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### The dilemmas of negotiating change in academic publishing practices

In this presentation, I will explore the dilemmas for authors and gate-keepers in broadening academic conventions for publishing new forms of research and writing in scholarly journals. I narrate the experience of a Canadian Chinese graduate student in negotiating the publishability of her narrative on her ambiguous status in the TESOL profession in the *TESOL Quarterly*. Though the editor (myself, an Asian) and the three referees (females who were friendly to alternate discourses of academic writing) were sympathetic to publishing her atypical genre of writing, the negotiation failed after a lengthy process. Through our correspondence, drafts of articles, reviewer comments, and subsequent interviews, the author and I have reconstructed this negotiation process. The challenges relate to both process and product. The dominant discourses of the profession and the journal exerted a passive pressure on the editor and referees to request the author to move towards a hybrid text that meshed the academic and the personal. However, the author perceived these requests as an imposition on her preferred voice and objectives. Her novice status in publishing and lack of familiarity with publishing conventions contributed to some misunderstandings and tensions in the negotiation process. I will argue that though there is a general readiness to accommodate border identities and hybrid discourses in the academic publishing, the terms of negotiation and extent of compromise remain unclear.