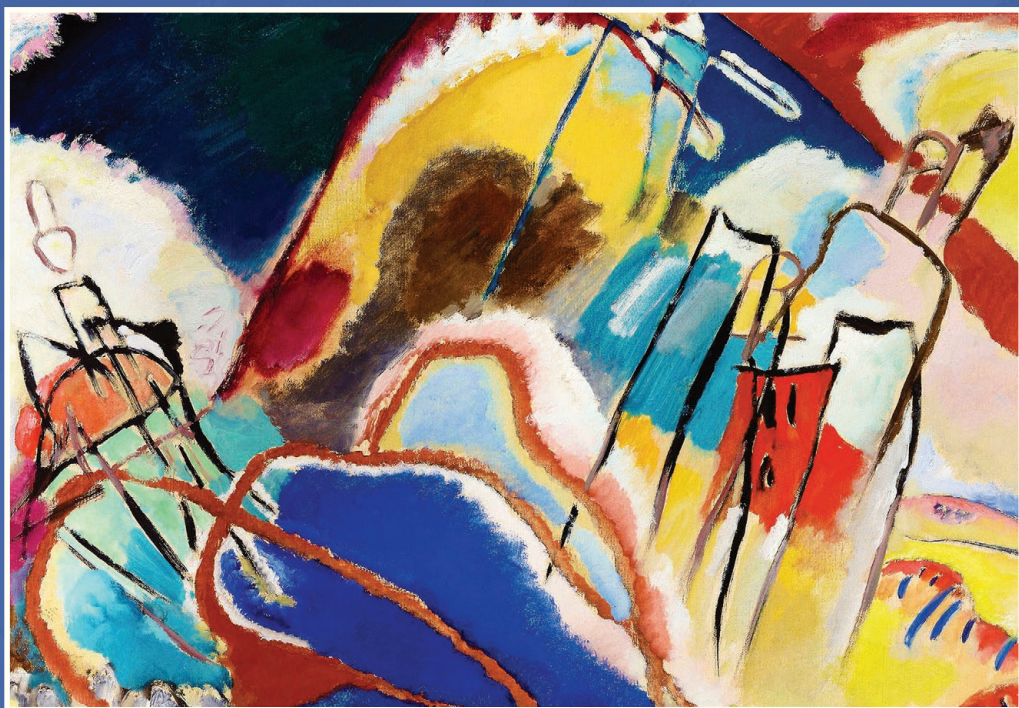


# IMPROVISATIONS

## METHODS AND METHODOLOGIES IN LIFESPAN WRITING RESEARCH



Perspectives  
on Writing

Edited by  
Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips



**IMPROVISATIONS: METHODS AND  
METHODOLOGIES IN LIFESPAN  
WRITING RESEARCH**

## PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING

Series Editors: Rich Rice and J. Michael Rifenburg

Consulting Editor: Susan H. McLeod

Associate Editors: Johanna Phelps, Jonathan M. Marine, and Qingyang Sun

The Perspectives on Writing series addresses writing studies in a broad sense. Consistent with the wide ranging approaches characteristic of teaching and scholarship in writing across the curriculum, the series presents works that take divergent perspectives on working as a writer, teaching writing, administering writing programs, and studying writing in its various forms.

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.

### Recent Books in the Series

Ashley J. Holmes and Elise Verzosa Hurley (Eds.), *Learning from the Mess: Methodological Praxis in Rhetoric and Writing Studies* (2024)

Diane Kelly-Riley, Ti Macklin, and Carl Whithaus (Eds.), *Considering Students, Teachers, and Writing Assessment: Volumes 1 and 2* (2024)

Amy Cicchino and Troy Hicks (Eds.), *Better Practices: Exploring the Teaching of Writing in Online and Hybrid Spaces* (2024)

Genesea M. Carter and Aurora Matzke (Eds.), *Systems Shift: Creating and Navigating Change in Rhetoric and Composition Administration* (2023)

Michael J. Michaud, *A Writer Reforms (the Teaching of) Writing: Donald Murray and the Writing Process Movement, 1963–1987* (2023)

Michelle LaFrance and Melissa Nicolas (Eds.), *Institutional Ethnography as Writing Studies Practice* (2023)

Phoebe Jackson and Christopher Weaver (Eds.), *Rethinking Peer Review: Critical Reflections on a Pedagogical Practice* (2023)

Megan J. Kelly, Heather M. Falconer, Caleb L. González, and Jill Dahlman (Eds.), *Adapting the Past to Reimagine Possible Futures: Celebrating and Critiquing WAC at 50* (2023)

William J. Macauley, Jr. et al. (Eds.), *Threshold Conscripts: Rhetoric and Composition Teaching Assistantships* (2023)

Jennifer Grouling, *Adapting VALUEs: Tracing the Life of a Rubric through Institutional Ethnography* (2022)

# IMPROVISATIONS: METHODS AND METHODOLOGIES IN LIFESPAN WRITING RESEARCH

Edited by Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips

The WAC Clearinghouse  
[wac.colostate.edu](http://wac.colostate.edu)  
Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado  
[upcolorado.com](http://upcolorado.com)  
Denver, Colorado

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80202

© 2024 by Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.

ISBN 978-1-64215-228-9 (PDF) 978-1-64215-231-9 (ePub) 978-1-64642-685-0 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PER-B.2024.2289

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Dippre, Ryan J., editor. | Phillips, Talinn, editor.

