

CFP CCCC 2027 Writing through the Lifespan Standing Group Panel

Title: Designing Amid Complexity: Disrupting Continuity in Lifespan Writing Research

Moments of upheaval—pandemics, climate collapse, migration, and institutional precarity—do not simply interrupt writing lives; they expose writing across the lifespan as uneven, interrupted, and structurally unequal. This panel takes up the proposition that disruption is not an external condition affecting writing development, but a constitutive feature of Lifespan Writing Research (LWR), one that the field has not yet fully reckoned with.

LWR's has produced powerful accounts of writing development, transfer, and literacy sponsorship, yet many of its frameworks continue to privilege coherence, continuity, and recoverable trajectories despite extensive critique of developmentalist and linear models of writing (Bazerman 2008; Prior 2015). This orientation feels increasingly untenable. Writing lives do not unfold evenly across time; they are fractured by crisis, shaped by differential access to institutional support, and marked by unequal conditions of archivability and survival.

This panel reframes a central question in the field: what becomes visible when idealized conditions for writing development collapse unevenly across populations and generations? We invite proposals that examine writing and writing development to show how disruption is narrated, managed, and unevenly recorded in classrooms, communities, digital spaces, and beyond: which writing lives become legible within LWR's analytic frame; which remain structurally occluded?

We also invite interrogations of the ethics of evidence within LWR. When writing is ephemeral, fragmented, or inaccessible, what happens when longitudinal coherence fails as analytic guarantee? How might we view this incoherence not as a methodological constraint but as a theoretical rupture? What comes into view when we understand rupture, asymmetry, and contested memory (DeVoss & Ridolfo 2009; Pigg 2014) as constitutive, not exceptional, to lifespan writing and LWR?

Submission Details

Submit by email to Erin Workman (workman.erin@gmail.com) by 11:59pm central time on Tuesday, May 19th. Please include:

- Title
- Abstract (200-300 words)
- Bio, including institutional affiliation

We especially encourage proposals from early career scholars, graduate students, multiply marginalized or underrepresented (MMU) scholars, and first-time presenters. Co-authored submissions are welcome.

Accepted submissions will be included in the standing group-sponsored panel proposal submitted by WTTL. Per [Cs policy](#), taking part in a Standing Group-sponsored panel does not count as a speaking role.