

4C Diversifying approaches to writing: responding to the changing needs of postgraduate researchers

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Postgraduate researchers are under increasing pressure to disseminate their findings to diverse groups. However, they are often likely to experience anxiety in the writing process, as well as a diminished sense of authorship over their dissertation.

In response to this, a series of stand-alone creative writing workshops were developed for PGRs from the sciences and the humanities. These 3.5 hour workshops encouraged reflection on affective, impactful writing, and offered strategies on how researchers could work towards this in their own writing.

There was a highly positive response to these workshops, suggesting a desire amongst PGRs to diversify their writing skills and develop novel ways to engage with the academic community and beyond.

This hour-long session will examine the motivation behind the development of these workshops, discussing common writing issues for postgraduate researchers. It will also allow participants to take part in one of the writing workshop activities in order to encourage a consideration of narrative structures and how they might be employed in a piece of academic writing.

Finally, the workshop will consider the feedback we received, assessing the success of the workshops, scope for development, and how the techniques used could be employed in the enhancement of writing skills at all levels of university study.

References

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