

Right/Write to Roam

The 9th International Conference of AutoEthnography

ICAE9

ABSTRACTS & BIOGRAPHIES



Session 15:

SPOTLIGHT PANEL: They write to roam ...

They write to roam ...

Helen Bowstead, Mary Garland and Ken Gale, University of Plymouth

Three scholars come together in writing. Edging their writings into existence are the emergences of a free and wild creation of concepts. One writes as immanent doing, inventing, speculating and fabulating in not knowing, another writes a thesis that knows not where it goes, where it begins where it ends and another writes in the constant singularisation and differentiation of subjectivity, in multiplicity always creating new worldings. Collaboratively, as maroons, as rebels, as fugitives, in diversity they come together to write sympoietically in writing that roams out of the clearing of the neurotypical, that rails against the ruins of those institutional practices that support and sustain the conformities, identifications and subjectifications of the neoliberal university. They write together not knowing who they are or what they write. They have to write. Write to roam.

Session 16:

Embracing contact

Conceptualizing illness, transgenerational narratives of women in Malta: an autoethnographic study

Sharon Martinelli, University of Malta

As a nurse, a counsellor and a reflexive researcher, my interest in researching women living with autoimmune invisible chronic illnesses in Malta is multidimensional. It originated from my situated understanding of the relationship between my own illness event coalescing with other illness experiences I witnessed with close family members and other individuals who I met in research and in the therapeutic and medical field. "Narratives are often either constructed by authors in retrospect, [...] history is one of the most incorporated things in existence, in that it is abstract and belonging to the world of memory and consciousness rather than the physical world" (Dingli, 2021, p. 64). How does our past affect our present and how can it in turn affect our future? Life is not experienced in a linear way. Aspects from the past are transgenerational and expressed in the way we act and think as individuals and collectively. I roam through different periods in time to give context to women in Malta collected from diverse sources (newspaper features, academic and published articles) to understand how specific social, political, educational, and cultural background influence choices, behaviour, and personal agency in relation to health and illness through the years.

Macramé of thoughts about touching, non-touching, to be touched and intimacy

Donata Puntil, Gaia del Negro, Silvia Luraschi, Hazel R. Wright, Berit Bareksten, Inger Helen Midtgard, King's College London; University of Milano Bicocca; Anglia Ruskin University; Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

This presentation introduces an ongoing collaborative auto-ethnography between six researchers (two from Italy, two from Norway, two from UK) that started following a workshop held during ESREA / LHBN Conference (Life History & Biography Network), in March 2021 continuing also this year. Each one of us have shared stories about being close to 'the other', sharing stories and staying in touch, in one way or another during the COVID-19 pandemic, to see what, as women and caregivers, we can learn from each other and how this learning might be transformative for our daily lives. The result is a diffracting writing in different languages that created what we called a "macrame" of thoughts where we have the chance to be in-touch with others to develop a trusting relationship of companionship.

Becoming a Researcher and the Impossibility of Touching

Donata Puntil, King's College London

This paper will describe my journey into becoming an academic scholar in the field of Language Education while completing A Doctorate in Education. The journey will be described within a Posthuman - New Materialist framework giving evidence to the importance of personal narratives, objects, artefacts, vital materiality into the assemblage of becoming-being a scholar. The paper will focus on the intra-actions of researching and living data within the Covid pandemic and the struggles of living-without-touching. Broadly influenced by Karen Barad's seminal article "On Touching-The Inhuman That Therefore I Am" (2012) my story of being-becoming a scholar will be entangled with the personal narrative of losing my brother because of Covid and the impossibility of touching him for a final good-bye. The auto-ethnographic narrative will also encompass the experience of losing contact with my ageing mother due to her developing dementia. Touching-non-touching-being-in-and-out-with-research will be the focus of this auto-ethnographic paper.



