

Queerly Centered: LGBTQA Writing Center Directors Navigate the Workplace

Queerly Centered examines intersections among writing center administration and LGBTQA identity. In it, Travis Webster analyzes 20 interviews with LGBTQA writing center directors to understand how their queer identities impact their writing center leadership. Webster, a g administrator himself, argues that participant perspectives complicate and extend current definitions and issues of labor in Writing Center Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, and Higher Education Studies. These directors disrupt and propel forward defunct terms, such as emotional, invisible, and visible labor, which do not adequately encompass their queer writing center work embodied and performed. Directors recall queer, liberatory orientations that inform their present day writing center leadership (what Webster calls capital a la Bourdieu). Such capital informs participant orientations to writing center activities from supporting tutor, student, and institutional conversations around mental and sexual health to hosting writing center events that promote intersectional activist awareness. While these practitioners work queerly in support of social justice and LGBTQA issues on their campuses, they also experience job tensions, such as bullying, that run counter to supposed grand narratives of safe spaces in writing centers and of LGBTQA acceptance in academia. Queerly Centered concludes with calls action about the state of work, administration, research, and activism in writing centers. Though grounded in LGBTQA issues, Queerly Centered is for researchers, administrators, educators, and practitioners of all orientations and backgrounds in Writing Center and Writing Program Administration, Rhetoric and Composition, and Higher Education Administration