International conference
Experimental Life-Writing
22-23 April 2022
University of Wrocław, Poland

Organised by Wojciech Drąg (University of Wrocław) and Vanessa Guignery (Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon)

For more information, visit our website: http://vanessaguignery.fr/

All the guest lectures, sessions no. 2, 4 and 5 and all the sessions (on-site and online) on Saturday will be available on Zoom. To receive the zoom link, please fill in this form: https://forms.gle/CK4zYrpy8vLWnXUDA

PROGRAMME

22 April (Friday)

8.30-9.15  Registration (Institute of English Studies – IES, hall, ground floor)

9.25-10.25  Plenary lecture 1 (AL)* [Chair: Vanessa Guignery]
Irene Kacandes (Dartmouth College, USA), "Paramemoir Revisited"

10.30-11.00  Coffee break (IES – room 212)

11.00-12.30  Parallel sessions 1 & 2
Parallel session 1 (IES – room 207) [Chair: Vanessa Guignery]
Maria Antonietta Struzziero (Independent Scholar, Italy): "Writing the Self Between Hunting Ghosts and Hurting Bodies in Hilary Mantel's Giving up the Ghost and Maggie O'Farrell's I Am, I Am, I Am"
Kateřina Valentová (University of Lleida, Spain): “Metaphor & Embodiment in Graphic Illness Narratives: Catalogue Baby (2021) by Myriam Steinberg and Hairless (2020) by Tereza Drahoňovská”

Paweł Wojtas (University of Warsaw, Poland): “Disability Life-Writing and Autotextuality in J.M. Coetzee’s Jesus Trilogy”

Parallel session 2 (IES – room 208)* [Chair: Dominika Ferens]

Hannah Van Hove (writer and researcher, Brussels, Belgium): “An Incidental Inventory of Breakdowns: on Experimental Women’s Writing, Archives and Labour”

Tomasz Basiuk (University of Warsaw, Poland): “Plunder. Menachem Kaiser’s Quest for Family Heirloom”

Dagmara Drewniak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland): “Expressing the Self Through Silence – Connie T. Braun’s Silentium and Other Reflections on Memory, Sorrow, Place and the Sacred”

12.30-13.30 Lunch (IES – room 212)

13.30-15.00 Parallel sessions 3 & 4

Parallel session 3 (IES – room 207) [Chair: Lech Zdunkiewicz]

Dominika Ferens (University of Wrocław, Poland): “Incorporated Cities: Formal and Social Fragmentation in D. J. Waldie’s Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir”

Martina Horakova (Masaryk University, Czech Republic): “Between Life Writing and Nature Writing: Australian Landscape and Eco-Memoir”

Martha Swift (University of Oxford, United Kingdom): “‘Hold your story lightly’: Reading the Relations Between Reader, Writer, and Character in Ruth Ozeki’s Autofictions”

Parallel session 4 (IES – room 208)* [Chair: Jarosław Hetman]

Grzegorz Maziarczyk (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland): “In Things We Trust: Auction Catalogue as Life Writing”

Zuzana Fonioková (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic): “The Present and the Past Self in Innovative Life Writing: Second-Person Narration in Mary Karr’s Cherry”

Wojciech Drąg (University of Wrocław, Poland): “The Self, the Database and Digital Biography: David Clark’s 88 Constellations for Wittgenstein”

15.15-16.15 Plenary lecture 2 (IES – room 208)* [Chair: Wojciech Drąg]

David Clark (NSCAD University in Halifax, Canada), “Biography from the Outside: 88 Constellations for Wittgenstein and The End (Death in Seven Colors)”

16.15-16.45 Coffee break (IES – room 212)

16.45-18.15 Session 5 (IES – room 208)* [Chair: Paweł Wojtas]

Helen Bain (King’s College London, United Kingdom): “Sylvia Plath and the Missing Foie Gras: How Subject, Author and Reader Collide to Create ‘Realness’ in Biofiction”

