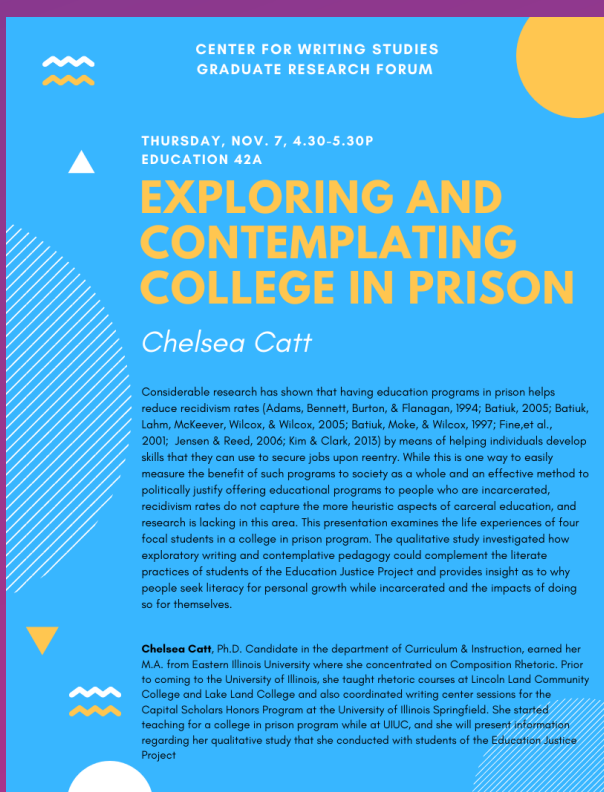


Depending on the programs they're enrolled in, CWS graduate students can take on a variety of teaching and administrative opportunities including:



WHAT CWS HAS BEEN UP TO LATELY

Graduate student research talks, faculty research-in-progress brownbags, center-wide symposia



WHAT CURRENT CWS GRADS HAVE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY

Awards, publications, professional experience

- Received the College Conference on Composition and Communication's Scholar for the Dream Award
- Recognized with the International Writing Center Association Ben Rofth Graduate Research Grant
- Presented with the International Writing Center Association President's Future Leader Award
- Co-editing a special issue of *Literacy in Composition Studies*
- Published in journals such as *Written Communication*; *Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service-Learning, and Community Literacy*; *TESOL Journal*; *Literacy: The UKLA Journal*; and *The Journal of Literacy and Technology*

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Deadlines: Variable Depending on Department (Starting Dec. 1st, 2020)

Applicants interested in writing studies can apply for graduate study in the following departments:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Communication
- English
- Education Policy & Leadership
- Linguistics (at the MA level)

Find out more about specific degree requirements through the admissions pages at each link above.

Learn more by visiting us at cws.illinois.edu.

If you have any questions about CWS, please contact Director of the Center for Writing Studies, Paul Prior, at pprior@illinois.edu.