

Call for Proposals for *Pathways and Possibilities: Critical Ways Forward for TYC Writing Studies*

Hello everyone,

We are inviting proposals for *Pathways and Possibilities: Critical Ways Forward for TYC Writing Studies* -- an edited collection about work related to what's commonly known as Guided Pathways. Details below.

Sincerely,

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Exigence

The 2015 book *Redesigning America's Community Colleges*, which bundled a comprehensive set of educational reforms and branded it Guided Pathways, quickly became essential reading among two-year college administrators and policymakers nationwide. Over the last seven years, many two-year colleges across the United States have taken up Guided Pathways, though the shape of those reforms remains diverse and at times contradictory. In some instances, state legislatures have required colleges to implement pathways initiatives. Mega-philanthropies, underwritten by corporate profit, have also provided startup funding for pathways while retaining considerable power to set the terms of those efforts. In some contexts, pathways initiatives have been framed as equity-centered work in individual two-year colleges and/or systems.

Guided Pathways in 2022 now encompasses a dizzying array of practices and initiatives that colleges have adapted according to the needs and pressures of their local contexts. For example, two-year college faculty and staff have been asked to engage in placement and developmental education reforms, program mapping, and advising remodels as part of Guided Pathways. The multiple and varying dimensions of pathways initiatives in local contexts make their impact difficult to assess.

At this juncture, it is important to take stock of the problems and possibilities associated with pathways reforms. What have been the roles of faculty—in and beyond writing/English—in pathways initiatives? As part of pathways reform processes, what possibilities are faculty at two-year colleges leveraging to improve literacy instruction and increase student engagement? In what ways can faculty who engage in the reform process incorporate some of the best practices and (trans)disciplinary research on literacy, assessment, curricular, and institutional reform while engaging efforts to transform education policy at state and federal levels?

Proposed Collection

Pathways and Possibilities: Critical Ways Forward for Two-Year College Writing Studies seeks to critically examine pathways reforms. We invite interdisciplinary approaches that draw on framing, methods, and theories from writing studies as well as other humanities, social science, ethnic studies, and other critical disciplines. Genres and methods might include narratives of instructors' experiences, oral histories, ethnography, autoethnography, program histories, and discourse analysis, among many others. The collection seeks chapters written from diverse institutional contexts and perspectives to provide a multidimensional representation of how pathways initiatives are playing out on the ground.

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A successful chapter proposal will promise new knowledge about and critical insight into pathways-related work. It will also clearly articulate the genre and methods that the chapter will undertake. We invite proposals that interpret this CFP as it speaks to the on-the-ground experience of two-year college faculty and staff. The following areas of inquiry are not exhaustive, mutually exclusive, or mandatory. They aim to spark ideas and articulate diverse possibilities for potential chapters.

Possible Areas of Inquiry

- What are some of the positive possibilities of pathways?
- How have faculty navigated legislative mandates to implement pathways?
- What has current pathways research (or related initiatives) failed to investigate and/or assess? What's neglected in mainstream research?
- In what ways have pathways reforms been framed as diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and to what extent have measurable improvements in equity, such as in closing equity gaps, been achieved?
- In what ways has pathways reform work revealed/complicated two-year college entanglements with neoliberalism, austerity, and democracy?

Approximate Publication Timeline

- April 22, 2022: Proposals due (approximately 500 words)
- June 3, 2022: Invitations to submit chapters sent to contributors
- August 15, 2022: Chapters due, including IRB confirmation, if needed (5,000 words)
- September 23, 2022: Editors send feedback to contributors
- December 2, 2022: Review chapters due
- January 6, 2023: Book manuscript submitted

This collection has garnered preliminary interest from a well-respected academic publisher specializing in writing studies scholarship. We will submit a full proposal based on the submissions received and aim to have the collection under contract for publication by Summer 2022.

We are happy to correspond with potential contributors about whether and how your local work might fit into the collection.

Please send questions and proposals to: PathwaysCollection@gmail.com