Baptista, Ana

Ana Baptista is, since September 2019, Principal Teaching Fellow and Strategic Lead for Medical Education Transformation at the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London (UK). Ana leads on the new MBBS curriculum evaluation, being particularly interested in examining its impact on the development of students’ professional identity. Ana is interested in less ‘conventional’ research methodologies in Higher Education research that illuminate students’ and staff diverse and enriching experiences. Autoethnography is one of those research methods as it provides a great potential to access powerful stories



Bereksten, Berit

Berit Bereksten is a pedagogist with her master's degree in political science, with a major in sociology from the University of Bergen. She has further education in gestalt guidance, oral narration, and philosophical, ethical and existential conversations. She is employed as a study advisor at the University College of Western Norway, Faculty of Teacher Education, Culture and Sports. Bereksten has extensive teaching experience from sociology and communication, as well as art and cultural methods related to social work, community, and health. Her research interests include community work, creative academic writing and narratives, teaching and writing work with cancer patients and their relatives. She is involved in the Life History and Biography Network of ESREA, European Society for Research on the Education of Adults.



Barnes, Jamie

Jamie works at the intersection of anthropology and sociology and is fascinated by the living experience of sentient beings. His work thus far has involved a lot of looking into, and taking seriously, various types of ‘spiritual’ experience (although he is not convinced about dividing off this type of experience from any other type of experience). In one of his most recent projects, he explores various modes of ecological sensibilities – different ways people think and feel about the environment – and is enjoying some fascinating conversations with regenerative farmers, shamanic practitioners, and zero-waste shop owners (amongst others), all of which he hopes to publish in podcast format this autumn. Having also recently adopted a 3-year old red Labrador, he is also learning what it means to be part of a pack and to communicate in ways that dogs might understand.



Bateman, Gael

I’m a creative researcher, client-led counsellor, and often-conflicted writer currently navigating the final stages of a Doctorate in Psychotherapy at the University of Edinburgh which sees me following glow worms – flickering affective sensations that tug at my awareness and produce curiosity. I am drawn to research, teaching, and therapeutic methods that value intuition, imagination, affect, wonder, and the wild. Engaging with the relational moments and movements these approaches invite, I trouble the pursuit of explicit meaning and coherent narrative, particularly in relation to loss, trauma, and desire.



Beattie, Liana

Liana is an Associate Head of Department in the Faculty of Education at Edge Hill University. She completed her MA Education at the University of Liverpool and, later on, gained her doctorate at the University of Chester for her autoethnographic research into how academics with Soviet background construct their perceptions of educational leadership at a contemporary UK university. Liana’s research interests are, mainly, around the issues of educational leadership and creative approaches to a qualitative inquiry, and she has a number of publications that reflect these key themes. She is particularly passionate about autoethnographic research and has recently completed working on her new book “Symbiotic Autoethnography” with Bloomsbury that is due to be out in July 2022.

She tweets as @LianaBeattie and @SymbioticAutoe1

Becnel, Barbar PhD candidate, social justice activist, and author Barbara Becnel has more than 20 years of experience working for prison reform in the state of California, while writing nine award-winning non-fiction books on street gang culture, as well as over one-hundred journal, magazine, and newspaper articles.

From leading an international media campaign aimed at preventing the judicial execution of reformed Crips gang co-founder and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Stanley Williams, to organising an ‘Occupy San Quentin’ rally attended by hundreds in front of the state prison that houses California’s death chamber, she has often shown inspiring leadership and tenacity. Recently, she was appointed to an Expert Steering Group for tackling racial harassment in Scottish education. She also participated in a Steering Group focusing on the development of anti-racist curriculum for Scotland’s universities and colleges.

Building on her MSc in Social Justice and Community Action (With Distinction) earned from the University of Edinburgh, Barbara returned there to pursue a PhD. Her thesis explores how death row became a symbol of heroism for America’s street-gang generation. Integral to this is her collaboration with three former-though-imprisoned South Central Los Angeles gang members who are co-researchers on the project.



