First Annual Southern California Rhetoric and Composition Research Symposium
Featuring distinguished keynote speaker Susan Jarratt
University of California, Irvine
Presented by the Endowed Chair of Rhetoric in English
Date: May 4, 2012

Deadline for submissions and/or RSVPs extended to April 1

We are delighted to announce the first annual Southern California Rhet-Comp Research Symposium at UC Irvine. We will host this event and will provide all meals and materials throughout the day as well as parking vouchers. This day-long event will gather Rhetoric and Composition scholars at various stages of their careers--graduate students, lecturers, and faculty--to provide a unique space for regional dialogue on current and future projects, partnered with discussion of theoretical, pedagogical, and administrative concerns. In addition, we will offer a professionalization panel in which selected scholars will share their experiences in the Southern California Rhet-Comp workplace and offer advice for meeting the challenges therein. We are eager to start building a community of teacher-scholars in the region that stimulates and challenges our work today and promotes future collaboration. Please join us!

At the heart of the Symposium are two modes of small-group discussion:

- The morning will offer a series of round table conversations about current research interests and how this research manifests in the classroom.
- Afternoon workshops will allow participants to share and solicit feedback on current projects, including any methodological and administrative concerns.

This call for discussion is open to any and all projects relevant to rhetoric and/or composition. To sort participants into discussion groups pertinent to their interests, we ask each participant to submit one (or both) of the following:

- a statement (about 300 words) of your current research interests or fields of investigation
- an abstract (up to 300 words) of a work in progress

As the Symposium is a discussion and listening space for regional rhet-comp scholars, those who do not wish to submit written work are also welcome; we ask that they confirm their intention to attend. Submissions and/or RSVPs should be sent to jblloyd@uci.edu by April 1, 2012; questions may be sent to fitzsimmons.maureen@uci.edu.

Symposium participants may (but need not) address the following questions:

- What does it mean to be part of “Rhet-Comp” as a field?
- What does it mean to situate this work in the Southern California region?
- How do our respective institutional cultures shape our research, our pedagogical practices, and our sense of community?
- How do our respective composition programs fit into our campus writing cultures and/or Departments of English--or not?
- How can composition programs best engage local communities, and what are the costs and benefits of doing so?
- What are the contours of the “public sphere” in Southern California, and what place does “Rhet-Comp” scholarship have with respect to it?
• How do California’s continuing budget problems impact the work of local Rhet-Comp scholars and instructors, and how do we best respond to them?
• What future events/activities would you like to see develop in order to continue fostering a community of teacher-scholars in Southern California?