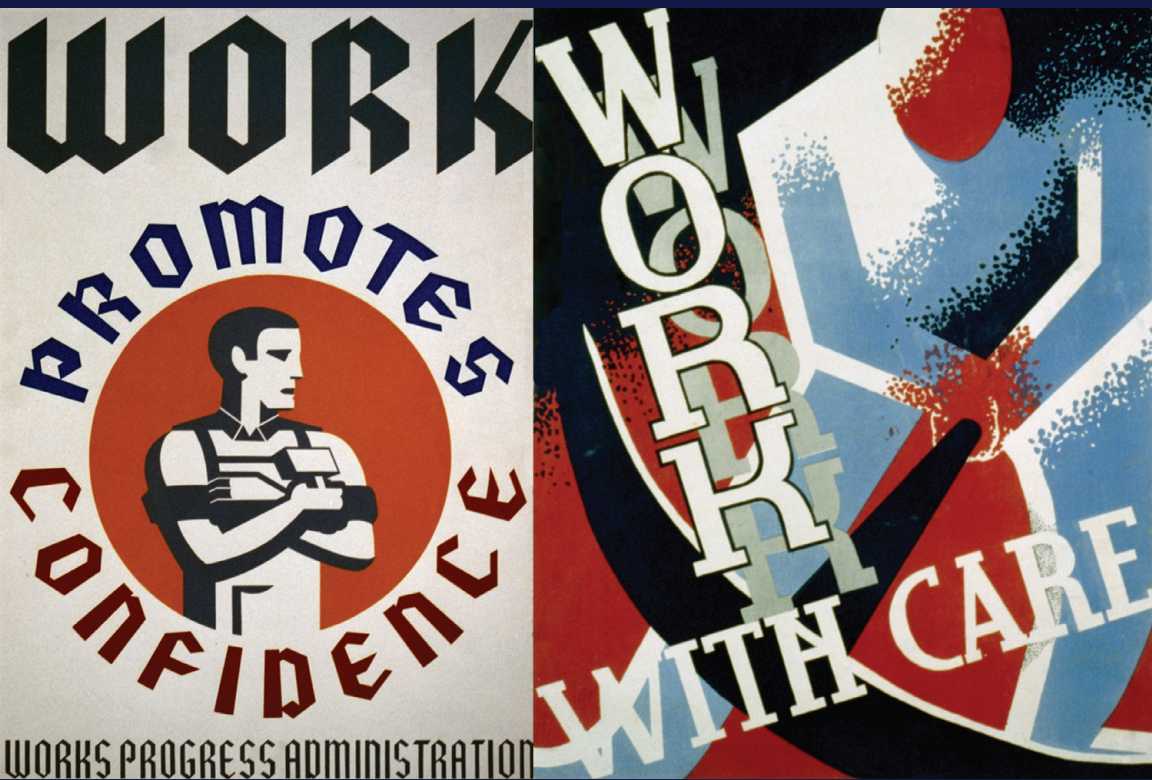


Storying Writing Center Labor for Anti-Capitalist Futures



Genie Nicole Giaimo and Daniel Lawson
With Chapters from 34 Colleagues

STORYING WRITING CENTER
LABOR FOR ANTI-CAPITALIST
FUTURES

PRACTICES & POSSIBILITIES

Series Editors: Aimee McClure, Kelly Ritter, Aleashia Walton, and Jagadish Paudel

Consulting Editor: Mike Palmquist

The Practices & Possibilities Series addresses the full range of practices within the field of Writing Studies, including teaching, learning, research, and theory. From Richard E. Young's taxonomy of "small genres" to Patricia Freitag Ericsson's edited collection on sexual harassment in the academy to Jessie Borgman and Casey McArdle's considerations of teaching online, the books in this series explore issues and ideas of interest to writers, teachers, researchers, and theorists who share an interest in improving existing practices and exploring new possibilities. The series includes both original and republished books. Works in the series are organized topically.

The WAC Clearinghouse and University Press of Colorado are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the series editors are committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate and have embraced the use of technology to support open access to scholarly work.

OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES

Asao B. Inoue, *Crippling Labor-Based Grading for More Equity in Literacy Courses* (2023)

Jessie Borgman and Casey McArdle (Eds.), *PARS in Charge: Resources and Strategies for Online Writing Program Leaders* (2023)

Douglas Hesse and Laura Julier (Eds.), *Nonfiction, the Teaching of Writing, and the Influence of Richard Lloyd-Jones* (2023)

Linda Adler-Kassner and Elizabeth Wardle, *Writing Expertise: A Research-Based Approach to Writing and Learning Across Disciplines* (2022)

Michael J. Faris, Courtney S. Danforth, and Kyle D. Stedman (Eds.), *Amplifying Soundwriting Pedagogies: Integrating Sound into Rhetoric and Writing* (2022)

Crystal VanKooten and Victor Del Hierro (Eds.), *Methods and Methodologies for Research in Digital Writing and Rhetoric: Centering Positionality in Computers and Writing Scholarship, Volumes 1 and 2* (2022)

Heather M. Falconer, *Masking Inequality with Good Intentions: Systemic Bias, Counterspaces, and Discourse Acquisition in STEM Education* (2022)

Jessica Nastal, Mya Poe, and Christie Toth (Eds.), *Writing Placement in Two Year Colleges: The Pursuit of Equity in Postsecondary Education* (2022)

Natalie M. Dorfeld (Ed.), *The Invisible Professor: The Precarious Lives of the New Faculty Majority* (2022)

STORYING WRITING CENTER LABOR FOR ANTI-CAPITALIST FUTURES

By Genie Nicole Giaimo and Daniel Lawson
With Chapters from 34 Colleagues

The WAC Clearinghouse
wac.colostate.edu
Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado
upcolorado.com
Louisville, Colorado

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80202

© 2024 by Genie Nicole Giaimo and Daniel Lawson. This work is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.

ISBN 978-1-64215-240-1 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-241-8 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-689-8 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PRA-B.2024.2401

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pending

Copyeditor: Caitlin Kahihikolo

Designer: Mike Palmquist

Cover Images: Cover Images: “Work Promotes Confidence” by an unnamed artist (Library of Congress Item Number 98518393) and “Work with Care” by Nathan Sherman (Library of Congress Item Number 98517388). Public domain.

Series Editors: Aimee McClure, Kelly Ritter, Aleashia Walton, and Jagadish Paudel

Consulting Editor: Mike Palmquist

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital formats for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, and Western Colorado University. For more information, visit upcolorado.com.

Citation Information: Giaimo, Genie, & Daniel Lawson. (2024). *Storying Writing Center Labor for Anti-Capitalist Futures*. The WAC Clearinghouse; University Press of Colorado. <https://doi.org/10.37514/PRA-B.2024.2401>

Land Acknowledgment. The Colorado State University Land Acknowledgment can be found at <https://landacknowledgment.colostate.edu>.

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	3
ACT I. WHERE WE'VE BEEN: PROJECT FRAME.	7
Chapter 1. Writing Center Labor in the Neoliberal University: Where Have We Been (So Far)?	9
Chapter 2. Methodology: Counterstorying, Testimony and Narrative as Research Work	21
Chapter 3. Key Concepts in the Book	29
Chapter 4. The Untold Stories, The Hard Truths	35
ACT II. WHERE WE ARE: STORIES AND INTERCHAPTERS	39
Chapter 5. Genie and Dan's Origin Stories	41
<i>Theme 1. Career Trajectories and Labor</i>	47
Chapter 6. Laboring to Grow an Academic Field	51
Muriel Harris	
Chapter 7. <i>Curriculum Vitae</i> : An Alternative History	55
Neal Lerner	
Chapter 8. My Writing Center Side Hustle	59
Anonymous	
Chapter 9. Why Write?: Writing Center Publishing as Labor	63
Rebecca Hallman Martini	
Chapter 10. Moving On to Move Up	67
Joseph Cheatle	
Chapter 11. The First Year: A New Director's Experience	71
Allie Sockwell Johnston	
Chapter 12. From Dream Job to Unsustainable	75
Anonymous	
<i>Theme 2. Precarity and Failed Advocacy</i>	79
Chapter 13. Writing Fellows; Fellow Students.	83
Eva Dunsky	
Chapter 14. I've Got a Secret: I'm Contingent. (Wait, You're Contingent Too?)	87
Anonymous	
Chapter 15. Into and Out of the Tutoring Center	91
Anonymous	

