



MENA WCA



A Regional Affiliate of the
International Writing Centers Association

Middle East – North Africa Writing Centers Alliance

2016 Biennial Conference

April 21-22 – Muscat, Oman

Sultan Qaboos University

In Cooperation with Oman 16th International ELT Conference

Keynote: Dana Driscoll, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Call for Program Proposals

MENA Writing Centers: Ideal versus Reality

While every writing center and program is unique, we follow common theoretical threads that are the core of our service. This year's conference theme asks us to explore and evaluate the theoretical ideal against our writing center and classroom realities in the MENA region. In our work as writing center administrators, tutors, users, and writing teachers, we will reflect on our beliefs and practices as they are situated between our realities and our ideals.

We invite proposals that reflect the general theme of the conference, responding to the following questions:

1. What are we preparing writers for?
2. What do students and writing instructors want from their writing centers?
3. How can we maximize benefits from visits to the writing center?
4. Does theory support practice in MENA writing center interaction?
5. What are the realities of conducting writing program and writing center research in the MENA region?
6. Within our reality, how can we best direct and manage writing center services on our campuses? What lessons have we learned?
7. What is the ideal for tutor training?
8. What professional development opportunities could benefit MENA writing center and writing program staff?
9. What are the solutions to meeting resource and operational challenges in writing centers?
10. How can MENA writing centers ideally situate themselves within their institutions?

This conference aims to support and promote current writing center practice in the region, explore or identify areas of research in our MENA writing centers and writing programs, and facilitate dialogue among writing center professionals and writing program instructors.

Conference updates are available on the MENAWCA Facebook page and Twitter account.

Session Formats

- **Individual presentation:** 1-2 presenters, 45 minutes including Q & A. Presentations can take a lecture format, although presenters are encouraged to be interactive.
- **5 x 10:** Five slides, ten minutes. This innovative alternative to poster sessions provides a venue suited for brief, general-audience talks accompanied by visual props. 5 x 10 is particularly well-suited for profiling writing centers or drawing attention to a single issue or innovation.
- **Multi-presenter panel or discussion*:** 3 or more presenters, 45 minutes including Q & A. This format features structured discussion in the form of point-counterpoint conversations, choreographed roundtables, fishbowl discussions, or intentionally sequenced panels.
- **Workshop*:** 1 or more facilitators, 90 minutes. A workshop is a teaching/learning **session dedicated to the attainment of specific practical knowledge or skills.**
- **Poster:** 1 or more presenters, 20 minutes. Posters provide short, visual representations of the major focus, issues of concern, methods, findings, and conclusions of a research topic.

* SQU presenter discount applies to a maximum of two presenters.

Proposal Guidelines

1. Be specific and clear about the focus and purpose of your proposal. No supplemental material will be accepted.
2. Session proposals should contribute to the conference theme, foster constructive interaction, and potentially interest a diverse cross-section of conference attendees.
3. Session proposals should be no more than 75 words.
4. Presenter Bio descriptions should be no more than 30 words.
5. **Submit proposals via the link by the deadline: ~~January 20, 2016~~. FEBRUARY 3, 2016.**
6. **Program invitations will be sent to presenters by March 1, 2016.**
7. **All presenters must accept invitations and register for the conference by March 21, 2016.**
8. All presenter and contact information must be accurate and up to date.

Please submit proposals to www.menawca.org.

For more information, you can contact conference co-chairs Ryan McDonald (rmcdonald@squ.edu.om) and Susan Finlay (susanf@squ.edu.om).

Special Note

All presenters and participants are responsible for obtaining their own visas. This responsibility does not lie with either MENAWCA or Sultan Qaboos University.