Elżbieta Klimek-Dominiak (University of Wrocław, Poland): “Queering Auto/biographical Comics: Experimental Representations of Sexual Trauma in Maria Stoian’s Take It as a Compliment”

Kim Schoof (Open University in the Netherlands): “The Renegotiation of Narrative Optimism: Throwing New Light on the Literary Experimentation in Ta-Nehisi Coates’s Between the World and Me with Berlant and Moten”

19.00-21.00 Dinner (main university building, ground floor, Klub Uniwersytecki – KU)
23 April (Saturday)

10.00-11.00   Plenary lecture 3 (Institute of Romance Studies – IRS, room 3.2)* [Chair: Wojciech Drag]

**Teresa Bruś** (University of Wrocław, Poland), "Cells of Energy: The Book, the Camera, and the Concept of Dust in Experimental Life Writing by Patti Smith”

11.15-13.15   Session 6 (IRS, room 3.2)* [Chair: Vanessa Guignery]

**Héloïse Lecomte** (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France): "The Stamp of Loss: Impressions of Grief in Karen Green’s *Bough Down* (2013)"

**Cédric Courtois** (University of Lille, France): "..and cud icye weve tymd ym.\_: Staging Chaotic Coming of Age in Yrsa Daley-Ward’s *The Terrible: A Storyteller’s Memoir*"

**Jarosław Hetman** (Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, Poland): "Life as a Form of Art in Paul Auster’s Works”

**Joseph Darlington** (Futureworks Media School, Manchester, United Kingdom): “From the Ashes: Life Writing in the Aftermath of House Fires in Daniela Cascella’s *Singed* (2017) and Steve Hanson and Richard Barrett’s *The Acts* (2018)"

13.15-14.15   Lunch (IRS, room 3.1)

14.15-16.15   Online session 1 (IRS, room 3.2)* [Chair: Wojciech Drag]

**Laura De La Parra Fernández** (University of Salamanca, Spain): "The Lyric Essay as Life Writing: Negotiating Neoliberal Femininity"

**Urszula Gołębiowska** (University of Zielona Góra, Poland): “Episodic, Emotional, Associative – a Life Narrative in Mavis Gallant’s *Linnet Muir Cycle*”

**Lola Serraf** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Spain/France): "On the Use of Social Media in Holocaust Life-Writing: ‘emotional pedagogy’ in Eva.Stories (2019)"

**Ángela Rivera-Izquierdo** (University of Granada, Spain): “Experimental Life-Writing in Caleb Klaces’s *Fatherhood: Towards a Patricentric Écriture Masculine*”

**Krystian Piotrowski** (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland), “The Many Lives of Anna Kavan: An Exercise in ‘Affectography’”

16.15-16.45   Coffee break (IRS, room 3.1)

16.45-18.30   Online session 2 (IRS, room 3.2)* [Chair: Vanessa Guignery]

**Maïté Snauwaert** (University of Alberta, Canada): “Mourning Memoirs as Experimental Life-Writing: Joan Wickersham’s *The Suicide Index* and Anne Carson's *Nox*”

**Hiba Moussa** (Lebanese University, Lebanon): "The Auto/biographical Tact in Constructing the Dead Mother's Voice”

**Honorata Sroka** (University of Warsaw, Poland): “Experimental Biography of Franciszka and Stefan Themerson”

**Eva C. Karpinski** (York University, United Kingdom) and **Elżbieta Klimek-Dominiak** (University of Wrocław, Poland): “Malleable Embodiment: Experimental Body-Writing in Alison Bechdel’s *The Secret to Superhuman Strength* and Wanda Hagedorn’s *Twarz, Brzuch, Głowa [Face, Belly, Head]*”

18.30-18.45   Closing remarks (IRS, room 3.2)

19:00+   An informal pub outing
24 April (Sunday)

10.00-12.30  A guided tour of Wrocław (meeting at IES)

Venues
IES – Institute of English Studies (Kuznicza 21-22)
AL – Aula Leopoldina (Plac Uniwersytecki 1)
IRS – Institute of Romance Studies (Plac Nankiera 4)
All the conference venues are within 300 metres from one another.