



CREATIVE WRITING IN **CRISIS?**

9TH ANNUAL CREATIVE WRITING STUDIES CONFERENCE
VIRGINIA TECH // NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS & PAPERS

DEADLINE: AUGUST 25, 2024*

bit.ly/cwsc24cfp

*Submissions received after the deadline may be accepted on a rolling basis.

The *Endgame* special issue of *The Chronicle Review* (2020) begins, "The academic study of literature is no longer on the verge of field collapse. It's in the midst of it." As scholars, students, and practitioners of creative writing, who share offices, hallways, academic buildings, and teaching duties with our friends in literary studies, it is difficult to not feel "the collapse" coming for us, if not upon us, already. Add to the mix the closure of small, independent literary magazines, publishers, and distributors, the explosion of AI in the university and in creative professions, political unrest both on and off the college campus, and we might announce our own "Endgame" crisis.

What does it mean for a field of study to be in crisis? In many ways, creative writing as a discipline is currently in a state of crisis. Questions about the future of humanities, the allocation of funding, and even the advent of AI call into question the place of creative writing, as well as the arts more broadly, within the university. Outside of academia, large language models purport to write, human writers unions win over AI exploitation, and media coverage of genocide twists the language of empathy to turn victors into victims.

However, in other ways, the domain of creative writing is one from which we can respond to and even address crises that students, faculty, and the public face in this rocky political landscape. For instance, how can creative writing be a part of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives? How might the popularity of creative writing courses help English departments, and the humanities overall? How do interdisciplinary approaches help creative writing to thrive?

If creative writing is in crisis, perhaps we may point to why, and to how we can help keep the ship of the field and its art afloat. But if creative writing isn't in crisis, why does this idea exist in the first place, and how might it be better contextualized in the larger landscape, both within and beyond academia? We seek papers that offer a wide spectrum of voices and perspectives on this theme.

The **Creative Writing Studies Organization** explores and interrogates the practice and theory of creative writing. Where creative writing is concerned primarily with the production of creative texts, creative writing studies also applies methods from a range of disciplines to theorize and to research the pedagogy, history, practice, practitioners, and communities within the field of creative writing.

Learn more at
creativewritingstudies.net