

COLLOQUIUM BY CHIDELIA EDOCHIE

TEACHING CREATIVE WRITING IN THE MIXED L1/L2 CLASSROOM: A CHINA CASE STUDY

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2018

Venue: academic building 1079

Teaching Creative Writing in the Mixed L1/L2 Classroom: A China Case Study

Speaker: Chidelia Edochie, New York University-Shanghai

* The event is also a faculty recruitment seminar for Language and Culture Center.

ABSTRACT:

As more American universities establish themselves outside of the US, the American tradition of Creative Writing is permeating new cultures that previously did not consider the subject to be an academic discipline. This talk will present my own experience teaching Creative Writing at an American university in China, addressing the specific challenges of teaching a craft-driven discipline to a multicultural, multilingual classroom of L1 and L2 students with varying degrees of English skill. We'll also discuss the pedagogical and practical connections between creative writing and academic writing courses, and ways in which all of the below can be applied to academic writing. Questions that will be addressed include: How can instructors select fiction and poetry readers that appeal to varying cultural literary tastes, and should texts be chosen on the basis of readability for L2 students at the expense of alienating L1 students? In what way does the actual craft of creative writing differ across international contexts, and how should that affect one's pedagogy in the classroom? In a workshop setting, how do L1 and L2 students differ in their perceptions of the usefulness of peer-led feedback? How can a just system of grading be developed that acknowledges L1/L2 differences without making one group feel unfairly penalized? What skills are transferable between academic writing and creative writing

courses, and how can instructors teaching across both disciplines encourage students to identify and utilize those transferable skills?

BIO:

Chidelia Edochie holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Purdue University, and has lived in China for 6 years. She currently teaches courses at New York University-Shanghai on academic writing, creative writing, and migrant experiences depicted in film & literature. Her creative work has been published in *Gulf Coast Magazine*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Passages North*, *The Journal*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Camera Obscura*, and the New Rivers Press Anthology *American Fiction: The Best Unpublished Short Stories by Emerging Writers*. Chidelia's writing has also won numerous awards, including Notable Story in Best American Short Stories (edited by Elizabeth Strout), Top 25 honors in Glimmer Train's Short Story Award for New Writers, the Joan Jakobson Award "given to writers of unusual promise" granted by the Wesleyan Writers Conference, a literary grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation, and a fiction scholarship granted by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP).

This event is open to all. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.

Hope to see you all.

Yijun