

EATAW Newsletter

www.eataw.eu



EATAW 2017 Conference, Royal Holloway, University of London

In what was (we're claiming – counter-claims most welcome) the hottest EATAW (or should that be HEATAW?) ever, with the temperature on the Wednesday reaching an energy-sapping 34.5 degrees, over 400 delegates from 44 countries gathered at Royal Holloway, University of London for the 9th conference.

The theme of the conference – ‘Academic Writing Now: Policy, Pedagogy and Practice’ – was intentionally wide-ranging and aimed to take stock of the teaching of academic writing in a rapidly-changing context that is increasingly driven by market forces and the ‘student experience’. The conference raised questions all along the policy-practice spectrum: e.g., how policy might impact academic writing; how writing centres can begin to effect change in the university; whether digital technologies are changing student learning and writing practices.

The three keynote talks provided a thematic overview emphasising the importance of ‘thinking big’ in academic writing. Rowena Murray’s talk considered how academic writing teachers might influence policy through making faculty better aware about what it is academic writing offers. Ron Barnett’s elegant polemic invited academics to care for their own writing, and to make writing a part of academic discourse. Finally, Katrin Girgensohn offered a practical model for legitimising the writing centre, with a talk combining

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empirical research and organisational theory. For all three, the common thread was how writing can be brought into the mainstream of thinking and policy-making at university.

It is not possible here to do justice to the quality and breadth of the 169 (yes, that many!) presentations, workshops, symposia and 'lightning talks' at the conference. Emerging themes were many, but included critical pedagogies, students as writers in the 21st century, student writing in the digital (or post-digital) age, and the practical challenges of establishing and maintaining writing centres.



Some of these emerging themes taken up in a mid-conference plenary session, and new to this conference was a series of 5-minute 'lightning talks' held in the bar, on topics such as collaborative marking, reflective pedagogies, and the virtues of short assignments.

A 'closing reflections' panel marked the end of the conference, with themes emerging that could well inspire the next conference: the need to make the much-maligned buzzwords of 'metrics' and 'impact' relevant and potentially game-changing for academic writing. Delegates were invited to identify specific policies that would allow them to promote writing development, and in so doing were left with the challenge of starting to ask the question posed by Rowena Murray in the first keynote: 'what do we do about policy?'

Further information about the 2017 conference, including recordings of plenaries and selected sessions can be found here: www.eataw2017.org.

Where to next...? Call to host the next EATAW Conference 2019

The EATAW Board would like to invite bids from institutions that wish to host the 10th Biennial EATAW conference in the second half of June 2019. The Board will provide guidance and advice to the host as requested, based on their past experience, including guidance on wording of webpages and other texts, and the administration of the EATAW general meeting and elections. The Board will provide assistance in evaluating abstracts submitted and chairing conference sessions. Members of the Board may by agreement assist with opening and closing speeches or introduction of keynote speakers. All other management duties are the responsibility of the host.

Bids should include the following information:

- an indication of the proposed concept of the conference, including suggestions for themes which align with the EATAW mission as described on the EATAW website: www.eataw.eu
- reasons why the location/institution is suitable for the EATAW conference, including the involvement of the institution or its members in academic writing
- an indication of the support of the administration of the institution for the bid description of the facilities/staffing provided by the institution that will make the conference possible
- the number of participants the institution can host (for comparison, recent conferences have been around 260 to 400 participants)
- an indication of adequate infrastructure (number and size of available rooms, available technical facilities), accessibility and attractiveness of the location in itself

- an indication of type, range and cost of accommodation available and approximate distance from accommodation to the conference location
- a preliminary budget including anticipated expenses and the conference fee (recent conferences have been around 160-190 euros - the aim is to keep the fee low but without incurring a financial loss. Most past hosts have offered concessionary fees for students or those who register early, but this is at the discretion of the host)
- any other relevant supporting information.

The institution will be financially responsible for the conference and cannot be compensated for financial losses. At the same time, EATAW expects that the host institution will not seek to make a profit at the expense of participants. Past hosts of conferences that have made a profit have donated part of this to EATAW to be used as scholarship for members in need, but this remains at the discretion of the host. Management of any scholarships that are offered will be the responsibility of the EATAW Board.

Bids should be submitted by e-mail to Stuart Wrigley <stuart.wrigley@rhul.ac.uk> by Friday 23 March 2018, and should not exceed four pages.



The Journal of Academic Writing is an international, peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the teaching, tutoring, researching, administration and development of academic writing in higher education in Europe.

Published by the European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing (EATAW), the Journal of Academic Writing is relevant to teachers, scholars, and program managers across disciplines and across the world who are interested in conducting, debating and learning from research into best practices in the teaching of writing.

A new issue of the Journal of Academic Writing has recently been published and is available at:

<http://e-learning.coventry.ac.uk/ojs/index.php/joaw>

This issue contains articles by Mark Carver, Sophia Zevgoli and Evi Dilaveri, Esther Odilia Breuer, Andrea Scott, and a book review by Kristin Solli of Lynn P. Nygaard's *Writing Your Master's Thesis: From A to Zen*.

The next issue will be guest edited by this year's Conference Organisers from Royal Holloway and will contain a selection of papers based on presentations given at the conference.

Please contact the editor Lisa Ganobcsik-Williams <l.g-williams@coventry.ac.uk> if you are interested in reviewing or contributing to future editions.

