Getting It Done:
Individual and Group Strategies for Overcoming Writing Blocks and Maximizing Your Writing Productivity

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
Noon-1:30am | Voorhies 126

Do you experience “white page” anxiety? Does dusting your bookshelves suddenly seem like an interesting thing to do every time you sit down to write? Are you afraid that writing blocks and procrastination will prevent you from making progress on your dissertation this summer? Then this workshop is for you. After a brief discussion of what writing blocks are and why writers experience them, we will explore a number of strategies that writers can employ to overcome writing blocks. These will include individual tactics as well as group-oriented strategies, such as forming a writing group or finding a writing partner. Workshop participants will learn how to engage in a writing process that takes the agony out of composing, organize a writing group, give effective feedback to writing partners, and create a plan of action for getting the dissertation done.

Alison Bright earned her Ph.D. in education from UC Santa Barbara, her MA in English from Sonoma State University, and her BA in Spanish literature from UC Santa Cruz. She teaches a variety of upper division composition courses in the University Writing Program, including writing in elementary and secondary education, business writing, writing for social justice, and writing in the health professions. Her research interests include writing centers, writing tutor and teacher identity, and the preparation of writing teachers.

Melissa Bender, PhD. (English, UC Davis) is a lecturer in the University Writing Program and a consultant with the Writing Across the Curriculum program of UC Davis. She has taught English and composition courses for over twenty years at universities in the U.S. and in France. At UC Davis, Melissa teaches courses in advanced composition, scientific writing, writing in the health professions, technical writing, and visual rhetoric, as well as freshmen seminars on Cold War films and international education. She is the co-author of Writing Assignments in Context, forthcoming from McFarland in 2016.