

The Writing Workshop
June – July 2025

Centre for Writing Studies, JGU

The Centre for Writing Studies (CWS) at JGU congratulates the incoming Naveen Jindal Fellows and welcomes them to JGU campus for what promises to be an enriching experience.

As a centre invested in pedagogy of critical reading and writing across disciplinary boundaries, the CWS is uniquely positioned to be involved in central ways in the academic experience of the Naveen Jindal Fellows on JGU campus. Towards this end, we propose *The Writing Workshop*, a 6-week long series of sessions related to research writing as part of the Naveen Jindal Fellowship. *The Writing Workshop* brings together CWS expertise: an interactive and workshop-oriented pedagogy, coupled with novel ways of approaching critical research writing for advanced scholars.

The Writing Workshop comprises of two parts. The first part, in the form of intensive writing masterclasses, aim to provide space for the participants to revisit the process of research and writing, from multiple vantage points- of convention, structure and experience of research writing. The second part, in the form of five interactive sessions, will focus on the key aspects of the research writing process, including understanding the structure of an academic text, working with arguments, critical reading strategies, formulating research questions, citations and building review of literature. Through interactive sessions, these workshops are pedagogically designed to offer a thinking and writing experience driven by the Fellows' active participation.

By introducing novel methods such as constrained writing and approaching academic writing via fiction, we hope to enable participants to conceptualize ideas not just within academic conventions but also consider the possibilities of how ideating and scientific writing can be informed by divergent realms of expression.

Part A: Writing Masterclass (9.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. / 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.)

Date	Session(s)	Facilitator(s)
<p>June 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductions and Setting Stage ▪ Ice Breaker Activity ▪ What is Academic Writing? Structure of an Academic Text <p>This session will be a brief overview of core concerns in academic writing from a formal perspective. Together, we will explore the conventions and structural elements of academic writing that set it apart from other forms of writing.</p>	<p>Prof. Madhura Lohokare and Prof. Diksha Narang</p> <p>Prof. Pankaj Challa</p> <p>Prof. Shubhasree Bhattacharyya</p>
<p>June 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interactive Session on Fellows’ Experiences with Academic Writing ▪ What is ‘Good’/ ‘Bad’ Academic Writing? <p>In this session, we will open a discussion on what constitutes ‘good’ or ‘bad’ academic writing by referring to ongoing debates on conventions of writing in academia. By focusing on themes including complexity, accessibility, rhetoric, inclusion, exclusion, theory and language, we will attempt to arrive at what constitutes robust and effective ‘academic writing’.</p>	<p>Prof. Pankaj Challa and Prof. Diksha Narang</p> <p>Prof. Sadia Khan and Prof. Diksha Narang</p>
<p>June 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using Fiction to Approach Academic Reading and Writing <p>In this workshop, we will explore whether there is fiction in science- and how we can identify and apply structural and contextual elements of fiction—plots, perspectives, tropes— to better understand and narrate</p>	<p>Prof. Mohammad Sayeed and Prof. Shachi Seth</p>

	<p>scientific research. We will explore how a short story can guide us to think about the research to discover new insights and conversely, how to think of research as a story– as a world building, as narrativizing of the concepts, as gathering of the clues and as surprises of <i>deus ex machina</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feedback and Orientation to Part B <p>We will end the Masterclass sessions with an interactive feedback session, where we get an opportunity to hear from the participants about their responses and feedback to the Masterclass sessions. We will explore ways in which Part B can address the needs of the participants. We will also introduce the participants to the structure of the second part of the writing workshops to be conducted over the following weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DINNER 	<p>Prof. Madhura Lohokare and Prof. Shubhasree Bhattacharyya</p>
--	--	--

Part B: Intensive Weekly Workshops

The weekly workshops will be conducted over two consecutive days of each week. At the end of the first day's workshop, the participants will be given a writing/ reading exercise which the facilitator will workshop on the second day.

Date	Session	Facilitator
<p>Session 1.1: June 16</p> <p>10.00 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close reading and constrained writing <p>In this workshop, we work with the premise that reading is an essential part of the process of writing, and explore strategies to approach texts through their context, form, and content. Particularly, we will focus on close reading an academic paper by zooming in on words, expanding on concepts, engaging with numbers, tracing citations, and recognizing the silences between the words, and between the lines. Moreover, we will unpack the author, reader, and subject positions to understand the limits of objectivity. We will also learn to use the text to set constraints that force us to think <i>within and against</i> the limits of thought and find a creative way out to develop new conceptual claims.</p>	<p>Prof. Mohammad Sayeed and Prof. Shachi Seth</p>
<p>Session 1.2: June 17</p> <p>12.00 p.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop on Participant Writing</i></p>	<p>Prof. Mohammad Sayeed and Prof. Shachi Seth</p>
<p>Session 2.1: June 23</p> <p>10.00 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designing Research Questions <p>This session guides participants to develop their pre-existing research questions as well as design new ones through a thorough understanding of keywords, effective use of search engines, and the interrelationships between research topics and research questions. The session will be interactive in nature, with in-class thinking and writing exercises and a demonstrative lecture component.</p>	<p>Prof. Shubhasree Bhattacharyya</p>

<p>Session 2.2: June 24</p> <p>12.00 p.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop on Participant Writing</i></p>	<p>Prof. Shubhasree Bhattacharyya</p>
<p>Session 3.1: June 30</p> <p>10.00 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shape of an Argument <p>This session will introduce the participants to the architecture of an argument. A logical narrative that answers our research questions, a well-formulated argument demonstrates a balance between generalized claims and particular evidence. This session will primarily focus on how to build an argument by structuring ideas using concrete claims and evidence to support the claims. We will work with academic texts to see how evidence can be mined to validate/ verify a claim.</p>	<p>Prof. Sadia Khan</p>
<p>Session 3.2: July 1</p> <p>12.00 p.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop on Participant Writing</i></p>	<p>Prof. Sadia Khan</p>
<p>Session 4.1: July 7</p> <p>10.00 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of Literature/Citations/Ethics of AI <p>This workshop focuses on writing review of literature, a core component of research writing, which shapes our research question as well as our analysis. In this workshop, we will build on the usage of secondary literature to develop our argument. We will focus on positioning ourselves within existing literature and debates and synthesising sources, to develop a literature review that is thematically organized. We will then locate citations within this usage of secondary literature. The latter part of the workshop will include a discussion on the ethics of generative AI and large-language models in academic writing.</p>	<p>Prof. Diksha Narang</p>

<p>Session 4.2 July 8</p> <p>12.00 p.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop on Participant Writing</i></p>	<p>Prof. Diksha Narang</p>
<p>Session 5.1 July 14</p> <p>10.00 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fiction Writing: “Power of Place” <p>In this interactive session about fiction writing, we will explore the idea of place. The novelist Henry James said, “Landscape is character.” In other words, any piece of writing, and most especially fiction, needs to be aware of the fact that characters, even events, do not entirely stand in isolation of the physical environment and surroundings, but are in fact shaped by them.</p> <p>In focusing on place in the broadest sense, we hope the participants also get an opportunity to think about how contextualising our research findings is central to making sense of our data.</p>	<p>Prof. Pankaj Challa</p>
<p>Session 5.2 July 15</p> <p>12.00 p.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Workshop on Participant Writing</i></p>	<p>Prof. Pankaj Challa</p>