

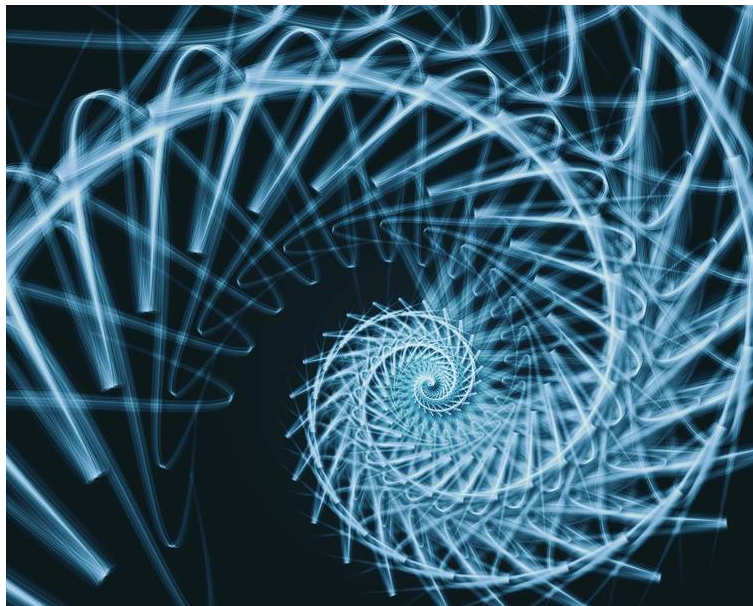
# NCTL Newsletter - Spring '24, No. 3

From the Jane B. Nord Center for Teaching + Learning

## Looking Ahead to Next Semester

This newsletter includes gratitudes about this academic year and previews some themes and programming for 2024-2025. If you are looking for a nice read that prompts reflection of the past academic year, I recommend Sarah Rose Cavanaugh's Chronicle article, "[After a tough year for classroom innovation, it's time for a reset.](#)" Cavanaugh's call to "recalibrate the conversation about student-centered teaching" spoke to me as both a professor and director of a center for teaching and learning, particularly in how she centers and validates the work of faculty in a post-pandemic context.

## Teaching Summit Preview



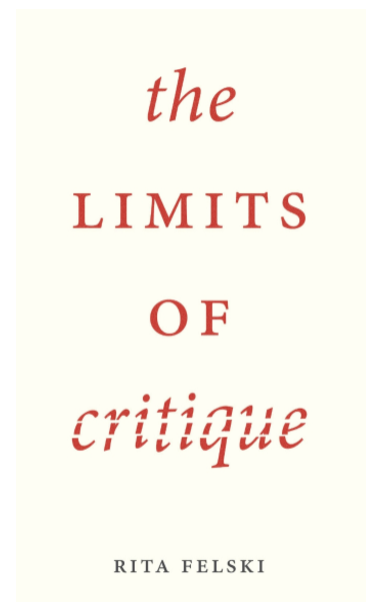
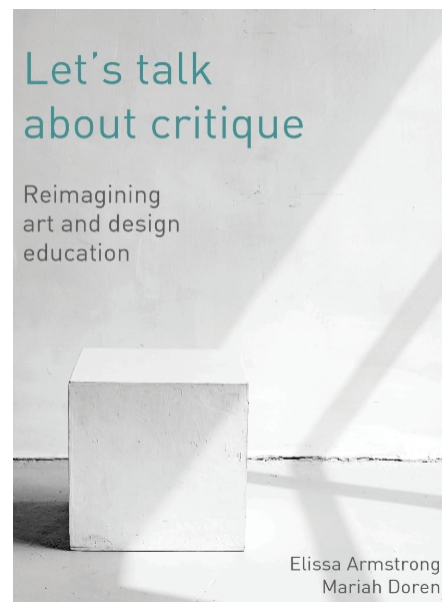
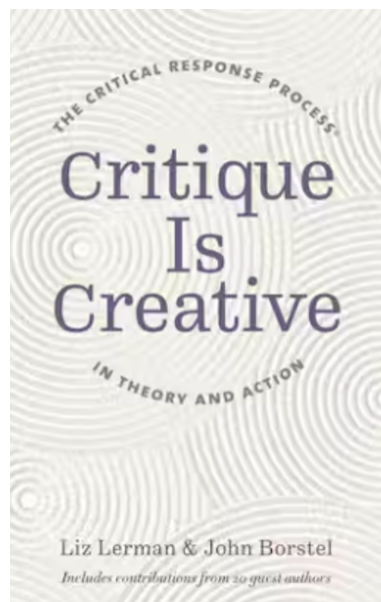
The annual Teaching Summit is the anchor event of the Nord Center. Summit events will take place during the student Fall break on Monday, October 21 and Tuesday, October 22. [Past Summit programming](#) included an introduction to the practice of Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) and ways to foster greater inclusivity for neurodivergent students.

