



# **"Narrating Lives" International Conference on Storytelling, (Auto)Biography and (Auto)Ethnography**

**University of Cyprus / Online  
29-31 May 2026**

organised by

**London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research**

in collaboration with

**Onisilos MSCA CO-FUND Project**

**University of Cyprus, Cyprus Oral History Association  
and Chair of Cypriot Studies, Aristotle University  
of Thessaloniki**

## **Programme**

**Friday, 29 May**

**In-person Sessions:**

**9:00-9:45 Keynote Speaker: Dr Christakis Peristianis, University of Cyprus**  
Between Furrows and Barbed Wire: Agricultural Practices and the Negotiation of Space  
inside the Cyprus Buffer Zone

**10:00-10:50 Session 1A:**

Chair: Iliana Koulafeti

**Andrea Emmanouel, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)**  
Life Histories, Silence, and Storytelling: Exploring Intergenerational Trauma after the  
Turkish Invasion of Cyprus

**Vasilis Petrou, Hellenic Army Academy (Greece)**  
“Steel and Fire”: An M47 Tank Crew Describes a Tank Battle

**10:00-10:50 Session 1B:**

Chair: Joanna Eleftheriou

**Ülkü Güney, University of Graz, Institute for Educational Sciences (Austria)**  
Decolonizing Migration and Education through Autoethnography

**Olena Lytovka, University of Bedfordshire / London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (UK)**

**Stephen Ansah Addo, University of Greenwich / London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (UK)**

Experiential Blogging and the Re-Narration of Africa: IShowSpeed’s Africa Tour as Digital Auto-Ethnography

10:50-11:10 Tea/Coffee

**11:10-12:25 Session 1A:**

Chair: Christakis Peristianis

**Iliana Koulafeti, Cyprus Oral History Association (Cyprus)**

Beyond Words: Rethinking Oral History Practice Through the Absence of Sensory Engagement – Reflections on “Stories from the Drawer of Your Kitchen” Project

**Voon Chin Phua, Gettysburg College (USA)**

Two Steps Forward One Step Back: Using a Non-Linear Life Stage Approach in Oral Life History

**Nicoletta Christodoulou, Frederick University (Cyprus)**

Wounded Land, Wounded Bodies: Life Histories from the Amiantos Mine in Cyprus

**11:10-12:40 Session 1B:**

Chair: Monika Browarczyk

**Sanjukta Das Gupta, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)**

Representing Alienation and Belonging: Life Narratives of Adivasis in India

**Piotr Borek, Jagiellonian University in Kraków (Poland)**

The Adivasi Construction of Identity in Hindi Prose: Ashwini Kumar Pankaj’s Attempt to Reclaim History Through a Fictional Story

**Maria Puri, Independent Scholar (India)**

Do Girls Need Freedom? The 'Good Girl' Versus 'Bad Girl' Syndrome in Women's Life Writings from India

**Monika Browarczyk, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland)**

Storytelling as Attempt at Healing: Emotional and Sexual Violence in Juvī Sharma's *Abolī kī dāyri* ('Diary of a Silent Girl')

12:30-13:30 Lunch

**13:30-15:00 Session 3A:**

Chair: Derek Morris

**Irakli Khvedelidze, Shota Rustaveli Institute of Georgian Literature under Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia)**

Computational Analysis of the Evolution of Georgian Autobiographical Narratives

**Stefán B. Gunnlaugsson, University of Akureyri (Iceland)**

At the Edge of Livability: Climate, Fisheries, and Icelandic Historical Experience

**Lorraine Portelli, University of Malta (Malta)**

Narratives of Change: A Life-History Approach to Home Economics Curriculum in Malta

**Giedre Plepyte-Davidaviciene, Institute of Sociology at the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (Lithuania)**

Lives, Memories, and the Making of Sociology: A Narrative History of the Discipline in Lithuania

