Writing Up In Collaboration...

QUT Creative Lab ‘The Artist Researcher At Work’
Professional Development and Publication Series June-July 2018
## Writing Up In Collaboration …

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| Friday 13th July, 11am-12.30pm KG-Z2-306 | Writing-Up In Collaboration With Artists, Students, Participants, and Communities  
Participants include A/Prof Bree Hadley (Socially & Ecologically Engaged Practice) speaking about collaborative authorship with disability arts industry and community members, along with members of the QUT Creative Lab team. | This seminar will look at a challenge for many artist-researchers – writing up the results of research in which one has worked collaboratively with other artists, students, participants, and communities to produce results and learnings that could be of interest to a broader field, industry, or community. It will look at models that enable co-authoring, and models that enable contribution from multiple voices and perspectives, to share learnings with multiple stakeholders. It will consider challenging questions, such as making research outputs available, accessible and meaningful to both a scholarly audience and an industry or community audience at once, and strategies for managing these challenges. |
| Friday 13th July, 1.30pm-4.30pm KG-Z2-306+307 | ‘Shut Up & Write’ Session 5  
These ‘Shut Up & Write’ Sessions are for those who wish to -  
- Share innovations in teaching in articles, chapters, books  
- Share insight into arts practice in articles, chapters, books  
- Share results of Hons, Masters, or PhD project in books, chapters, or articles  
- Construct a grant application to pursue on a larger scale  
- Struggle to do this in the time available  
- Want coaching from arts researchers who have strategies for writing in the context of their overall academic job  
The six sessions will provide about 18-24 hours to construct a draft of an article length piece of writing, within a community of practice, with a range of researchers at a range of career stages. Participants will be able to simply sit and write, and/or to seek advice, support, and coaching on structuring an argument for an article, converting thesis content into an article, writing sections in a quick, easy, and efficient way, choosing a publisher, and so forth. At the close of the six weeks, participants should have a solid draft of an article length piece of writing, and be ready to look at possible outlets for this piece of writing. As always, QUT Creative Lab will be happy to assist members in identifying suitable publication outlets. |
Writing Up In Collaboration … the pros

• Deadline to do work
• Disciplinary expertise
• Methodological expertise
• Writing and publishing expertise
• Range of journals and outlets available
• Readers built into the writing process
• Diversity = innovation built into writing process
Writing Up In Collaboration … the less obvious pros

• Track record of collaboration shows likely success of grant project team (specifically)
• Track record of collaboration shows status as scholar in field (generally)
• The sharing of resources and infrastructure that cost money (institutionally)
• The sharing of capacity building knowledge
Writing Up In Collaboration … the politics in some topics

• Writing as, writing with, writing about…
Writing Up In Collaboration … the context

• Writing a short piece like an article
• Writing a long piece like a book
• Editing a book or a journal
• Disseminating results of projects
• (each require different skills within collaboration)
Writing Up In Collaboration … the how

• Tips, advice, and anecdotes about experiences
Emerald Publishing…
www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/authors/guides/write/collaborate.htm

Agreement on schedules, contributions, and credits
Respect and respect for/respectful critique
Talking versus doing
American Association of University Professors…
https://www.aaup.org/article/collaborating-writing#.W0budRyONSU

Collabo-writing Guidelines
1. Find collaborators you respect… what about the expert who liked your paper at that national convention in your field, or that editor you ran into at a special session?...
2. Establish your roles early. The best collaborator is not your mirror image but a person who complements you cognitively and affectively…
3. Establish a goal and a time frame for achieving it…
4. Do some market research. Most novice writers finish the article and then decide where to send it, instead of vice versa... the marketable mold into which your ideas will be poured…
5. Develop a “work alone–write together” rhythm. Brainstorming studies have shown that the most creative ideas come not from working by yourself or working together but from a combination …
6. Deliberate practice will lead you into the flow…. Collaborative writing is deliberate practice with feedback from team members and editors…
7. Listen carefully to your collaborators and take notes when they speak…Listen with real intent to understand and make connections…
8. Seek to piggyback. Collaborating is more cooperation than contest…
9. Subjugate your ego (and desire to speak) to the common good… the source doesn’t matter—only the finished product does…
10. Finish the play…Someone should be responsible for submitting the article, tracking its progress, and keeping a file with all the material…
11. Beware of the pitfalls…. 
Writing Up In Collaboration … the cons

- The ‘third named author’ syndrome (casting a scholar as a perpetual student or research assistant)
- The realities of the labour
- The revelation of skills and deficits
- The potential for conflict over content
- The potential for conflict over credit
American Association of University Professors…
https://www.aaup.org/article/collaborating-writing#.W0budRyONSU

- **Potential Pitfalls in Collabo-writing**
- Collabo-writers take time to gel as a group.
- Promotion and tenure committees may have trouble crediting collaboration.
- Few conventions exist for showing the equality or inequality of collabo-writers.
- “Free riders” may need to be dumped.
- Junior colleagues often feel overpowered by senior colleagues.
- Collabo-writing conflicts with individualism, low self-esteem, and competitiveness.
- New collabo-writers tend to choose “mirrors”—colleagues who share their interests and strengths—over complementers.
- Conflict is inevitable, and some handle it better than others.
- Partnerships fail unless each person does more than his or her share.
- Don’t be afraid to revise. An old Hollywood axiom states, “Nothing is written—everything is rewritten.”
What if …

• The person oversold their commitment to the work?
• The person oversold their skill to do the work?
• The person got difficult about content or credit?
• The attempt to sort out who does what beforehand did not reveal things like skills deficits the person didn’t think they had?
Artists, Students, Participants, Communities …

• The relationship, roles, responsibilities will be different
Examples…


Exercises…

• The perfect collaborative partnership…
• The conversation – and potential challenge, contestation, or conflict – about why…
Collaborative writing with…

• Tips to take home…?
• Things to arrange additional advice, professional development, or support on via the Lab…?
**Shut Up & Write**

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<td>‘Shut Up &amp; Write’ Session 5</td>
<td>If there is interest, participants can attend a rerun of the popular Nuts and Bolts of Publication Writing workshop, with one of the Creative Lab’s most successful publishing academics Dr Mark Ryan (Digital, Screen, Narrative), covering issues such as framing topics for articles, selecting journals, and establishing a pipeline to produce new articles each year, etc.</td>
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