



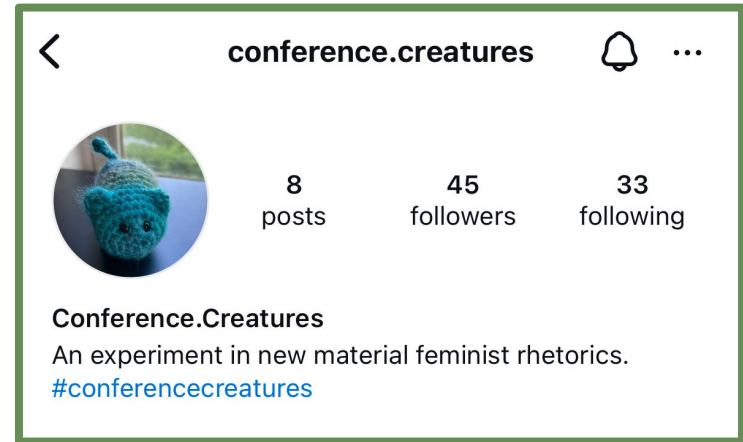
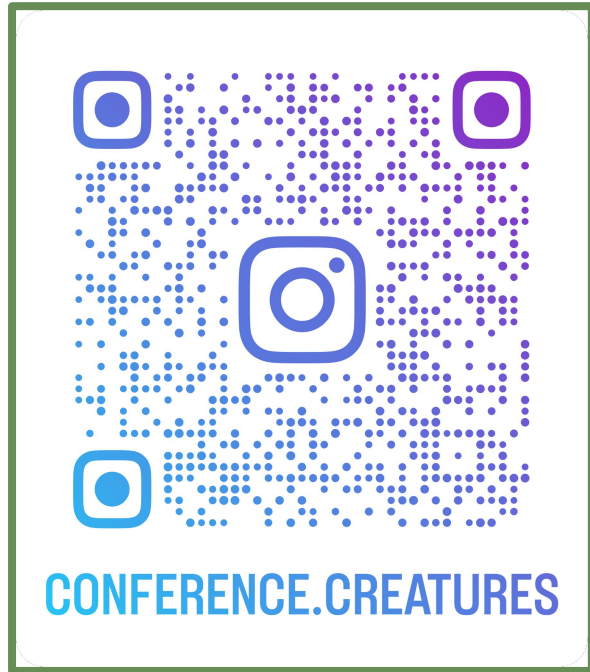
Conference.Creatures

Olivia Rowland & Hannah Locher
The Ohio State University

2025 Writing Innovation Symposium (WIS)



Find us on Instagram





Timeline

The Crafter's Question: What to do with creations?

Olivia crochets opossum and star-nosed mole for Hannah, inspiring Hannah to learn crochet

Hannah and Olivia transform idea to center around feminist professional praxis

Crocheting begins for RSA 2024



Hannah's mom suggests leaving crochet stuffed animals around campus

Conference.Creature yarn stash stocked by generous donations (aka yarn purges) by Marcia Locher & Margaret Price.





Timeline



Stickers
designed and
printed for
"soft launch"

Special thanks to
Johnna Keller for
sticker design!

First generation of
conference creatures
distributed at RSA 2024

Conference.Creatures
come to WIS 2025!



WIS '25 Invitation

Dear Hannah and Olivia,

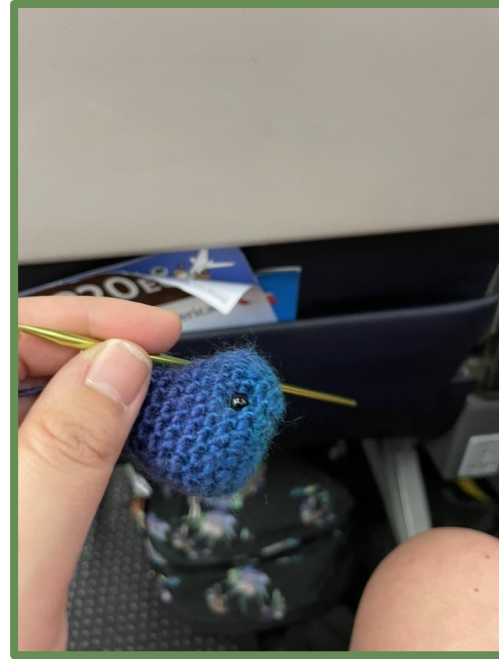
We are writing on behalf of the WIS '25 Steering Committee with good news. We are delighted to accept your proposal for "Conference.Creatures: An Experiment in New Materialist Feminist Praxis" to the *Mise en Place* program! See below for additional

Creatures in Progress

Conference.Creature creation can happen in all sorts of places!