**13:30-15:00 Session 3B:**

Chair: Nicoletta Christodoulou

**Immanuel Mifsud, University of Malta (Malta)**

Writing My Father, My Son and (Maybe) Myself: The Story of a Memoir

**Massimo Salgaro, University of Verona (Italy)**

Memories of Ugliness: Autobiography, Family, and Power in Moshtari Hilal's Work

**Sam Meekings, Northwestern University in Qatar (Qatar)**

Narrating Lost Lives: Navigating Grief Through Creative Writing

**Tabby Carless-Frost, Brunel University London (UK)**

Marks of Violence, or Identification: Suicide, Inscription, and Post-Vitam Poetics

15:00-15:20 Tea/Coffee

**15:20-16:10 Session 4:**

Chair: Anke Piekut

**Derek Morris, University of Edinburgh (UK)**

Doing Research with Documents: Accountable Storytelling and the Diamond Method

**Jerzy Rohoziński, The Pilecki Institute, Warsaw (Poland)**

Pioneer Ethos Among Deportees in Kazakhstan

**Zoom Sessions:**

**10:00-11:30 Session 1C:**

Chair: Natalia Wilk-Sobczak

**Nataliya Poshyvaylo-Towler, Independent Scholar (Australia)**

Between Archive and Oral History: Anton Omelchenko, Scott's British Antarctic Expedition (1910–1913), and Family Memory

**Giuseppe Vitale, Parthenope University of Naples (Italy)**

Narrating the Italian Scottish Diaspora: A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Analysis of Oral Life Histories

**Abiḳ́ dún Abdul, University of Nottingham (UK)**

From Africa to Europe to Asia in One Childhood: Unravelling Complex Narratives through Hybrid Life Writing & Autoethnography

**Martina Jonsson, Malmö University (Sweden)**

Inconvenient Parents: Social Mobility and Relationality in Two Works of Swedish Life Writing

**11:40-12:30 Session 2C:**

Chair: Shashibhusan Nayak

**Anastasia Fylaktakidou, University of Ioannina (Greece)**

Narrating School Lives: Oral History, Memory, and Collective Identities at the Boys' Secondary Boarding School of Pogoniani in Post-war Epirus

**Esra Kizildere, University of Crete (Greece)**

Resilience Through Stories: Counter-Storytelling and the Lived Experiences of Teachers in Turkey

**12:45-14:00 Session 3C:**

Chair: Angeliki Ypsilanti

**Katerina Makri, Roula Kitsiou, University of Thessaly (Greece)**

Digital Stories of Refugee Youth: Issues of Representation and Agency

**Despoina Ananiadou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**  
Narrating Lives through Digital Storytelling: Disability, Voice and Inclusive Narratives

**Natalia Wilk-Sobczak, Warsaw University (Poland)**  
Narrating Silent Lives: Fernand Deligny, Neurodivergence, and Beyond-linguistic Forms of Life Writing

**14:15-15:30 Session 4C:**

Chair: Titian Butash

**Angeliki Ypsilanti, Ioannis Karras, Ionian University (Greece)**  
Animated Lives: Pixar's Shorts as Acts of (Auto)biographical Storytelling

**Marina Zigneli, Betty Kaklamanidou, Evdokia Stefanopoulou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**  
Autobiography and Gender in Maria Plyta's Cinema

**Magdalena Jaroszewska, XIV Highschool of Poznań (Poland)**  
The Status and Acting of Photographic Self-Portraits of Roman Opalka in "1965 / 1 – ∞" Project

**15:40-16:30 Session 5C:**

Chair: Magdalena Jaroszewska

**Julie Codell, Arizona State University (USA)**  
Art Dealers' Palimpsestic Intertemporalities: Naming and Cultural Memories

**Titian Butash, Independent Scholar (USA)**  
But, Rocks *Are* Haiku: The Dynamics of Identity and Tradition in the Sculptural Works of His Irish American Mother's Son of Japan, the American Midcentury Designer and Landscape Architect, Isamu Noguchi

**16:45-18:00 Session 6C:**

Chair: Doaa Omran

**Doaa Omran, University of New Mexico (USA)**  
Everyday Catastrophe and Feminist Life Writing in Suad Amiry's *Sharon and My Mother-in-Law*

