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Institution:

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## **Biography**

Georgina Willms is the Coordinator of English and the Director of the Ellipsis English Writing Centre at Universität Bielefeld. She has taught at higher education institutions in the US and the UK as well as Germany. In addition to academic writing, her professional interests include creative writing, English and Classical literature, and poetry. She holds master's degrees in Early English Literature (University of New Orleans, USA) and in Roman Mythology and History (University of Exeter, UK). She is particularly interested in using literature and other non-traditional materials in the language classroom.

## **Presentation: Redefining academic writing with technology.**

### **Abstract:**

ESAP teachers, especially those that specialize in writing, will often hear students say that they don't do much writing in their daily lives. While the amount of formal academic writing done may be relatively small (or indeed, non-existent), the fact is that in today's text-driven technological society young people are consistently writing more than ever. The question is, what are they (and we) consider "writing"? Forum entries, Facebook posts, and even SMS text messages can all provide valuable practice for the writing student without them even realizing it. By incorporating these seemingly informal texts into writing instruction the instructor can open up a world of written communication for the student that doesn't make a solid (and often, impenetrable) barrier between everyday communicative writing and formal education-based academic writing. My presentation will examine how to unite these two seemingly disparate worlds of writing for the benefit of the student.