Building a community of writers in a university

Take one university...

- 20 hours teaching per week
- High number of ‘second-career’ academics
- Focus on applied courses
- Key priority: improved position in REF

...one writing group

What is the role of a writing community in developing the writing practices of academics?

An ethnographic study: telling their stories

Participants developed a more coherent sense of their wider academic identity and began to see writing as a legitimate and valuable activity.

The interplay between individual and institutional is key: the University needs to clearly articulate the nature and purpose of writing within the institution.

Claire Saunders c.e.saunders@open.ac.uk