Ethical Issues in Teaching Risky Writing

Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Bloom, University of Connecticut, USA.

In this workshop Lynn will address the following questions: Is there such a thing as safe writing? What is risky writing? How can teachers create a safe climate that will enable students to take risks with their writing? (Hint: “First, do no harm.”) What ethical principles address the interrelationship of privacy, disclosure, and risk? What ethical issues are involved in encouraging students to take risks that enhance their development as writers? In what ways can classroom practices and writing assignments ethically accommodate student vulnerabilities? What ethical issues does the contemporary cultural practice of spilling everything on social media raise for student writing? Is it ethical to deter transgressive students from writing morally repulsive papers?

Lynn Bloom is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut, USA, where she held the Aetna Chair of Writing 1988-2015. She learned from great writing teachers: Dr. Seuss, fun; E.B. White, elegant simplicity; Benjamin Spock, precision: “If you don’t write clearly, someone could die,” he advised when she was writing Doctor Spock: Biography of a Conservative Radical. These precepts inform the heart, soul, and human voice of her work, 25+ books and nearly 200 articles, including *The Seven Deadly Virtues*, *Writers Without Borders*, *Composition Studies in the 21st Century*, and “The Essay Canon.” She has received numerous research awards, and has directed writing programs from Virginia to New Mexico. She is delighted to return to the University of Waikato for a second Fulbright.

This workshop is co-hosted by WMIER and Hillcrest High School.