Title: Improvisations : methods and methodologies in lifespan writing research / edited by Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips.

Description: Fort Collins, Colorado : The WAC Clearinghouse ; Denver, Colorado : University Press of Colorado, 2024. | Series: Perspectives on writing | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024025396 (print) | LCCN 2024025397 (ebook) | ISBN 9781646426850 (paperback) | ISBN 9781642152289 (adobe pdf) | ISBN 9781642152319 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: English language--Rhetoric--Study and teaching--Research--Methodolgy.

Classification: LCC PE1404 .I38 2024 (print) | LCC PE1404 (ebook) | DDC 808.06/692--dc23/eng/20240731

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024025396>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024025397>

Copieditor: Caitlin Kahihikolo

Designer: Mike Palmquist

Cover Photo: Improvisation No. 30, by Kandinsky. RawPixel Image 3933132. Licensed.

Series Editors: Rich Rice and J. Michael Rifenburg

Consulting Editor: Susan H. McLeod

Associate Editors: Johanna Phelps, Jonathan M. Marine, and Qingyang Sun

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](http://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](http://upcolorado.com).

**Citation Information:** Dippre, Ryan J., & Talinn Phillips (Eds.). (2024). *Improvisations: Methods and Methodologies in Lifespan Writing Research*. The WAC Clearinghouse; University Press of Colorado. <https://doi.org/10.37514/PER-B.2024.2289>

**Land Acknowledgment.** The Colorado State University Land Acknowledgment can be found at [landacknowledgment.colostate.edu](http://landacknowledgment.colostate.edu).

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgments . . . . .	vii
Introduction. Conducting Lifespan Writing Research: Challenges, Opportunities, and the State of a Radical Research Agenda . . . . .	3
Talinn Phillips and Ryan J. Dippre	
PART 1. RIGOROUS CRAFTING + RADICAL IMPROVISATION: LWR IN ACTION . . . . .	11
Chapter 1. Temporal Discourse Analysis as an Analytic for Lifespan Writing Research . . . . .	15
Catherine Compton-Lilly	
Chapter 2. Writing Elementary School: The Cases of Gabby and Adam . . . . .	29
Catherine Compton-Lilly	
Chapter 3. Methodologies for Lifespan Writing Research: Using Composite Narratives in Narrative Inquiry. . . . .	51
Jennifer Sanders, Sarah Donovan, Joy Myers, and Danielle L. DeFauw	
Chapter 4. Using Composite Narratives to Explore Writing Teachers’ Development Across Their Careers. . . . .	67
Danielle L. DeFauw, Joy Myers, Sarah Donovan, and Jennifer Sanders	
Chapter 5. Interpreting Research with Participants: A Lifespan Writing Methodology . . . . .	87
Collie Fulford and Lauren Rosenberg	
Chapter 6. Co-interpretation in Action . . . . .	103
Lauren Rosenberg, Collie Fulford, Gwen Porter McGowan, and Adrienne Long	
Chapter 7. Studying Writing through the Lifespan with Grounded Theory . . . . .	121
Ryan J. Dippre	
Chapter 8. Deepening and Keeping the Present: Grounded Theory in Action . . . . .	137
Ryan J. Dippre	
Chapter 9. Improving Systematic Reviews of Longitudinal Writing Research: Definitions, Questions, and Procedures . . . . .	153
Teresa Jacques, Jonathan M. Marine, and Paul Rogers	

Chapter 10. Implications of Longitudinal Writing Research Methods for Lifespan Perspectives on Writing Development: A Systematic Review . . . .	167
Jonathan M. Marine, Paul Rogers, and Teresa Jacques	
PART 2. A SELECTION OF “ANDS”: IMAGINING METHODOLOGICAL FUTURES IN LIFESPAN WRITING RESEARCH . . . . .	191
Chapter 11. An Autoethnographic Springboard to More Extensive Lifespan Writing Research . . . . .	195
Kathleen Shine Cain, Pamela B. Childers, and Leigh Ryan	
Chapter 12. A Matter of Time and Memory: A Methodological Framework of Memory for Lifespan Writing Research . . . . .	213
Joe Cirio and Jeff Naftzinger	
Chapter 13. Writing in Transitions across the Lifespan . . . . .	231
Soledad Montes and Karin Tusting	
Chapter 14. Centering Positionality in Lifespan Writing Research through Institutional and Auto/Ethnographic Methodologies . . . . .	249
Erin Workman	
Chapter 15. Wayfinding: The Development of an Approach to Lifespan Writing. . . . .	271
Karen Lunsford, Jonathan Alexander, and Carl Whithaus	
Chapter 16. How Might We Measure That? Considerations from Quantitative Research Approaches for Lifespan Writing Research. . . . .	287
Matthew Carl Zajic and Apryl Lynn Poch	
Chapter 17. Becoming Researcher-Poets: Poetic Inquiry as Method/ology for Writing (through the Lifespan) Research. . . . .	305
Sandra L. Tarabochia	
Chapter 18. Approaching Lifespan Writing Research from Indigenous, Decolonial Perspectives . . . . .	325
Bhushan Aryal	
Chapter 19. Motivating Lifespan Writing Research Toward Education Policy . . . . .	339
Jeremy Levine	
Chapter 20. A Graduate School “Drop-Out”—After School . . . . .	355
Suellynn Duffey	
Chapter 21. Radicality in the Short Term: Generating Structural Change . .	373
Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips	
Contributors . . . . .	383