



“Accentuate the Positive”

Examining the Successes and Failures
Navigated during COVID-19

TYCA-SW
Virtual Conference
15 & 22 October 2021

Welcome from the Co-Chairs!

What a whirlwind this last year and a half has been! When we signed on as co-chairs for the annual conference, we had dreams for some exciting new elements for a 2020 in-person conference, and then the realities of teaching and working in COVID-19 situations hit. We shifted focus to a free professional development webinar that year because we couldn't imagine running a conference with our new (frantic) schedules and the uncertainties of professional development funding, but we didn't want to be silent.

And then in early spring 2021, we had to make the call for what to do this year: We'd have a 2021 conference, but we would go virtual and do the best we could to bring a first ever online conference to TYCA-SW. We're so thankful for all the Zoom experience (something we never thought we'd say), and we're glad for our institution's support as we navigated conference logistics alongside our teaching and service duties.

There's no denying it: The struggle is real, y'all. The stress, the burnout, the colleagues who lost jobs or decided they couldn't work in academia anymore, the friends and family we've lost--what boundaries we may have had between the classroom and our lives have blurred, and it's easy to get overwhelmed and drown in the emotional upheavals.

As co-chairs, we thought 2021's conference would be a good moment to remember the 2019 TYCA-SW keynote from Dr. Cristina Cedillo who asked us to think about how our students' embodied experiences were and could be part of the classroom. There's no better time to have been doing that work than the last year and a half when students often virtually invited us into their lives.

We wanted this year's conference to celebrate our successes and failures we've learned from. We wanted to share the ways we innovated in our classrooms and tried new approaches because we had to for learning to happen. We wanted to "accentuate the positive," something David Lydic, our current Executive Committee Treasurer and long-time TYCA-SW supporter, has said in many a meeting. Please join us as we celebrate what we've accomplished.

Toni McMillen and Sarah R. Fish
2021 Conference Co-Chairs

Congratulations!

The TYCA-SW Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the inaugural travel award recipients for the 2021 Virtual Conference. They have received this honor based on the merits of their proped presentations:

Linda Kaposci, Collin College
Rodalinda Valenzuela, Collin College
Jessica Goodman, Oklahoma City Community College

TYCA-SW's Awards Committee offers two major recognitions for active members: 1) Susan Faulkner Excellence in Teaching Award and 2) Robert W. Wylie Service Award. To nominate a colleague who is an active TYCA-SW member, please email tyca.southwest@gmail.com.

Special Thanks:

The 2021 Conference Co-Chairs would like to thank the following people for their support with creating the virtual conference:

Institutional Support: The Collin College Executive Leadership Team, Dr. Michelle Buggs, Dr. Gary Evans, Dr. Amy Gainer, Dr. Bill King, Dr. Mark Smith, the Collin College Help Desk, and Collin College English and Integrated Reading and Writing Faculty

Proposal Review Committee: Lubna Javeed and Tawnya Hillin-Smith

Conference Moderators and General Emotional Support: Dr. Allison Laubach Wright and Dr. Bruce J. Martin

Conference Keynote Underwriter: W.W. Norton & Company

Friday, 15 October

Conference Sessions

Moderators will open Zoom rooms at least five minutes before start time, and attendees will be placed in a waiting room, which may cause minor delays for start times.

Time	McKinney Room	Allen Room
10:00-10:50 AM	<p><i>Expertise of Ignorance: Exploring Heritage Language Loss in the Composition Classroom</i></p> <p>Jorge Garza, Bruce J. Martin, and David Puller; Lone Star College--North Harris</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	<p><i>Lessons from First-Time Online Composition Teaching</i></p> <p>Jessica Goodman, Oklahoma City Community College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>
11:00-11:50 AM	<p><i>Writing for Mental Health Awareness</i></p> <p>Brian Seemann and Kathryn Bowker, Aims Community College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	<p><i>Social Media and Big News: Fact or Opinion? Low Stakes Assignments for Understanding Credible Sources</i></p> <p>Brianne Sardoni, Dallas College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>
12:00-1:00 PM	<p><i>Keynote Address: Dr. Michal Brody</i></p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	
1:10-2:00 PM	<p><i>Equity in Online Composition and Rhetoric I</i></p> <p>Heather Davis, Brandi Ford, Kristina Gutierrez, and Valerie Jones; Lone Star College—Houston North</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	<p><i>When Everything Looks Like a Nail: Re-Examining the Syllabus for First-Year Writing</i></p> <p>Bruce J. Martin, Lone Star College--North Harris</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michal Brody