**Marmar Zakher, University of California, Davis (USA)**  
Records of Female Transmitters and Musicians within the Abbasid-era *Book of Songs*

**Feroza Jussawalla, University of New Mexico (USA)**  
Creative Life Writing and Memoir in the Works of Mohja Kaf and Naomi Shihab Nye

**Saturday, 30 May**  
**Zoom Sessions**

**9:00-10:30 Session 7:**

Chair: Esra Kizildere

**Kornelia Kordiak, University of Wrocław (Poland)**

Constructing the Meanings of Childhood in Adult Narratives: an (Auto)biographical and (Auto)ethnographic Perspective

**Naomi Lee McCarthy, Western Sydney University (Australia)**

Writing the Self Across Two Contested Spaces: Examining What Matters, Matter During Intentionally Pedagogic Intra-Actions in Art Galleries and Primary School Classrooms

**Matthew Tyne, The University of Sydney (Australia)**

Affective Encounters: A Critical Autoethnographic Examination of Emotions in Cultural Competence and Anti-Racism Teaching

**Julie Zheng, University of Sydney (Australia)**

Unarchived Intimacies: An Autoethnography of Handwritten Boys' Love Practices and Mediated Intimacy in Chinese Schools (2011–2014)

**10:45-12:15 Session 8:**

Chair: Matthew Tyne

**Maria Vlachaki, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)**

History Education, Oral History and Public Archaeology. Developing Historical Competences in an Ethnographic Archaeology Research

**Ayelet Klein Cohen, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)**

Narrating Exile in Real Time: Hebrew-Language Press and the Cyprus Camps, 1946–1949

**Maria Vlachaki, Antonia Anyfanti, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Hellenic Open University (Greece)**

Oral History in Approaching Controversial and Traumatic Historical Issues. Students in Greece and Cyprus Approach the Period of the Dictatorship (1967-1974)

**Alexia Rutkowski, University of Melbourne (Australia)**

Writing Elsie Elliott-Tu into Hong Kong's 1966 Star Ferry Riots

**12:30-14:00 Session 9:**

Chair: Annabel Kay Ruiz

**Dorothy Tan, University of Derby & Association of Dance & Movement Psychotherapists (UK)**

焦虑之游 : Moving through Anxiety – An Autoethnographic Exploration

**Paraskevi Bokovou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

Motherhood in Flux: From the Domestic Archive to the Immersive Body. A Practice-as-Research Inquiry into the Performing Pregnant Self

**Ayo Deforge, Independent Writer / Novelist (France)**

Narrating Health and Silence: Storytelling, Stigma, and Reproductive Realities in African Contexts

**Akshaya S, Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad (India)**

Shades I Carry, Pieces That Broke Her: A Daughter's Autoethnography of Illness, Duty, and the Village *Melpanaiyur*

**14:15-15:30 Session 10A:**

Chair: Paraskevi Bokovou

**Gisela Rovira Gay, Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya (Spain)**

The Invisible Wounds: Maggie O'Farrell on Miscarriage and Abortion

**Magdalena Stefańska, Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)**

Mourning as Autobiographical Practice: Contemporary Polish Life Writing after Loss

**Sannii Crespina-Flores, Independent Researcher (USA)**

What the Body Remembers, What the Record Keeps

**14:15-15:30 Session 10B:**

Chair: Dorothy Tan

**Idan Shachar-Elbaz, Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Israel)**

The Afterlife of Medical Authority: An Autoethnographic Presentation on Power, Interpretation, and Time

**Becky Higgins, Craig Higgins, University of Sheffield (UK)**

In Fragments, Split in Two: Using Creative, Collaborative Autoethnography with My Father to Re-Contextualise His Experience of Coma Unconsciousness

**Lorena Surducan, University of Kansas (USA)**

Processing My Husband's Stroke Through Visual Art and Music: An Autoethnography

**15:45-17:15 Session 11A:**

Chair: Christakis Peristianis

**David Jefferess, UBC Okanagan (Canada)**

The Humanitarian Memoir-Festo: Humanitarian Life and the Authority to Explain the Suffering of Others