Das, Shuktara

I am an educator and higher education administrator. I am new to autoethnography and interested in studying and unpacking the features and outcomes of communication in culturally diverse contexts. For years my inclination towards this form of inquiry lay packed away in a mental closet, like one of those boxes that never fully close, contents half spilling out from the yawn. The pandemic put more time in my hands, which turned into a series of reflective moments, and a desire to start writing arose. This presentation is a product of those moments and would be my third one in a conference.



Daniel, Joseph

Joseph Daniel is a current Ph.D. student in the College of Communication & Information Sciences at the University of Alabama. His research focuses on the lived and storied experiences of Queer people in the rural Southern United States. He teaches classes ranging from public speaking, interpersonal communication, and nonverbal communication and hopes to one day focus his pedagogy at the intersection of gender, sex, race, sexuality, and social class. Specifically, he's interested in the impact our spatial environment and surroundings have on identity formation and constructions. His dissertation plans to focus on how Queer space is produced and claimed in the Bible Belt, as well as how community is negotiated in sexual minority social networks. He became interested in autoethnography after coming out himself through reading Tony Adams' *Narrating the Closet: An Autoethnography of Same-Sex Attraction*. His presentation focuses on a collective experience of vignettes which caused an epiphanous transformation of his sexual identity. As a communication studies scholar and someone new to autoethnography, he hopes to create new trajectories to fight against visible, invisible, and interlinking systems of oppression on a regional and national level to create additional space for Queer theorizing.



Del Negro, Gaia

Gaia Del Negro, PhD, is a researcher in Adult Education and teacher of Italian as a second and foreign language. She works as evaluator of social projects and trainer in community welfare and gender equality with a participatory practice-based approach. She collaborated with the University of Milano Bicocca and is involved in the Life History and Biography Network of ESREA, European Society for Research on the Education of Adults, and in the international group of feminist scholars and activists Gender Justice, Creative Pedagogies and Art-based Research coordinated by the University of Victoria, Canada. She is involved in the Experiential Translation Network: Meaning Making Across Languages and the Arts.

Kitrina Douglas



I've been told I have a "portfolio" career... which possibly means I follow no particular career path. I dropped out of School when I was 17, played golf (rather well it seems), had forays with BBC and Eurosport, learning to present and commentate, and then came back to education. One of our lovely participants said "Life teaches you a lot" and that has been my experience. I find doing research and listening to people's stories humbling and inspiring. I find making cakes and running events, important to sustaining and building relationships and community. In research, I've learned I can never do enough, never represent well enough, but I can do something and I can learn and develop my skills at any age. I might not be able to change the world, but it is possible to make a difference, to my community and those around me. In my research I use film making, poetic representations, songwriting and performance methodologies.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckWCTy8bNOY6JlvX_vg-Uig/videos



Donaldson, Ali

I spent my early adult life in Bath, London, Berlin and Brighton, working in policy research, sociology, archaeology, translation, consumer journalism, editing and coaching. After that, I felt compelled to become my own boss, which ultimately allowed me to earn my living and do a doctorate simultaneously. Straight after completing my thesis (title: 'The part played by writing in the organisational conversation'), a door opened into a long collaboration with UK charity Macmillan Cancer Support. As a 'narrative writing expert' (their term), I recorded stories told by healthcare professionals and people affected by cancer, in order to make the activities of these groups more visible to senior management and policy makers. The collaboration gave birth to a book: *Communities of Influence: improving healthcare through conversations and connections* (Donaldson, Lank & Maher, 2011). After that, I longed to return to 1st-person writing, and my focus of late has been on the literary essay form.