Chapter 16. Writing Center as Life Raft: The Fracturing of the Grand Narratives of Working in Higher Education 95
Anonymous

Chapter 17. Counterstory: Ignored Labor with a Writing Center 99
Lucy (Pseudonymous)

Theme 3. Advocacy Successes 103

Chapter 18. “. . . at least for now”: A Story About Undergraduate Writing Centers and Labor Compensation in Five Parts 107
Scott Whiddon

Chapter 19. Advocating for Equitable Tutor Pay with Campus Partners 111
Katherine E. Tirabassi

Chapter 20. Benefits and Drawbacks of Hiring Professional Academic Tutors 115
Libby Anthony

Chapter 21. From the Archive of a Tutor Representative’s Email Correspondences (Summer 2022) 119
Anonymous

Chapter 22. “I Have No Idea What I’m Doing”: Why Training is An Essential Part of Labor Conversations in Writing Centers. 123
Olivia Imirie

Chapter 23. Overloaded: Balancing the Ethics of WC Administration and Student Labor 127
Megan Keaton

Theme 4. Identity and Labor 131

Chapter 24. Writing Center Exile: Third Gender as Third Class in a Third Space. 133
Silk Jade (Pseudonymous)

Chapter 25. Thank You for Carrying Me Through, Thank You for Your Labor 137
Saurabh Anand

Chapter 26. Coaching Queerly: Healing in Writing Center Work 141
Molly Ryan

Chapter 27. “Fucking Up” and Listening in the Writing Center. 145
Ryan Witt

Chapter 28. Boundless 149
Genie Nicole Giaimo

Theme 5. Trauma and the New Workplace Normal. 153

Chapter 29. A Story of Writing Center Labor in a Violent Age. 157
John Chadderdon, Maggie M. Herb, and Elijah Hundley

Chapter 30. Tragedy in the Writing Center 163
 Vincent Belkin (Pseudonymous)

Chapter 31. Boundaries and Labor During the COVID-19 Pandemic 167
 Anne McMurtrey

Chapter 32. Bearing Witness: The Emotional Labor of (Pandemic) Tutoring . 171
 Margaret Lundberg

Theme 6. Care Work and Sustainability 175

Chapter 33. Care and Work/S paces: Writing Center Labor During
 COVID-19 177
 Janine Morris

Chapter 34. Labor of Love: Managing the Writing Center and New
 Motherhood during the Pandemic 181
 Mary Elizabeth Skinner and Jaclyn Wells

Chapter 35. What the COVID-19 Pandemic Taught Us About Writing
 Center Work: The Joys of a Tutor at the Laboratory of Academic Literacy . . . 185
 Oluwatosin Mariam Junaid

Chapter 36. Mike 189
 Jonathan M. Green

Chapter 37. Growing Like Moss: Theorizing the Labor of Writing Center
 Placemaking 193
 Candis Bond

Chapter 38. Disruptive Labor: The Transformational Work of Pushing
 Boundaries 197
 Tiffany-Anne M. Elliott

Chapter 39. Keep Writing Centers Weird 201
 James Donathan Garner

ACT III. WHERE WE’RE GOING: CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION. . 205

Chapter 40. Reclaiming Metalabor 207

Chapter 41. What Can We Do? Adopting an Anti-capitalist Framework in
 Writing Center Work. 217

Concluding Thoughts 235

References 239

Appendix A. Email to Workshop Participants 247

Appendix B. Letter to Accreditors 249

Appendix C. Playbook for Unionizing 251

Contributors 255