

Slow Composition

An Indigenous Approach to Digital Making

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Kristin Arola is an Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Composition, and Technology at Washington State University, where she also directs the Digital Technology and Culture undergraduate degree program. Her teaching and research bring together multi-modal pedagogy and American Indian rhetorics to explore digital composing practices within larger social and cultural contexts.



“Those of us who engage with digital production and multimodal pedagogies know the amount of work that goes into creating a website, video, poster, or sound project. These projects require detailed planning, drafting, and revising, all steps that take more time than we often like to devote during a semester-long course. During this talk, I suggest we make the time. By placing digital composing practices alongside indigenous making practices and epistemologies—specifically the Anishinaabe peoples of the upper Great Lakes region—I argue for a slow composition. Slowing down our pedagogies enables a mindfulness, thus encouraging a consideration of the materials with which we compose, the relations between these objects, and our role in the creation of texts.”

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