

# Writing Program Administration - Graduate Organization (WPA-GO)

## 2026 Graduate Research Series Symposium

### Call for Proposals

#### Theme

What is your experience as a graduate student managing individual research, teaching, WPA responsibilities, personal life, etc.? What is the emotional labor hidden in all of these major responsibilities and roles? How does your linguistic, cultural, and academic identity condition your work as a graduate student? In turn, how has your work as a graduate student reshaped your positionality as an emerging scholar and practitioner in the field of rhetoric and composition?

In “What Do We Mean by Academic Labor (in Rhetorical Studies)?” Seth Kahn and Amy Pason engage in a conversation about the current (lack) of attention to academic labor in rhetorical studies. They explain, “Scholarship about labor in composition has happened for decades but has refocused and refracted a number of times. Nowadays we have spaces for writing about certain kinds of labor issues, and most journal articles that address teaching conditions at least gesture at contingent (including graduate-student) labor issues” (113). WPA-GO wishes to further provide spaces for graduate students to articulate the labor issues embedded in our personal, academic, and professional lives.

WPA-GO’s 2026 Graduate Research Series provides an opportunity for you to explore the interdependent relationship between labor and positionality as a graduate student. We welcome proposals that speak to the visible and hidden labor graduate students undertake and the effects of that labor on one's own positionality.

#### Delivery

WPA-GO invites submissions for individual 15-minute presentations, making explicit connections to and/or being in conversation with labor. This year’s series will take place via an online symposium on August 7th, 2026. WPA-GO encourages the interdisciplinary work of graduate scholars across institutions who are engaging with diverse research genres, methods and modalities, including but not limited to:

- experiential knowledge and personal narrative reflections
- archival studies
- autoethnography

- creative nonfiction, poetry
- embodied rhetorics and positionality
- political or cultural rhetorics
- research manuscripts

Please submit proposals of ~250 words by June 20th, 2026 via the [Google Form linked here](#). Decisions will be sent out by June 27th. If you have any questions, please reach out via email to WPA-GO's Outreach Coordinators, Helena Mazzarella ([hrm70@pitt.edu](mailto:hrm70@pitt.edu)) and Carina Shi ([jshi58@umd.edu](mailto:jshi58@umd.edu))

**Link to Google Form for Proposal Submission: <https://forms.gle/poXUedkyeTKfNJn37>**

## Timeline

Proposals Due	<b>June 20th</b>
Acceptance Notification	<b>June 27th</b>
Symposium	<b>August 7th</b>

## References

Kahn, Seth, and Amy Pason. "What Do We Mean by Academic Labor (in Rhetorical Studies)?" *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, vol. 24, no. 1-2, Spring-Summer 2021, pp. 109–128.