This year's Summit will center on **curriculum design** and **critique**. Collaborative conversations around both of these topics will help us think into possibilities and practices that foster holistic student success and strengthen connections to our unique institutional identity.

If you want to dig into some scholarly explorations of critique over the summer, here are some great options:

- **Let's talk about critique: Reimagining art and design education** (Armstrong & Doren, 2023). This book "examines how critique, as a signature pedagogy in the field, has evolved, how it falls short, and what else it can be. Current practices are contextualized and suggestions are made for ways to have more open, inclusive and dynamic classroom conversations about art and design."
- **Critique is creative: The critical response process in theory and action** (Lerman & Borstel, 2022). From the publisher: "Critical Response Process® (CRP) is an internationally recognized method for giving and getting feedback on creative works in progress. In this first in-depth study of CRP, Lerman and her long-term collaborator John Borstel describe in detail the four-step process, its origins and principles. The book also includes essays on CRP from a wide range of contributors. With insight, ingenuity, and the occasional challenge, these practitioners shed light on the applications and variations of CRP in the contexts of art, education, and community life."
- **The limits of critique** (Felski, 2015). From the publisher: "Why must critics unmask and demystify literary works? Why do they believe that language is always withholding some truth, that the critic's task is to reveal the unsaid or repressed? In this book, Rita Felski examines critique, the dominant form of interpretation in literary studies, and situates it as but one method among many, a method with strong allure—but also definite limits."

**If you want to read one of these or other related materials and help facilitate the critique session at the Teaching Summit in October, please let me know!** Co-presenters will receive a stipend for this work of reading, preparation, and presentation. Feel free to contact me (keweaver@cia.edu) about this opportunity or if you would like a hard copy of one of these books.



**Opportunity for Collaboration and Connection**

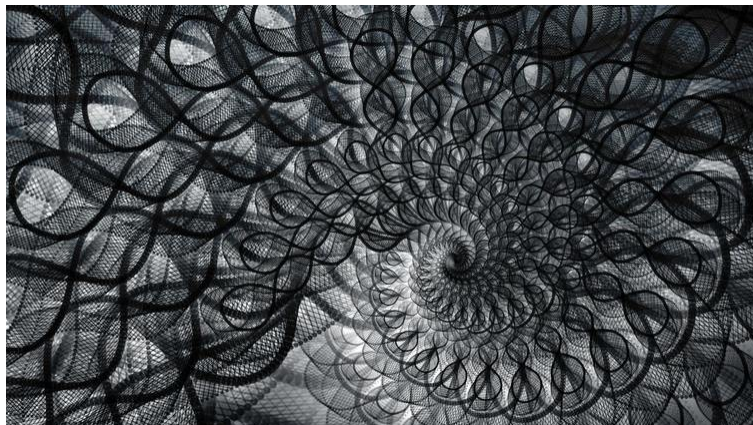


Assistant Professor Amber Kempthorn (drawing) received the Bickford Award for Visiting Artists to bring in artist, design researcher, writer, and professor **Sara Hendren** to speak at CIA on **Thursday, November 14**. She is the author of the book, [What can a body do? How we meet the built world](#), which explores the ways disability shows up in design across all spaces. She was also featured on an [episode of the podcast, On Being](#) with Krista Tippett, where she talked about questions of "of why we organize the physical world as though vulnerability and needs for assistance are not commonplace — indeed salutary — forms of experience that reveal the genius of what being human is all about."

Several CIA staff and faculty are already working on how to connect to Hendren's ideas, including course projects and exhibitions, and we invite you to join us. How could you get involved? Some possibilities:

- [Sign up for the Fall reading group](#)
- Create an assignment for Fall semester connected to Hendren's ideas, writing, podcast, or upcoming talk
- Connect with the Nord Center to brainstorm and share ideas

### Call for 'Sharing Practices' Facilitators



We will continue the popular offering of **Sharing Practices**, an informal session where 1-2 faculty share information on their current practices. These sessions are meant to spark discussion, encourage creative thinking about teaching, and offer support to one another. Lunch is provided. *Please note that these sessions are limited to faculty or staff with a teaching appointment.*

Please reach out if you would like to lead a session!



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