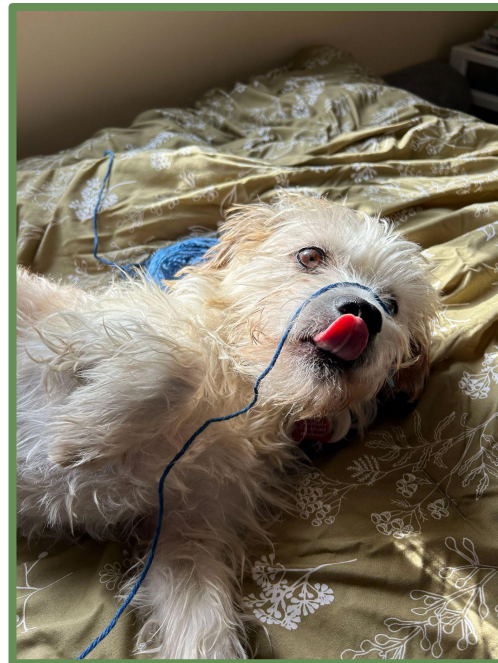
At conferences!



On planes!



Creating with our Creatures



RSA 2024 Test Run



Hi! You've encountered the soft launch of a conference rhetorics project!

@Conference.Creatures is an experiment in new material feminist rhetorical praxis that aims to recognize, celebrate, and support your presence at professional conferences by encouraging community, comfort, and joy in the stressful, liminal space of field conferences.

On that note: The professional work you're doing here is integral for our field and community of scholars! Your contributions are significant and you're essential for moving our field forward!

Please take a picture of your sticker and tag @conference.creatures on Instagram! Then, keep an eye out at future conferences in rhetoric and writing studies.... You may just come across a little Conference.Creature to take home!

Thanks for helping with our project and being part of our community!"



The Inaugural Handoff



Hannah extends a forest green Conference.Creature to Cagle across a small round table in a hotel lobby. Drew Holladay sits at the table behind the first conference.creature exchange.



Conference Creations



IMG_1582 by Margaret Price, used under <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>

Quote from Margaret Price: "Selfie of me and Cagle holding up our current conference-making projects and getting excited about @conference.creatures #conferencecreatures #rsa24"

ID: two white people wearing masks and smiling joyfully while holding up a partly finished orange sock and a partly finished pink and purple hat."

"...one of our youngest conference goers this year! He made his own conference badge and his mom/scholarly mentor is helping him put the @bunny_nugget sticker on it."



IMG_1637 by Margaret Price, used under CC BY-NC.

Conference.Creature Hydration



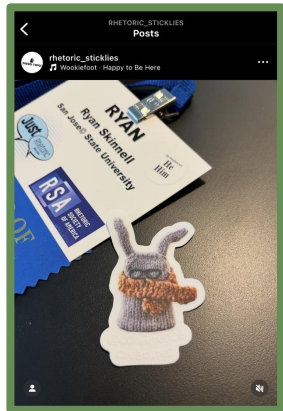
Caption from Crystal Colombini: "I was just minding my own business in Denver and Conference.Creatures landed on my wine! But I didn't mind. ❤️"



The creatures like to meet each other!



Creatures around the Conference



Humans + Creatures



Dr. Ben Wetherbee shows his stickers on his RSA notebook



Hannah with Dr. Jenn Fishman, who received the final Conference.Creature distributed in Denver at RSA!



Dr. Neil Simpkins with his conference.creature after the last panel of RSA 2024.

