

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Out of Character? Enough is Enough. (Conflicts of) Role in Peer Tutoring

We take on a variety of roles every day – either as a student, a friend, a partner or as a colleague. Our behaviour and our social relationships are shaped by these roles. They are neither stipulated nor consistent but rather interchangeable and subjective. To put it briefly, we decide into which role we slip in each situation.

Being a peer tutor at university means taking up different roles depending on the situation: You are either an advisor, or in a different situation, you yourselves are students in need of counselling when speaking with your teachers or fellow students. In addition to being a student, it is rather you in the role of the peer tutor who is the expert on teaching writing skills than your professors themselves.

Being a peer tutor therefore means being flexible at changing your role – from being a coach to being an advisor, or ‘simply’ a listener, a motivational trainer to even a human punchbag the advisee needs for getting rid of their frustration. The most important is to stay authentic and to simultaneously keep emotional distance from the advisee’s problems, without losing one’s empathy.

Last but not least, being a peer tutor means finding the role you are comfortable with without overstepping your boundaries.

This is why we invite you to share your experiences with us at the conference at the University of Cologne next autumn. We are looking forward to reading your ideas and thoughts on this topic.

### Suggested topics:

- // definition of a peer tutor
- // native speaker vs. non-native speaker in an advisory or coaching situation
- // finding and marking boundaries
- // difficult counselling situations
- // taking over responsibilities
- // exercising different methods during your own writing process
- // further development of writing techniques
- // advisor – advisee relationships
- // peer tutors as advisees
- // peer tutors = lecturers?
- // ... and many more

## **Organisational matters:**

Have we caught your interest? If so, please hand in your abstract by **April, 30th**:  
[sptk-2017@uni-koeln.de](mailto:sptk-2017@uni-koeln.de).

Possible formats:

- // lecture (~ 30 minutes)
- // posters
- // discussions
- // round-tables/workshops

When writing your abstract, please consider the following:

- // no more than 200-300 words
- // informative/meaningful heading
- // which format you are interested in
- // do not forget to mention all of your names and e-mail addresses of all the lecturers

In case you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

via phone: 0221/470 38 14

via e-mail: [sptk-2017@uni-koeln.de](mailto:sptk-2017@uni-koeln.de)

You can find further information concerning the conference on our website:

<http://www.schreibzentrum.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/sptk2017.html>.

We are happy to keep you posted on the programme, localities, social activities, accommodation, and so on.

**10. Peer Writing Tutoring Conference 2017  
at Cologne University:  
30.09.2017 to 02.10.2017**



Universität zu Köln  
Philosophische Fakultät