

Call for Papers
Writing in Motion: Writing Research Across Borders



Writing Research Across Borders Conference, 2026
University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus
Sydney, Australia
30 November – 3 December 2026
www.wrab2026.com

Writing moves. It carries ideas across languages, disciplines, and borders. It responds to technological shifts and political upheavals. It persuades, unsettles, and transforms. And writing research moves with it: tracking change, shaping practice, setting new ideas in motion.

WRAB 2026 will be hosted by the University of Sydney's School of Art, Communication, and English in partnership with the International Society for the Advancement of Writing Research (ISAWR). We invite researchers, teachers, practitioners, research students and writing centre staff to Sydney to explore writing in motion through its many modalities. As generative AI reshapes how we compose and teach, as cultural rhetorics challenge inherited frameworks, and as the politics of international education intensify, writing researchers face urgent questions about the writing we investigate, the theories we draw on and develop, the methods we use to study writing, and the audiences our research serves.

This conference asks: How does writing research respond to change? How might research move people—students, teachers, policymakers, publics—toward more thoughtful engagement with writing in all its forms? We invite you to reflect on these questions, share your research, and connect with a global community of writing researchers and educators.

Conference Themes and Suggested Topics

We welcome multimodal proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following:

Histories and Futures of Writing Research

- Methodological innovation and interdisciplinary approaches to professional, academic, technical, creative writing research and education
- The changing institutional landscape for writing research
- Historical perspectives on writing instruction research
- Futures of writing research: speculation, scenario, and foresight

Cultural Rhetorics and Decolonising Writing Research

- Indigenous research, knowledges, and approaches to writing and rhetoric
- Challenging imperial and colonial research frameworks in writing studies
- Culturally sustaining research-led pedagogies and research methodologies
- Writing research that centres First Nations, Global South, and other marginalised perspectives

Language, Mobility, and Multilingual Writing

Research on:

- Writing development for international and multilingual students
- The politics of English and language diversity in higher education
- Translingual approaches to writing pedagogy
- Language support, academic literacies, and institutional responses to student diversity
- Multimodal writing

Writing and Generative AI

Research on:

- The impact of large language models on writing processes, pedagogy, and assessment
- AI literacy and critical approaches to automated writing tools
- Writing in AI-mediated environments
- Ethical and epistemological questions raised by generative text

Writing Support and Learning Across Contexts

Research on:

- Writing centres, learning hubs, and academic language and learning practice
- Peer tutoring, writing groups, and collaborative approaches
- Writing to learn
- Writing across the curriculum, in the disciplines, and in the professions
- Writing transitions: secondary to tertiary, undergraduate to postgraduate, academic to workplace

General Stream: Writing Research Across Borders

We also welcome proposals that address writing research more broadly, including work that crosses disciplinary, institutional, linguistic, or geographical boundaries.

About the Conference

WRAB 2026 will be held on the Camperdown Campus of the University of Sydney, Australia's first university, situated on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. The conference will feature three keynote addresses (details TBA), an

Indigenous Poet Laureate, and cultural connection events including yarning with Indigenous Elders, local tours, and a conference dinner.

WRAB 2026 brings together diverse approaches to writing research and scholarship, including learning centres, writing hubs, centres for language teaching, and disciplinary research in Writing Studies, Linguistics, Literary Studies, Didactics, Education Sciences, and Educational Psychology. We welcome presenters from these and similarly diverse fields: researchers, practitioners, teachers (K-12, higher education, and business/industry), graduate students, and administrators working in contexts where writing research matters. We encourage proposals across disciplines and sectors; for example, collaborations between K-12 and tertiary researchers, tertiary educators and industry, and community/civic-based projects.

The conference will run as parallel streams of 90-minute sessions across a variety of formats (described below). While keynotes may be live-streamed, the conference will be primarily an in-person event.

A networking workshop will provide opportunities for **postgraduate student researchers** to connect with peers and established researchers in the field.

Submission Guidelines

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by volunteer members of ISAWR in association with the Local Conference Organising Committee.

Deadline: Submit proposals by 15 March 2026

Where to submit: www.wrab2026.com

Proposal formats:

Papers

Individual (20-minute presentations)

Panels (up to four 20-minute presentations)

Symposia (up to five 10-minute presentations, followed by discussion)

Roundtables (90-minute discussion or workshop-focused sessions)

Poster Session (to coincide with welcome reception)

Requirements:

Abstract: 200 words maximum, including references, if required.

Presenter bio: 50 words maximum per presenter, for the conference program

Note: bios will be redacted for the anonymous review process.

For panel, symposia, and roundtable proposals, please include an additional 100-word rationale outlining the session format and identifying the session convenor. (All identifying information will be redacted for anonymous review.)

Selection Criteria:

ISAWR strongly encourages multilingual participation. Proposals will be accepted in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, and Australian Indigenous languages (the most commonly spoken languages in Australia). They will be evaluated based on their

- level of adherence to conference themes,
- appropriateness for a multi/transnational audience, and

- a strong, sustained focus on writing research.

Proposals addressing multimodal writing research, cross-disciplinary writing research, multilingual writing research, and research on/from historically marginalised groups are especially welcome.

Applicants will be notified of decisions by early May 2026. Registration details will be provided upon acceptance. In addition to student discounts, WRAB offers reduced registration rates for presenters from under-resourced countries who can demonstrate financial need.

Contact

For enquiries, please contact: contact@wrab2026.com

The local conference committee is led by Drs Benjamin Miller (University of Sydney), Beck Wise (University of Queensland), and Susan Thomas (University of Sydney), with support from Cana Nongkhlaw (University of Sydney).

We look forward to welcoming you to Sydney!