**Carol Acton, St Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo (Canada)**

'Gosh You Don't Know How Much I Long to See You All Again': Negotiating Transatlantic Separation and Connection in Second World War Evacuee Letter Exchanges

**Svitlana Telukha, National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" (Ukraine) / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (Germany)**

Documenting and Publicly Presenting Narratives of the Full-Scale War in Ukraine

**Lyuboslava Kostova, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)**

"Our Nakba Is No Secret Anymore": Syncreticities of Healing

**15:45-17:15 Session 11B:**

Chair: Akshaya S

**Tzortzina Likskentai, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

Duke Jetuar Mes Vijave: An Autoethnography of the Educational Trajectory of a Student from Albania in Greece (Duke Jetuar Mes Vijave = Living Between the Lines)

**Lakshmi Padmakumar, Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad (India)**

I and a Woman Before Me: Intergenerational Journeys of Education

**Olivia P. Modesto, Texas A&M University - Kingsville (USA)**

My Autoethnography as a Filipina Teacher in the United States: Making Myself Visible in the Filipino Diaspora

**Shashibhusan Nayak, GP Nayagarh (India)**

Lives in Transit: Life Writing Between Journalistic Reportage and Literary Form

**17:30-18:45 Session 12A:**

Chair: Esther O. Ohito

**Anna Angelou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

Tracing Ancestral Trauma: Filiation, Memory and Post-Holocaust Identity in *The Bracelet of Fire* by Beatrice Saias-Magrizou

**Syama Mohan, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (India)**

From Lived Experience to Documentation: Social and Cultural Recall in *Enmakaje*

**Charles Reeve, OCAD University (Canada)**

Winfred Rembert's Chaos

**17:30-18:45 Session 12B:**

Chair: Lakshmi Padmakumar

**Maham Kamal Ahsan, Tamanna Maqsood, Anita Sinner, University of British Columbia (Canada)**

Storying Belonging: Migration, Learning, and Epistemic Becoming in Academic Life

**Lina Zhou, University of Basel (Switzerland)**

Between Memoir and Essay: Autosociobiography as a Framework for Narrations of Upward Mobility among Anglophone Academics

**Leon Crascall, University of Suffolk (UK)**

The Academic Decade: Enjoying the Ride Feeling the Pain

**19:00-20:15 Session 13A:**

Chair: Syama Mohan

**Tilia Lenz, Bournemouth University (UK)**

Storying Beyond the Edge of Knowledge: Autoethnographic and Ethnographic Storywork as an Emerging Qualitative Research Method

**Alexandra Pitt, SOAS (UK), Agi Ryder, Middlesex University (UK)**

Trust, Transformation and Narrative: Reflections on Conducting Duoethnographic Research

**Esther O. Ohito, Rutgers University – New Brunswick (USA), Lin Wu, Western Oregon University (USA)**

Narrating Lives Through Relational Storywork: Folktales, Flesh Memory, and Decolonial Duoethnography

**19:00-19:50 Session 13B:**

Chair: TBC

**Dimitris Charalampidis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

The Autobiography of the Hieromartyr Metropolitan of Smyrna Chrysostomos Kalafatis: Contribution to the Educational Methods of the Theological School of Chalki at the End of the 19th Century

**Haralambos Alexandrou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

Crisis Oral History: Building the Identity of Hero, Agent or Victim

**Sunday, 31 May**  
**Zoom Sessions:**

**9:00-10:30 Session 14:**

Chair: Maria Vlachaki

**Martin Høybye, Anke Piekut, University of Southern Denmark (Denmark)**

Master and Counter Narratives: Hacking the Status Quo

**Helen CD McCarthy, Curtin University (Australia)**

Crossing Borders of Whiteness through Evocative Autoethnography: A Third Space for Understanding Others Through Self