Living today as an independent author in rural France, my writing faces stiff competition from gardening, visitors and roaming the Continent. Apart from that, as someone with difficulties hearing, I love creating peaceful spaces – outdoors and indoors – for conversation and contemplation. alidonaldson@gmail.com – www.alidonaldson.uk



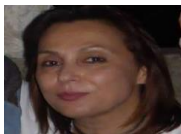
Luraschi, Silvia

Silvia Luraschi, PhD, is a pedagogist, Feldenkrais method practitioner, counsellor, and researcher in Adult Education. She works as a social worker in Milan, and she is collaborating with Milano Bicocca University. Her research interests include embodied narratives, aesthetic practices, and walking methodologies. She is involved in the Life History and Biography Network of ESREA, European Society for Research on the Education of Adults, and in the international group of feminist scholars and activists Gender Justice, Creative Pedagogies and Art-based Research coordinated by the University of Victoria, Canada. She is involved in Experiential Translation Network: Meaning Making Across Languages and the Arts.



Manjunath, Nandini

Nandini is a Registered Dance Movement Psychotherapist and a Trauma therapist and is pursuing her Professional Doctorate in Psychotherapy and Counselling from the University of Edinburgh. With an educational background in psychology and choreography from her undergraduate years, Nandini is passionate about bringing the creative into the academic and brings all of her dancer, psychotherapist, social activist and researcher selves into the different spaces she resides and works in. She has previously worked in the capacity of a sessional and visiting lecturer at the University of Derby and as a visiting Lecturer and postgraduate tutor at the University of Edinburgh, teaching and presenting at a postgraduate level. Aligning with her strong allegiance towards the Feminist, Anti-colonial, Post-qualitative research interests, her doctoral research project is *becoming* an Embodied, Collective Biographic rendition of Bodies materialised in power and patriarchy, rooted in the context of Indian women’s experiences of their bodies. In this presentation, she hopes to speak into the idea of "roaming" and the privileges (of the lack of) inherent in it as seen through an Autoethnographic exploration of brownness coming into relationship with the discourses around the Ukraine-Russia war.



Martinelli, Sharon

Sharon Martinelli is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Sciences, at the University of Malta. She is pursuing her doctoral studies with the Department of Counselling, Faculty of Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta. Sharon is a Senior Registered Nurse (BSc Hons. Nursing) and a warranted Counsellor (MA Couns). She has supported individuals and their families in their most vulnerable times of their lives in Community and Primary Care settings. Her current research focuses on Women living with Chronic autoimmune invisible illnesses in Malta. Through her research she attempts “to communicate a soul ... to go down boldly and bring to light those hidden thoughts which are the most diseased; to conceal nothing; to pretend nothing” (Virginia Woolf 1953, p. 66).

Meadows, Jacob

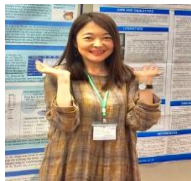
Jacob Meadows is a poet, researcher, and author of the collection of poetry, *SHADES*. A trained dancer and educator, Jacob has spent the last four years honing the craft of writing poetry and prose, finding his voice, and advocating for the LGBTQ+ community. He has both an MA in Creative Writing and an MA in English from Southern New Hampshire University where he studied postcolonial, feminist, and queer theories as well as autoethnography. Jacob spends his free time reading and dancing, his first two loves.



Midtgård, Inger helen

Inger Helen Midtgård is community worker and an Assistant Professor, at Section of Community Work, Department of Welfare and Participation, in Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. She has work experience from the municipal sector within social services and services for people with disabilities, and broad experience from local community development. She teaches community work, participatory democratic methods, and project-work. Her research is on health promotion, co-creation, participation, mobilization, community development and Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).

She is involved in the Life History and Biography Network of ESREA, European Society for Research on the Education of Adults and in the Norwegian national ABCD network for researchers and practitioner.



Motooka, Mihoko

Mihoko Motooka is an associate professor at Hiroshima Cosmopolitan University. She is researching musical interactions with children based on her own experiences as a child care worker. She also has research interests in the written records of child care workers and the career development of child care workers.



