

Introduction (or Speaking of Generative AI...)

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This edited collection includes selected proceedings from the 2025 Computers and Writing Conference. Contributions engage with the 2025 conference theme, *Agency and Authorship*, using a variety of theoretical, pedagogical, and research-based approaches familiar to scholars of digital rhetorics, multimodal composition, and closely related fields. In their CFP, conference organizers invited attendees to propose work looking beyond and around artificial intelligence and large language models; however, as with much of the “big tent” of writing studies and its subfields over the last few years, AI was a significant concern for C&W attendees and contributors and has become a growing concern from an editorial perspective as well. While this volume is only a partial, selected representation of C&W attendees’ work, the overwhelming number of submissions we received for the *Proceedings* were themed around AI, a trend we expect to continue. That being said, we are pleased to also include multiple chapters that have little to nothing to do with large language models in these *Proceedings*.

Contributors to this year’s collection (including Jennifer Sano-Franchini, whose keynote begins the *Proceedings*; chapters are otherwise published in alphabetical order by first author) grapple with the role of generative AI in writing classrooms and pedagogies, in professional and lived communities, in crisis response, and in activist spaces—some chapter authors will sound heartily AI-forward and integrative while other chapters offer visions and versions of critical AI literacy, AI pedagogy, and AI inquiry that span resistance, refusal, and other positions at varying levels of intensity. It is, we admit, hard to keep up! For this year at least, AI was not a significant factor in our production and review process, and as far as we are aware was used neither by authors nor reviewers beyond what is generally accepted under the WAC Clearinghouse [Commitment to Publication Ethics](#). Given the rapidly expanding larger

discussions around generative AI in publication and review (Singh, 2025; Sun et al., 2024; Zou, 2024), the editorial team expects to work on an AI policy for the series before the next *Proceedings* commences, engaging fully in “productive action from an unsettled middle” (Basgier & Wilkes, 2025, p. 66).

References

- Basgier, Christopher, & Wilkes, Lydia. (2025). From an unsettled middle: A critical-ethical stance for GenAI-engaged writing assignments. *College Composition and Communication*, 77(1), 62-88.
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- Sun, Lun, Tao, Stone, Hu, Junjie, & Dow, Steven P. (2024). Metawriter: Exploring the potential and perils of ai writing support in scientific peer review. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 8(CSCW1), 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3637371>
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