

# Call for Speakers / Presenters

*Grounding Provocations for a CWCA BIPOC Caucus Co-Design Session*  
*A two-parts 90-minute session at the [CWCA/ACCR Conference, 2026](#)*

## 1. Session Title

What Still Holds? A Co-Design Workshop on Mapping Pressures, Possibilities, and Collective Futures for Writing Centres.

## 2. Context and Rationale

Writing centres across institutional contexts are experiencing intensified restructuring pressures, including mergers, outsourcing, reorganization, shifting performance metrics, and changing institutional discourses about the purpose and value of student support. These changes have material consequences for access, labour, reporting practices, and community-building work.

Proposed by the CWCA/ACCR BIPOC Caucus, this session foregrounds an anti-racist, worker-centred response to these conditions. The session draws on scholarship examining writing centre reporting practices and institutional “absurdities” (Cirillo-McCarthy et al., 2023), as well as current U.S. and Canadian shifts in equity discourse, including the move from EDI to “belonging” frameworks in some contexts (Alonso, 2024; Smith, 2025).

## 3. Purpose of the Presentations

We are inviting presenters to contribute short “grounding provocations” that will anchor and propel a participatory co-design workshop. These presentations are not stand-alone papers; rather, they provide shared reference points, lived examples, and critical questions that shape collective inquiry and strategy-building during the session.

## 4. Who Is Invited to Submit

We welcome submissions from:

- Writing centre peer-tutors, instructors, coordinators, directors, and administrators
- Graduate student and contingent workers
- Faculty, staff, and practitioners working in or alongside writing centres

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- Researchers studying writing centre labour, administration, or restructuring

We especially welcome submissions from BIPOC colleagues, and from those whose perspectives are often marginalized in institutional decision-making. Allies are also invited to participate.

While we welcome experiences from all institutional and geographic contexts, we are particularly interested in presentations grounded in writing centre work in North America—especially from colleagues working in Canadian and U.S. writing centres. This focus reflects shared and divergent policy, labour, and discursive conditions across these contexts, including differences in restructuring practices, reporting expectations, equity frameworks, and funding models. However, international submissions that map the reverberations of North American writing centre policy, labour, and discursive influences are of interest and encouraged.

## 5. Topics of Interest and Guiding Questions

Presentations might engage (but are not limited to):

- Experiences of writing centre restructuring, mergers, or closures
- Shifts in reporting expectations, metrics, or evaluation frameworks
- Tensions between institutionally “admin-legible” language and worker-centred or community-grounded narratives
- Impacts of restructuring on labour conditions, access, or tutor wellbeing
- Strategies for navigating, resisting, reframing, or subverting dominant discourses
- Storying, narrative, or creative approaches to writing centre advocacy
- Experiences shaped by national or regional policy contexts, particularly within Canadian and U.S. higher education systems
- Reverberations of North American writing centre policy, labour, and discursive influences internationally

## 6. Presentation Format

- Length: 8-10 minutes per presenter followed by 15 minutes for Q&A
- Format: Spoken presentation; slides optional
- Creative, narrative, visual, or reflective approaches are welcome
- Research-informed, practice-based, and lived-experience contributions are all valued

## 7. Relationship to the Workshop

Presenters will also participate fully in the workshop. Their presentations will intentionally surface tensions (e.g., when administrative language clashes with worker-centred understandings, loss of institutional memory through worker attrition and layoffs, etc.) to help the group collectively interrogate when translation, reframing, or refusal is most ethical and effective.

## 8. What to Submit

Please submit:

- A 100–150-word description of what you would like to share
- Your role/affiliation (optional; anonymized descriptions are acceptable)
- Any accessibility needs
- Optional note indicating whether you wish to anonymize institutional details
- Email your submission to [bipoc.caucus@proton.me](mailto:bipoc.caucus@proton.me)

## 9. Selection Principles

We aim to curate a set of presentations that reflects:

- A range of institutional contexts and roles
- Diverse racialized, labour, and positional perspectives
- A contribution that will anchor and propel the participatory co-design workshop in the second part of the session that immediately follows the presentations

## 10. Timeline

- Submission deadline: May 15, 2026
- Notification of acceptance: May 22, 2026
- Session date/time: June 18, 12:30 - 2:00 PDT

## 11. Anonymity and Risk Awareness

We recognize that speaking about institutional conditions can carry risk, especially for precariously employed colleagues. Presenters may anonymize institutions, roles, or details as they see fit. No form of institutional critique is required.

## 12. Accessibility Commitments

- Flexible presentation formats are supported
- Materials may be shared in advance where possible
- Please indicate access needs during submission

### **13. Compensation Transparency**

At present, no honoraria are available for this session. We acknowledge this labour as meaningful and necessary work and are committed to minimizing additional burdens through flexible expectations and collective care.

### **14. Positionality Statement**

This session is organized by the CWCA/ACCR BIPOC Caucus and is grounded in commitments to anti-racist praxis, worker-centred knowledge-making, and collective strategies for sustaining writing centre ecosystems.

### **15. What Presenters Will Gain**

Presenters will:

- Contribute to shaping a multi-phased, collective research and advocacy project
- Connect with colleagues navigating related conditions
- Influence shared tools, language, and strategies emerging from the session
- Participate in a community committed to solidarity, care, and action

### **16. Closing Invitation & Contact**

If this invitation resonates with you, even if you are unsure whether your experience “fits”, we encourage you to submit or reach out with questions.

**Contact information:** [bipoc.caucus@proton.me](mailto:bipoc.caucus@proton.me)

We look forward to learning from one another and to building what comes next—together.