Puntil, Donata

Donata Puntil is a Senior Lecturer in Language and Intercultural Education and Programme Director at the Modern language Centre, King's College London, where she is responsible for staff development and intercultural training. Donata has an extensive teaching and research experience in Second Language Acquisition, Intercultural Studies and Applied Linguistics, with a particular focus on using cinema and literature in language teaching. She has also an extensive experience as an educational trainer in the context of Higher Education; she recently delivered training sessions in Italy, France, Australia, India & Egypt. She is currently completing a Doctorate in Education on language teachers' professional identity employing a posthuman and new-materialist theoretical framework. Donata's main research interests are in the field of professional development and professional identity formation with a particular focus on auto-ethnography, identity and life narratives in the context of Higher Education. Donata is also an accredited Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, member of the BPC (British Psychoanalytic Association)



Rae, Inés

Inés Rae studied Fine Art at Brighton Polytechnic and The Art Institute of Chicago and gained an MA in the Social History of Art at Leeds University.

Publications include *Kurl up n Dye*, a monograph published by Wild Pansy Press with an introduction by Simon Grennan, *A Real Work of Art* with a catalogue introduction by Dave Beech, a chapter 'Remembering the City - Memory Images' in *Captured by the City: Perspectives in Urban Culture Studies* edited by Blagovesta Momchedjikova.

Solo and collaborative works have been exhibited at ICA, London, ImagoLucis, Porto Portugal, *Project 10 00 22* Stockholm, Cornerhouse, Manchester; Aronson Gallery, New York; Brighton PhotoBiennial.

Current work in progress is the Arts Council funded project *Portrait of a Woman*. At my mother's death I inherited photographs and letters which pointed to an interesting family history and discovered that my grandfather, Leopoldo Savignac, had been a photographer in the Basque area of Spain. At the work's centre are the memories of life in Spain in the 1930s embedded in particular stories passed down to me by my mother. Inés is currently Lecturer in Creative Media (Photography) at Plymouth University.



Rebollo Gil, Guillermo

Guillermo Rebollo Gil (San Juan, 1979) is a writer, sociology professor, translator, and attorney. Recent, and forthcoming, publications include poetry in *Pacifica Literary Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Second Factory*, *HAD* and *Trampset*; prose in *Sleet* and *Jellyfish Review*; scholarly articles in *Journal of Autoethnography* and *Liminalities*. Book-length translations include *I'll Trade you this Island* (2018) by Cindy Jiménez-Vera and *Recetas Naturales para el Mundo Fenomenal* (2017) by Sommer Browning. His book-length essay *Writing Puerto Rico: Our Decolonial Moment* (2018) was published by Palgrave Macmillan in their New Caribbean Studies Series. He belongs to/with Lucas Imar and Ariadna Michelle. Happily so.



Ross, Catherine

Catherine Ross is an artist working in multiple media. Auto-ethnography, educational pedagogy, psychogeography, and phenomenology inspires her practice. In 1992 Catherine was awarded a B.A. (Hons) in Fine Art with specialisms in sculpture and video, from De Montfort University. A teaching-based art residency led to gaining, with distinction in 1994, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Art and Design). Catherine is an experienced lecturer, facilitating learning at Further and Higher Education institutions. As an artist researcher with a M.A. in Education from Oxford Brookes University (distinction, 2018), she is exploring in her MPhil/PhD by Fine Art Practice the assertion that the boundary between art and the liminal has an immense potential to alter perception. Through digital photography, social media, sound, and walking Catherine is investigating transformative threshold states/places, marginalisation, and ambiguity.



Shah, Raashi

Raashi Shah is a 3rd year medical student at Imperial College School of Medicine in London (UK). Her primary research interests are in Medical Education, specifically in cultural competency training within the medical curriculum. Raashi is also interested in autoethnography as a research method to unveil personal stories and diverse truths about lived experiences.



Smith, Mark

Mark Smith is Professor of Social Work at the University of Dundee. Before moving into academia, he worked as a practitioner and manager in residential schools for almost 20 years. Recognising that this personal experience of practice is rarely reflected in conventional writing on social work, Mark has recently taken a few steps towards autoethnographic approaches to research and writing. The paper he will present at this conference is based on a new book based on the life-histories of boys/men he looked after in a residential school in the 1980s.