Connection, Sustainability, and Diversity in Graduate Communication Work

June 21-23, 2023

University of Maryland, College Park

All proposals are due by March 1, 2023, 11:59 EST

2023 Call for Proposals

We invite the CGC membership to consider "Connection, Sustainability, and Diversity in Graduate Communication Work" during our annual Summer Institute. *Connection, Sustainability, and Diversity* encompasses many aspects of our professional work to support graduate students as emerging professional communicators in their respective fields and career paths.. We are excited to host an in-person conference again. *Connection, Sustainability, and Diversity* will provide a space to reflect on our varied programs and institutional settings, and how we best collaborate and ***connect*** with others within and beyond our programs and institutions. We will also explore how we navigate all of these things while trying to keep our programs ***sustainable*** for ourselves and the graduate students we serve. We will continue to engage in important conversations related to supporting ***diverse*** graduate student populations and aligning graduate communication support with socially just outcomes. We invite further discussion of how we navigate the evolving challenges, opportunities, and expectations for graduate communication support. Finally, we will continue to seek ways to support and expand research and publication in graduate communication support.

The 2023 CGC Summer Institute invites graduate communication professionals to consider the full spectrum of our field's research and practice. The institute will continue to offer both Works-in-Progress and Research Presentation formats to cultivate our field's research and theorizing. We offer the questions below as a starting point, but also welcome participants to propose their own issues and questions for expanding perspectives in graduate communication.

- What are the most important ***connections*** we make in our work?
- How does the modality of our ***connections*** with the students we support impact our work with them?
- How do we create and sustain other ***connections***—with students, with campus partners, and across institutions—to make our work more effective?

- Which campus partnerships and interinstitutional **connections** have been most successful and what innovative ones do we hope to develop?
- What have we learned post pandemic about the **sustainability** of our work and the ways we support graduate students?
- What does the latest research on graduate student communication suggest for our work and its **sustainability**?
- How can we raise the profile of graduate communication and graduate communication research at our institutions ?
- How do **diverse** graduate student populations and changing demographics factor into your program design and pedagogical approaches?
- How do you enact pedagogy and shape programs to overcome structural inequities in graduate education?
- How does the graduate communication field adapt to the changes and challenges of the job market for which we prepare graduate students?
- How do we assess and advocate for graduate student needs in a way that secures buy-in and resources from institutional stakeholders?

The in-person Summer Institute will include keynotes, workshops, research panels, work-in-progress, and special interest networking sessions (descriptions and proposal requirements follow). Participants are welcome to submit proposals for any of the formats except keynotes.

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Research Presentations
Submit here: https://forms.gle/CgF9U6D8ePutQRJz7

This year we will again include research presentations to spotlight and cultivate research in the field of graduate communication. Introducing research presentations is also a recognition of the ways that our field continues to grow and mature. Successful research proposals will share findings from completed research projects that are of substantial interest to the CGC community. Research sessions will follow the traditional format of 2-3 presentations of 20-25 minutes each plus time for Q&A.

Please note that there will be limited slots for research presentations, *so it is likely that qualified proposals will not be selected* as we prioritize presentations that speak to a wide range of topics. Research presentations that are not accepted will automatically be considered as works-in-progress presentations.

Research presentations will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- *Research Quality*—Successful proposals will feature a completed research project with clearly defined purpose, method, and implications.
- *Research Relevance and Significance*—Priority will be given to research that has important implications for the work of CGC members.
- *Diversity of Research*—We aim to showcase research on a wide range of issues in graduate communication support.

Research proposals should provide the following information:
- Research title
- Names and institutional affiliations for all speakers
- Intended audience
  - Are the findings likely to be useful for participants who work with students from a wide variety of backgrounds (L1, L2, international, domestic), or is it designed for participants who work with a specific student population?
- A brief description of the presentation that answers the following questions in no more than 250 words (plus a shorter version for the program):
  - What was the impetus for the research?
  - What research questions were investigated?
  - Who were the participants?
  - What method was used?
  - What are the findings and implications of the research, particularly for CGC members?

Workshops
Submit here: https://forms.gle/xz7s5YT49v3EGM6HA

Experienced practitioners will share nuts-and-bolts approaches to various topics in graduate communication support. Workshops will provide interactive, hands-on professional development opportunities for all participants, including those who are new to the field or exploring new graduate communication initiatives or approaches. Workshop leaders are invited to propose 75-minute sessions on an area of graduate communication support.

Please note that there will be limited slots for workshops, *so it is possible that a number of qualified proposals will not be selected.* For example, if we receive three proposals for oral communication workshops, we will likely only select one of them in the interest of providing a broad range of workshop topics.

