

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

Laboratoire CECILLE  
ULR 4074

# Writing the Self / Writing the English-Speaking Worlds:

Life Writing  
and Politics  
(20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries)



**OCTOBER 12-13, 2023**

UNIVERSITY OF LILLE

Campus Pont-de-Bois  
Maison de la recherche

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**PROGRAMME**

## DAY 1

9.00 | Welcome by Cédric Courtois and Claire Dubois

9.15-10.15 | **KEYNOTE 1**

**Unoma Azuah: “Writing the Self, Righting the Self: A (Nigerian) Lesbian Writer’s Intention”**

Chair: **Cédric COURTOIS**

10.15 | Coffee Break

10.30-12.30 | **PANEL 1**

Chair: **Vanessa ALAYRAC-FIELDING**

**“I Could Say Anything”: The Fictionalisation of the Self as a Feminist Act in Contemporary English Language–Authored Autofiction**

**Sian Petronella CAMPBELL** (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia)

**Making a Case for Autofiction: Updating Dreams of Motherhood in Rachel Cusk and Sheila Heti**

**Massimiliano MANNI** (Cattolica del Sacro Cuore University, Milan, Italy)

**“With an occasional hint from the holy Ghost”: The Life Politics of Robin Hyde, New Zealand Writer and Journalist**

**Valérie BAISNÉE** (Paris-Saclay University, France)

**“What is a Lesbian Life? Rethinking Life Writing Through Sapphic Autobiographies**

**Héloïse THOMAS** (Bordeaux-Montaigne University, France)

12.30 | Lunch Break

13h30 – 15h00 | **PANEL 2**

**“Queering Life Writing”**

Chair:

**Héloïse THOMAS**

**“From ‘quiet girl in the corner’ to ‘fierce BDSM gladiator’: Madison Young’s memoir *Daddy* (2014)**

**Margaret GILLESPIE** (Franche-Comté University, France)

**“Born Again: James Baldwin’s Queer Spiritual Autobiographies in *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *The Fire Next Time***

**Diego DOS SANTOS ALVES** (Gustave Eiffel University, France)

**“Tell Me a Story”: Queer Narratives Debunking National Politics**

**Nuha ASKAR** (Goethe University, Germany)

15h00 | Coffee break.

15h15 – 17h15 | **PANEL 3**

**“Postcolonializing Life Writing”**

Chair: **Marie MIANOWSKI**

**“A Tale of Monstrous Extravagance”: Tomson Highway’s *Kiss of the Fur Queen* and the Dissolution of the Autobiographical Pact** (online)

**Franck MIROUX** (University of Pau, France)

**Rewriting the Self, Revising History: Performing Ignatius Sancho in Paterson Joseph’s *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho* (2022)**

**Vanessa ALAYRAC-FIELDING** (University of Lille, France)

**Fragmentary Autobiography and Autobiographical Short Stories: Politics and Poetics of Brevity in Jean Rhys’s Autobiography *Smile Please* (1979) and Short Fiction**

**Elsa LORPHELIN** ( Lycée militaire de St Cyr l’Ecole, France)

**“She decided my name should be Tina”: Fighting for a Self in *The Girl who Smiled Beads***

**Hannah COOMBS** ( University of Portsmouth, Great Britain)

19h30 | Dinner

Brasserie de la paix, 25 place Rihour, Lille

## DAY 2

9.00-10.00 | KEYNOTE 2

### **Síobhra Aiken: “Trauma Testimony from the Irish Civil War”**

Chair: **Claire DUBOIS**

10.00 | Coffee Break

10h15 – 12h15 | PANEL 4

### **“Irish Life Writing”**

Chair :

**Fiona McCANN**

**“A Fragment of Autobiography”: Elizabeth Bowen’s Narration of Herself** (online)

**Layla FERRANDEZ MELERO** (University Complutense, Madrid, Spain)

**“Those who had no voice”: Ethnicity, Racism, and Immigration During the Troubles in Anna Lo’s *The Place I Call Home*** (online)

**Sara ROMERO OTERO** (Seville University, Spain)

**Writing the Self in More-than-Human Worlds: Niall Williams and Christine Breen’s Memoir *In Kiltumper, A Yet in an Irish Garden* (2021)**

**Marie MIANOWSKI** (Grenoble Alpes University, France)

**The Performance of Memory and Self in Constance Markievicz’s plays**

**Claire DUBOIS** (University of Lille, France)

12.15 | Lunch Break

13h15– 14h45 | PANEL 5

### **“Challenging the Norms in US Life Writing”**

Chair:

**Hélène COTTET**

**Autobiography as Resistance in Jack Kerouac’s *Oeuvres***

**Talal HOCHARD** (University of Lorraine, France)

**Vladimir Nabokov’s Multiple Selves: An Autobiography Against the Grain**

**Julie LOISON-CHARLES** (University of Lille, France)

**Alice Feiring: Writing for Wine and Love, Naturally**

**Eléonore OBIS** (Sorbonne University, France)

14h45 | Coffee break.

15h00 – 16h30 | PANEL 6

### **“Experimental (and/or Fragmented) Life Writing”**

Chair:

**Julie LOISON-CHARLES**

**Poetry as a Way of Writing (in) Broken Languages: “Broken Language” by Rupi Kaur and “Two Worlds” by Lang Leav**

**Floriane JOSEPH** (University of Lille, France)

***I* Is Political: The Poetics and Politics of Self-Writing in Jackie Kay’s Memoir and Selected Poems** (online)

**Klaudia KOPIASZ** (Aix Marseille University, France)

**A Full Portrait of African Modernity: Text and Image in the Atkison Wokoma’s Autobiographical Construction** (online)

**Ezechi ONYERIONWU & Chinyere OTUU EGBUTA** (Birkbeck College, U. of London and Abia State Polytechnic, Aba, Nigeria)

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Organized by **Cédric Courtois** and **Claire Dubois**, Université de Lille

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