

The Next Generation of Ecocritical Peer Review: Graduate Student Writing Groups

ASLE 2017 Mid-Conference Workshop

Friday, June 23, 1-5pm

Description:

- In this workshop, journal and book editors will guide graduate students in discussing and practicing peer review of critical and creative pieces. In the context of the field of ecocriticism and the environmental humanities, participants will learn about different approaches to peer review and explore relevant questions of values and ethics. The workshop is also designed to help graduate students prepare an ecocritical/environmental article, book chapter, or creative piece for publication through a peer review experience. Participants will join their peers and faculty leaders in small groups to discuss their pieces and to practice their skills in writing reviews and receiving feedback.

Structure:

- One month before the conference, participants will circulate their papers with the members of their groups. Group members, including the faculty leader of each group, will prepare written feedback to be shared during the workshop session. Leaders will guide the groups in conversation about each participant's work individually and about the research, writing, review, and publication process more generally.
- The first hour of the workshop will include introductions, brief statements or presentations from leaders, and full group discussion of peer review approaches and processes. The remaining three hours will be spent in small group workshop sessions, with three graduate student writers per leader.

Requirements:

- This workshop is open to current graduate students as well as recent graduates.
- Drafts should be up to 25 pages double-spaced (no minimum length, and no more than 25 pages), and may be the same or different work than participants are planning to present at the conference.
- Participants must be prepared to provide generous, constructive written and verbal feedback on others' work.

Readings:

- Participants should be prepared to read, comment on, and draft peer reviews of the papers of two other graduate students in advance of the conference.

Workshop leaders:

1. Greg Garrard, former co-editor of *Green Letters* and series co-editor of *Environmental Cultures*
2. Tom Lynch, editor of *Western American Literature*
3. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, co-editor of *Elemental Ecocriticism* and *Veer Ecology*, editor of *Prismatic Ecology*

4. Sheila Squillante, editor-in-chief of *The Fourth River*
5. Debra Marquart, senior editor of *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*

Organized by ASLE Graduate Student Liaisons Aubrey Streit Krug and Stephen Siperstein, and co-directors of the ASLE Mentoring Program, Elizabeth Dodd and Erin James