**Hiba Bindh Kareem, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (India)**

Rewriting the Record: Interpreting Malcolm X's Life Narratives as Counter-History

**Fatma Tabassum, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar (India)**

Colonial Gaze and Racial Passing: A Fanonian Reading of Hollywood's First South Asian Star

**10:45-12:15 Session 15:**

Chair: TBC

**Anastasiia Gorbunova, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) / Ural Federal University (Russia)**

Features of Historical Autobiographism in the Narrative of A. I. Herzen's Creative Writing of the 1850s

**Ana María Martín Vico, Centre for Byzantine, Modern Greek And Cypriot Studies (Spain)**

Reverse Translation (Greek-Spanish) of Costas Montis' Poetry. A Teaching Approach

**Alexandra Pitt, School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS (UK)**

Immersion Writing, Spiritualism and Life Writing

**Marina Poša, Queensland Conservatorium of Music Griffith University (Australia)**

From Inherited Voice to Inner Voice: A Performative Autoethnography through *Smiljana* and *Lonely Star*

**12:30-13:45 Session 16:**

Chair: Nashwa Elshamy

**Najlaa Aldeeb, Effat University (Saudi Arabia)**

Between Memory and Self-Narration: (Auto)Biographical Identity in Eman Quotah's *Bride of the Sea*

**Sara AbdElSabour Rady Khalil, Zagazig University (Egypt)**

The Bricolage of Being: Narrative Identity and the Dynamic Self in Mai Serhan's *I Can Imagine It for Us*

**Nashwa Elshamy, Al-Azhar University (Egypt)**

Women's Autobiography as Cultural-Intellectual Archive: Bint al-Shati and Doria Shafiq between Ethical Scholarship and Civic Activism in Mid-Twentieth Century Egypt

**14:00-15:15 Session 17:**

Chair: Immanuel Mifsud

**Shani Samai-Moskovich, Tel-Hai Academic College (Israel)**

Becoming and Subjectification in Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*

**Hasibe Ambarcıođlu, Firat University (Türkiye)**

*Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* (2011) by Jeanette Winterson as an Example of Autobiography Writing

**Karen Ferreira-Meyers, Philippe Rousseau, Institute of Distance Education, University of Eswatini (Eswatini)**

Understanding the Self in Intimate Autofictional Writing and Performance by and with Philippe Rousseau

**15:30-16:45 Session 18:**

Chair: Tabby Carless-Frost

**Valerie Ng, University of Toronto (Canada)**

Where Does A Body End? Musings on Entrapment of the Female Body in Contemporary Medias

**Ioanna Giannakopoulou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

The Performance of Love: Gender and the Transformation of Desire in a Life Narrative with Lived Experience of Substance Use and Recovery

**Ricardo De Mambro Santos, Willamette University (USA)**

Storing Out. Queer Narratives and the Portrayal of Neapolitan *Femminielli* in Early Modern and Contemporary Biographies

**17:00-18:15 Session 19:**

Chair: Annabel Kay Ruiz

**Joanna Eleftheriou, Christopher Newport University (USA)**

Coming Out Narratives and the Morality of the Closet

**Theodora Patrona, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)**

"Spare (Her) the Ring": Greek-American Women's Identity Through Autoethnography

**Anastasia Panagakos, Cosumnes River College (USA)**

Family Matters: Narrating Gender Identity and Legacy Through Autoethnography

**18:30-19:45 Session 20:**

Chair: Sara AbdElSabour Rady Khalil

**Anna Linzie, Karlstad University (Sweden)**

An Uncertain Measure of the Woman within: The Unsettling Effects of Autobiographical Double-voicing in Ellen Glasgow's *The Woman Within* and *A Certain Measure*

**Carina Saiidi Padilla, UC Irvine (USA)**

Healing La Vida Loca: Addiction, Transformation, and Activism in the Memoirs of Luis J. Rodríguez

**Entidhar Al-Rashid, Mississippi University for Women (USA)**

Trauma of War: The Representation of Oppression, Violence and Racial Religion in Murad's *The Last Girl*