

Research is the Poetry

Poetic Inquiry for Writing Studies Researchers



Sandra L. Tarabochia

RESEARCH IS THE POETRY:
POETIC INQUIRY FOR WRITING
STUDIES RESEARCHERS

PRACTICES & POSSIBILITIES

Series Editors: Aimee McClure, Aleashia Walton, Jagadish Paudel, and Mike Palmquist

The Practices & Possibilities Series addresses the full range of practices within the field of Writing Studies, including teaching, learning, research, and theory. From Richard E. Young's taxonomy of "small genres" to Patricia Freitag Ericsson's edited collection on sexual harassment in the academy to Jessie Borgman and Casey McArdle's considerations of teaching online, the books in this series explore issues and ideas of interest to writers, teachers, researchers, and theorists who share an interest in improving existing practices and exploring new possibilities. The series includes both original and republished books. Works in the series are organized topically.

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.

OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES

Kristine Acosta, Michelle Cowan, Rebecca Rickly, Nancy Small, and Erica M. Stone (Eds.), *Storied Practices: Positionality in Writing Studies* (2026)

Dana Lynn Driscoll, *Becoming an Expert Writer: A Holistic Guide to Writing for Publication* (2026)

Jennifer M. Cunningham, Mary K. Stewart, Natalie Stillman-Webb, and Lyra Hilliard, *The Community of Inquiry Framework in Writing Studies: Designing for Learning with Peer Review* (2025)

Harvey J. Graff, *Changing Paths of Academic Lives* (2025)

Michael J. Salvo and John T. Sherrill, *Artificial Infrastructure* (2025)

Stephen J. Parks, "The Wrong Side of Privilege." *Advocacy, Community, and Politics: The Collected Essays of Stephen J. Parks, 2000-2020* (2024)

Linda Flower, *Outcomes of Engaged Education: From Transfer to Transformation* (2024)

Charles Bazerman, *Unfinished Business: Thoughts on the Past, Present, Future, and Nurturing of Homo Scribens* (2024)

E. Shelley Reid, *Rethinking Your Writing: Rhetoric for Reflective Writers* (2024)

Asao B. Inoue and Kristin DeMint Bailey (Eds.), *Narratives of Joy and Failure in Antiracist Assessment: Exploring Collaborative Writing Assessments* (2024)

Asao B. Inoue, *Crippling Labor-Based Grading for More Equity in Literacy Courses* (2023)

RESEARCH IS THE POETRY: POETIC INQUIRY FOR WRITING STUDIES RESEARCHERS

By Sandra L. Tarabochia

The WAC Clearinghouse
wacclearinghouse.org
Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado
upcolorado.com
Denver, Colorado

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80203

© 2026 by Sandra L. Tarabochia. This work is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.

ISBN 978-1-64215-296-8 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-297-5 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-954-7 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PRA-B.2026.2968

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pending

Copyeditor: Karen Peirce

Designer: Mike Palmquist

Cover Image: Detail of “Apple Blossoms 02, 2018,” by Isa Rodriguez. Used with permission

Series Editors: Aimee McClure, Aleashia Walton, Jagadish Paudel, and Mike Palmquist

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, it is supported by Colorado State University and provides open access to 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 wacclearinghouse.org.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado School of Mines, 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.

Citation Information: Tarabochia, Sandra L. (2026). *Research is the Poetry: Poetic Inquiry for Writing Studies Researchers*. The WAC Clearinghouse; University Press of Colorado.

<https://doi.org/10.37514/INT-B.2026.2968>

Land Acknowledgment. The WAC Clearinghouse Land Acknowledgment can be found at <https://wacclearinghouse.org/about/land-acknowledgment/>.

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction. Poetic Inquiry and Writing Studies Research	3
Chapter 1. Composite Poetry: Relationship Between the One and the Many . .	47
Chapter 2. Poetry Clusters: Constellating Meaning in Writers' Lives.	67
Chapter 3. Juxtaposing Poetic Inquiry Practices for Deep Listening	99
Chapter 4. Collaborative Poetry: Rewriting Research Relationships	123
Conclusion. Poetic Inquiry as an Ethic of Attunement.	153
References	167
About the Author	185

Dedication

For Craig, Gabe, and Shamus