Post-RSA Engagement



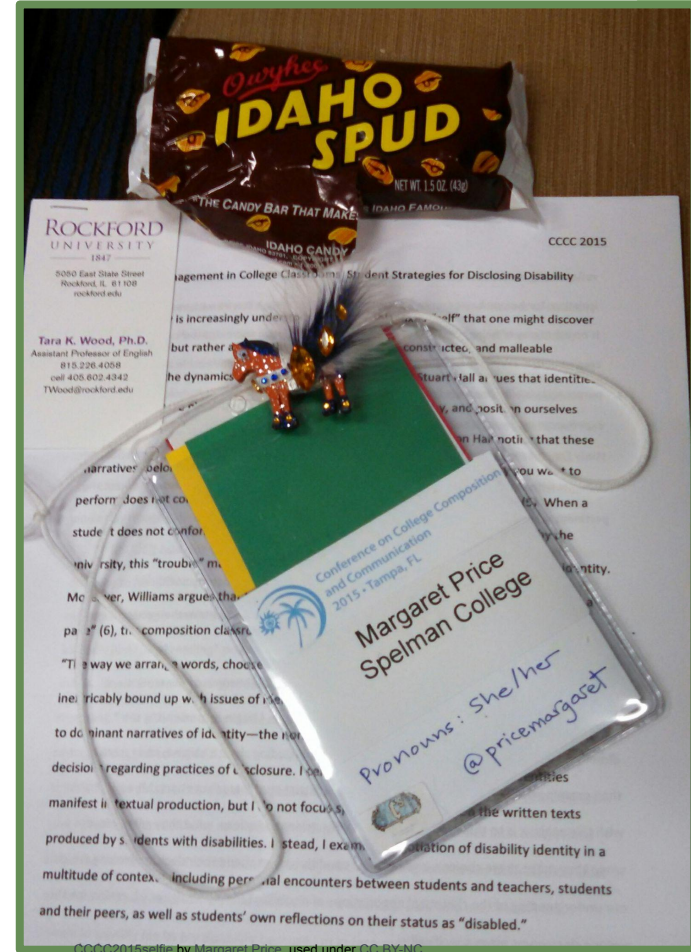
Conference.Creatures can go anywhere with you!





Weaving Connections

- Sparkeponies & C's the Day
- @Bunny_nugget
- Sarah Perrault's the Daily Dev
- Flat Stanley
- Gruwell (2022)
- Goggin & Rose (2021)
- Goggin & Tobin (2009)





Emergent Themes

- Creatures connect humans and seem drawn to our pets
- Network of creatures, stickers, and social media opens up connections beyond the conference space (into hotel rooms, our homes, etc.)
- Conference “souvenir” of sticker and creature forms lasting connections
- Invites others to engage with you about your work when they ask about it

WIS Preparations



Charlie Cat Assists Chief Capacitator with WIS Prep

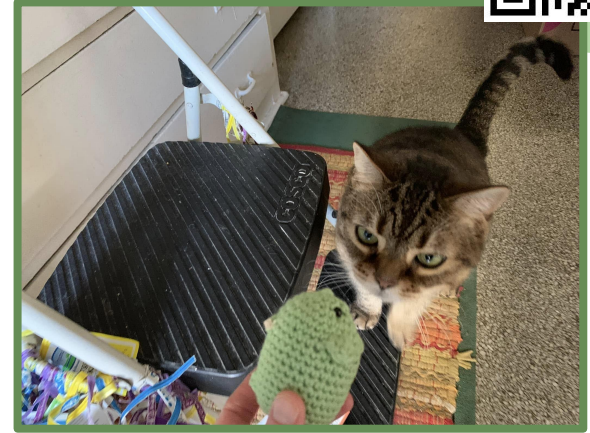


Photo Credit: Jenn Fishman



Conference.Creatures at WIS '25



Hello! You've encountered **conference.creatures**, an experimental project in new materialist feminist rhetorical praxis.

Your work in our community of writers and your presence here helps constitute the concept of *mise en place* for the 2025 Writing Innovation Symposium and for this project. You're exactly where you should be!

Through **conference.creatures**, we aim to recognize, celebrate, and support your presence at field conferences by encouraging comfort and joy in these liminal spaces. We hope our experiment encourages you to think about making—of materials, ideas, feelings, relationships, food, etc.—as opportunities to foster community, collaboration, care, and relaxation.

We encourage you to engage with conference.creatures in whatever ways best suit you!

You can find us on Instagram at **@conference.creatures**. But engagement isn't limited to social media. If you're reading this, you're engaged! We encourage you to love your conference.creature, talk to others about it, and share our joy.

Thanks for helping with our project and being part of our community!

Recipe: Contributing to Conference.Creatures

Ingredients:

- One conference.creature (or more)
- One camera
- An email, Instagram, or Facebook account



Directions:

1. Take a photograph of/with your conference.creature in location(s) of your choosing
2. Write a caption to be featured with your conference.creature, if desired
3. Choose how you will share photos with the conference.creatures team to post:
 - a. Send as a **DM** to the @conference.creatures Instagram account or facebook
 - b. Send as an **email attachment** to conference.creatures1@gmail.com
 - c. Create an **Instagram post** and tag our account @conference.creatures
 - d. Post in the **facebook group**
4. Place photo and caption (if desired) into internet “oven” using chosen method
5. Keep an eye out for conference.creatures posts to see when your contribution is finished “baking”



Thank you!

Email: conference.creatures1@gmail.com

