

# Conclusion. The Future of Writing Expertise and Writing for Publication Studies for Researchers

This book has examined the interplay of writers, audiences, and the field and has explored nine threshold concepts tied to writing for publication. We have journeyed deep into the writing processes and revision experiences of both novice and expert writers, learning that academic expert writers need to leverage deep knowledge of their subject, the audience and field, to write about novel and innovative material to build the field. Through this, they need to leverage aspects of themselves and their identities to shape their ongoing motivations, which helps them carve out time, set goals, and make progress on their work. They also need to understand themselves as human beings and develop methods for developing emotional resiliency in a high-stakes and challenging writing situation where the work is under heavy scrutiny and the chance for rejection is high. They do this, in part, by building complex social networks of support, mentoring, and collaboration. That is, what makes an expert professional academic writer is a complex interaction of the writer, the writing, and the audience/field.

As with any study or sequence of studies, we are often left not only with what has been learned but also what new avenues are opened for future research. Thus, as a conclusion, I offer some possibilities to continue to explore writing expertise in writing for publication contexts:

- As the data in this book was collected just before the emergence of AI technologies like Chat-GPT, it is unclear how expert writers might leverage AI writing technologies to supplement, support, or replace parts of their writing processes. New research in this area is needed to understand how these emerging technologies impact writers—my data was collected prior to AI, and I suspect the next 10 years will see substantial shifts in writing for publication with AI support.
- While I endeavored to collect a range of data relating to those identifying as neurodiverse, I believe there is much room for future work in this area—studies that focus exclusively on emerging scholars or expert writers who are neurodiverse would greatly benefit the field. Additionally, areas of connection between neurodiversity, hyperfocus, and flow states would be worthy of pursuit.
- The same can be said of individuals who are writing for publication that have learning disabilities. The field does not have a rich understanding of the ways that even first-year students with disabilities and their writing processes (Doyle, 2022), much less how expert writers who have learning

disabilities function. As someone with dyslexia, I have felt this keenly in my own career—people can hardly believe I am a dyslexic writing professor, and I have had to overcome challenges that threatened this career path, and all too frequently, I have to advocate to ensure that I have the right kinds of writing conditions to be successful. It is not easy, and I believe, based on both the data collected in this study and in my own experience, much more work is needed in this area.

- Another area that can warrant more attention is examining the deep identity work and scholarly identity formation of emerging scholars. I was really struck by the power in the ways in which both expert and emerging scholars were able to talk about their agendas as tied to identities—Chapter 7 was not a chapter I had planned on writing, but the data was so compelling I felt the need to give it voice. There is a rich opportunity for future work in the area of identity, scholarly agenda, and motivation.
- Some of the other under-explored areas here are also ripe for future research, particularly on other populations: flow states, incubation strategies (particularly mind wandering, dreaming) and other invention strategies. As I was digging into this data, it struck me how little our field still knows about certain core aspects of writing, particularly for advanced and expert writers.

In conclusion, I hope that this book has helped you further your own expertise and find joy in your writing process. Writing for publication is one of the most challenging things but it is also one of the most rewarding. Happy writing and revising, and find your joy in the process!