Workshop proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:
- *Proposal quality*—Clarity of goals and deliverables, as well as emphasis on hands-on activities, will be considered in the selection process.

- *Diversity of topics*—We aim to offer workshops focused on topics that are relevant to participants from a wide range of backgrounds. For this reason, it is possible that a high quality proposal will not be chosen if the topic is too similar to one already in the lineup.
- *Experience*—Because the workshops are meant to give participants who are newer to graduate communication support the opportunity to learn from those with more experience, professional experience will be considered. We are not looking for "stars" in the field so much as perspectives on the topic gained through trial and error.

Workshop proposals should provide the following information:
- Workshop title
- Workshop topic
- Names and institutional affiliations for all workshop speakers/organizers
- A brief description of your qualifications for leading a workshop on this topic
- Intended audience
  - Is your workshop suitable for participants who work with students from a wide variety of backgrounds (L1, L2, international, domestic), or is it designed for participants who work with a specific student population?
- A brief description of the workshop that answers the following questions in no more than 300 words (plus a shorter version for the program):
  - What questions or issues will the workshop raise and address?
  - What (if anything) should participants bring to the workshop?
  - How will the workshop make effective use of the online environment?
  - What is the goal, outcome, or deliverable of the workshop?

Special Interest Networking Groups
Submit here: https://forms.gle/S4bxkNaMLWamGBAU7

Many people attend the Summer Institute in order to interact with and learn from other practitioners who are engaged in similar projects. While the workshops, research presentations, and works-in-progress offer the opportunity for interactions focused on specific topics, there is also a need for less structured conversations. The purpose of these sessions is to fill this gap and allow for explicit time to network around issues and topics.

Participants who are interested in exploring a relevant topic in an informal setting are invited to propose a session of 60 minutes and to serve as the facilitator(s) of the discussion.

Please note that these forums **should not include formal presentations**. Instead, they should provide a semi-structured opportunity for open discussion.

Special Interest Networking proposals should provide the following information:

- Names of facilitators (limited to four)
- Session title
- A brief description of the session that answers the following questions in no more than 250 words (plus a shorter version for the program):
  - What topic do you hope to discuss?
  - What is the exigency for this discussion, and what do you hope to accomplish?
  - Which other participants do you encourage to participate? (Information you might discuss here includes but is not limited to job descriptions, goals, and research, teaching, and or administrative interests.) In what ways might these participants benefit from the discussion?
- A brief list of questions that you'll invite participants to explore

Works-in-Progress Presentations
Submit here: https://forms.gle/4gf7iLuMkpKLH3Hn8

Present a 10-minute synopsis of your work in graduate communication on program administration, course design, pedagogy, tutoring, workshops, group support, materials development, research, or another topic. Following the 10-minute presentation, frame a problem or questions for discussion to engage the audience. Presenters will be grouped in strands according to areas of interest in order to listen to each other's presentations and engage in substantive discussion. Enter an abstract (limit: 250 words, plus a shorter version for the program) of your presentation on the proposal form. You will also be prompted to choose the strand that best fits your proposal:

1. Research-in-Progress—share work-in-progress reporting scholarly and/or institutional research (Please submit your project under the Research Presentation category - for completed work (see above) - if you've already collected data and have some results to share.)
2. Pedagogy—share course designs, writing assignment designs, and pedagogical approaches,
3. Theory—what does theory look like in our context?
4. Tutoring Approaches/One-on-one Support outside the classroom
5. Workshops/Group Support outside of the classroom
6. Program Administration—assessment, reporting, budgeting, and staffing
7. Negotiating Campus Politics—working conditions, finding campus allies, advocating for programs
8. Materials Development—textbooks, professional development materials, materials for courses and tutoring programs
9. Program Profile—innovative programs or pilots offered at your institution

10. Other—None of the above but important to the work of graduate communication support

Submitting Multiple Proposals
Participants may submit a maximum of two proposals (no more than one in any one category type) as a presenter or co-presenter in a research, workshop, or special interest networking session. Anyone submitting multiple proposals will be asked to prioritize their proposals.

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Listen and Learn (Registration Only)
As always, you are welcome to attend the institute, listen to the speakers, participate in workshops, attend works-in-progress strands, participate in the discussions, and take home ideas for your classes, programs, and research. All listen-and-learn participants will be listed in the program.

The Summer Institute registration fee will be $175 with CGC membership. For non-members, registration will be $230.

You can learn more about the CGC through our website: www.gradconsortium.org.

Registration will open on May 9.