Chicago native Michal Brody earned her B.A. in General Studies at age 42. She completed a Ph.D. in Linguistics from UT Austin in 2004; her dissertation focused on the language politics of contemporary written Yucatec Maya. She is co-author of three college composition textbooks (*The Little Seagull Handbook*, *Everyone's an Author*, and *What's Language Got to Do With It?*, all published by W.W. Norton). She was a founding faculty member of the Maya Linguistics and Culture program at Universidad de Oriente in Yucatan,

Mexico. Her ideas about language pedagogy and writing instruction have been formed from extensive experience teaching non-academic ESL as well as a variety of rhetoric/composition, linguistics, and other language-related courses at universities in Texas, California, and Yucatan.

Brody's talk focuses on students struggle between "Standard Edited English" and all other Englishes they bring and use in their daily lives. How do we negotiate ideas about monolithic language and the flexible, adaptable languages we use every day?

Dr. Michal Brody appears thanks to the generosity of



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Friday, 22 October

Conference Sessions

Moderators will open Zoom rooms at least five minutes before start time, and attendees will be placed in a waiting room, which may cause minor delays for start times.

Time	McKinney Room	Allen Room
10:00-10:50 AM	<p><i>Moving toward Ungrading in First-Year Writing</i></p> <p>Allison Laubach Wright, Lone Star College--North Harris</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	<p><i>The Very Model of Modern Media: Experimenting with Models of Media During COVID-19 to Maximize Student Engagement Online</i></p> <p>Christopher Krejci, Heather Chandler, Kim George, and Bev Van Note; Temple College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>
11:00-11:50 AM	<p><i>Wrongful Conviction, Exonerations, and the Innocence Project: A Co-Requisite Approach to Demystifying American Government for Integrated Reading and Writing Students Based on a Criminal Justice Reform Theme</i></p> <p>Linda Kaposci and Rosalinda Valenzuela, Collin College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	<p><i>Shifting Online with a Pedagogy of Kindness</i></p> <p>Lane Ferrero Fletcher, Houston Community College</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>
12:00-1:00 PM	<p>Keynote Address: Tex Thompson</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	
1:10-2:00 PM	<p>Executive Committee Meeting (All are welcome to attend)</p> <p>Click here to enter to session.</p>	

Keynote Speaker: Tex Thompson



Arianne "Tex" Thompson is a licensed locksmith, egregiously enthusiastic editor, and professional ruckus-raiser. She is the author of *Children of the Drought*, an internationally-published epic fantasy Western series from Solaris, as well as an instructor for Writing Workshops Dallas and 'chief instigator' of WORD – Writers Organizations 'Round Dallas. Now she's blazing a trail through conferences, workshops, and conventions around the country – as an endlessly energetic, catastrophically cheerful one-woman

stampede. Find her online at thetexfiles.com and wordwriters.org!

Thompson's talk focuses on place, play, and an overall sense of fun that can be found writing in the wilds based on her writing and teaching experiences.

The New Assignment Innovation Track

The TYCA-SW 2021 Virtual Conference co-chairs decided to offer an assignment innovation track for members to present unique assignment creations used in the classroom. Check out the following work from our peers at [the TYCA-SW website](#):

Brianne Sardoni, Dallas College: Social Media and Big News: Fact or Opinion? Low Stakes Assignments for Understanding Credible Sources

Kimberly George, Temple College: Creating Change Portfolio End-of-Semester Project

The conference recognizes these contributions the same as a presentation.