EATAW stands united with CEU



Dear President Áder

The members of the European Association for Teaching Academic Writing (EATAW) write to publicly acknowledge our support of the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Central European University and the role that they and it play in Hungary and in Europe's culture, economy, history, and future.

EATAW is an academic organization, with membership from around the world, centered on the values of higher education. As writing teachers, we guide undergraduate and graduate student writers in becoming critical thinkers and successful communicators, two skills every person needs, especially those who are the future of not only your nation but all the others in the world as well. As such, we recognize the need for universities that strive for and achieve academic excellence and that promote a free exchange of ideas as CEU consistently has. In fact, many of our members have ties to CEU, including that in 2013, our biennial conference was held at CEU. Our members found the university to be a valuable intellectual resource for Europe, one that lives up to its reputation as a premier university in the region.

Additionally, CEU's Center for Academic Writing (CAW) has a stellar reputation within our discipline. CAW's instruction in writing across the disciplines, its one-on-one work with graduate student writers, and its curriculum development and consultation with both CEU faculty and faculty in institutions across Europe are well known. CAW notably remains the only European writing program to earn the prestigious Conference on College Composition and Communication Writing Program Certificate of Excellence.

EATAW stands united with the entire CEU community and others around the world who are protesting the Hungarian government's assaults on academic freedoms. We are heartened to hear of CEU's recent agreement with Bard College and also the Council of Europe's opinion that the Lex CEU legislation is undemocratic and should not be applied to existing universities. To that end, we add our support to the demand that you and the nation's Parliament review these practices and repeal the decisions that have threatened CEU's existence. Please accept the support of our entire membership, representing 81 countries around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Djuddah A.J. Leijen, Chair
Magnus Gustafsson, Outgoing Chair
Amanda French, Secretary
José Brandao Carvalho, Web Secretary

Stuart Wrigley, Deputy Chair
Erin Zimmerman, Membership Outreach
Lisa Ganobcsik-Williams, Editor of Journal for Academic Writing
Kärt Rummel, Treasurer

Outgoing Chair Magnus Gustafsson Reflections and thank-yous!

I was fortunate to be re-elected to the EATAW board and as the Outgoing Chair I have the privilege of thanking the outgoing members in a way I would not normally have been able to so here goes...

Back in 2011, Roman became our first treasurer and set up a central account for the association. The admin involved in setting that bank account up and sorting routines for it has indeed made life easier for the EATAW board and for subsequent organisers. Thank you Roman.

Bojana was one of the early board members who started working with Lisa to set up the JOAW journal for the association. She subsequently co-edited the 2015 conference issue and I do hope she will remain on the reviewer list for the journal. In the 2015-2017 stint, she was deputy chair and stepped in at various points in the board's work and helped out significantly. Thank you Bojana.

Esther has been our web secretary for a long time. She took on that task with little to no handover and ended up having to redesign the site twice. She has relayed whatever information we have sent her as EATAW members and made it available on the site. She has also had to help enable and restore the database connection on the site in 2016 after the crash. It now falls on the new board to finish that job of course! Thank you Esther.

John was one of the founding members of the association and long on the board, he came back onto the board again in 2013. He has been driving the work with our first and second versions of the constitution. Seeing the need for it and addressing the issues in it that needed structure in the association has indeed been fundamental to the association. John has also been the most active board member on the list in many different discussions. He too has co-edited conference issues of course. Finally, and crucially, he has also been pushing the board (and the association) to remain a European one not just a western European one. Thank you John.

For the 2017 EATAW board election, I wrote in my presentation that I was hoping I would be able to support the incoming board members if I was re-elected onto the board. I did get elected and we have a new Board. Thank you all for standing! With any luck, I'll be able to contribute to this new board and to JOAW over the next two years.

Welcome from our incoming Chair Djuddah A.J. Leijen

As the incoming chair of EATAW, I want to extend my deepest gratitude, as I am honored and humbled to be able to put my service to such a wonderful organization with such a great diversity of members. I look forward to working together with everybody to continue EATAW's rich tradition of supporting research and practice into Academic writing across Europe.

I thoroughly enjoyed our last conference at Royal Holloway. It was an incredible venue with a great conference programme covering so many different topics and highlights. Coventry 2009 was my first EATAW conference, and back then, I could not imagine that I would, almost a decade later, be addressing you as incoming Chair. As I wrote in my candidacy letter, EATAW has given me so much in those years, which it only felt as the right thing to do to give something back. I have looked up to all the members that came before me and learned from their work and research. Academic writing support and development at my home institution would not be what it is today if it were not for EATAW.

I am very excited to start working as your new Chair, and I am looking forward to be working together with Magnus and Lisa, long standing members, the newly elected members, Erin, José, and Stuart, and re-elected members, Kärt and Amanda. We have already had a couple of fruitful meetings, and as the committee we are eager to push EATAW ever forward by drawing on the enthusiasm and expertise of our growing membership.

Wishing you all the best,
Djuddah A.J. Leijen



Meet the rest of the board!

Outgoing Chair

Magnus Gustafsson

Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden



Deputy Chair/Conference liaison officer

Stuart Wrigley

Royal Holloway, University of London, UK



Secretary

Amanda French

Birmingham City University, UK



Membership secretary

José António Brandão Carvalho

University of Minho, Portugal



Treasurer

Kärt Rummel

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia



Member involvement officer

Erin Bethany Zimmerman

American University of Beirut, Lebanon



Journal of Academic Writing Editor

Lisa Ganobcsik-Williams (Ex-officio)

Coventry University, UK

