

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

doing
AUTO
ETHNOGRAPHY

www.doingautoethnography.org

February 27 – March 1, 2014
Angelo State University

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Thank You

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook
Department of Communication Studies
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Dr. Christopher N. Poulos
Communication Studies Department
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Contributing Guest Scholars

Dr. Tony Adams
Department of Communication, Media and Theatre
Northeastern Illinois University

Dr. Christopher C. Collins
Department of Communication and Mass Media
Angelo State University

Dr. Stacy Holman Jones
Department of Communication
California State University, Northridge

Dr. Jake Simmons
Department of Communication and Mass Media
Angelo State University

Dr. Lisa Tillmann
Department of Critical Media and Cultural Studies
Rollins College

Funding Provided by:

Connect!
Angelo State University

Communication Graduate Student Association
Angelo State University

Department of Communication and Mass Media
Angelo State University

Gender Studies Association
Angelo State University

Gay-Straight Alliance
Angelo State University

Student Organization Leadership Fund (SOLF)
Angelo State University

Lambda Pi Eta
Angelo State University

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Department of Communication and Mass Media
Angelo State University

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Angelo State University

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Maria Hagland
Stephen Henry
Scott Jarmon
Dianah McGreehan
Lauren Moeller
Sawyer Straw
Heather Valle
Roselee Wilson



On behalf of the Department of Communication and Mass Media at Angelo State University, welcome! We're excited to host you on our campus for the third annual *Doing Autoethnography* conference. Two years ago, 35 papers from graduate students around the world were presented at the inaugural *Doing Autoethnography* conference on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Over 100 people came to present work, engage in vibrant discussion, and build relationships at the first conference dedicated to autoethnography. This year, the tradition continues.

Let me start by saying, thank you! It has been my pleasure corresponding with you, reading your autoethnographic works, and planning this event. Two years ago, in this same welcome letter, I shared my nervousness of hosting the conference. I think where there is autoethnography, there ought to be at least a little bit of nervousness. This year, that nervousness was largely overwhelmed by anticipation and inspiration. Just like it's not easy to get to West Texas, it's not always easy to get to autoethnography. But you're here. And the intersection of both of those journeys is inspiring to me.

I think we have a fantastic conference programmed this year. Christopher Poulos will deliver a keynote Friday evening. Leading up to his presentation, five scholars—who work with autoethnography—have generously agreed to facilitate interactive workshops. I encourage you to attend these workshops facilitated by Jake Simmons, Christopher C. Collins, Lisa Tillmann, Stacy Holman Jones, and Tony Adams. Saturday will be filled with presentations. The conference will end Saturday night with a second keynote by Craig Gingrich-Philbrook. Without the support of the individuals mentioned here (and so very many more), this conference wouldn't have happened.

We hope that you're as excited to participate in this conference as we are to host it. With any luck, you'll be able to make contacts that can eventually become enduring friendships. Or at least that's my goal. With that, I am looking forward to meeting you, talking autoethnography, and making history... again.

Warmly,

Derek Bolen
Conference Director
Assistant Professor of Communication
Angelo State University

General Information

Conference Badges

Pick up your conference badge at the registration table in front of the Nasworthy Suite (UC 203) in the University Center on Friday from 8:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:45 pm to 4:30 pm. On Saturday, the registration table will be in front of the Eldon Black Recital Hall in Carr Education-Fine Arts between 8:00 am and 11:30 am. (See map on page 16)

Food On-Campus and Nearby

Casa Bella

2424 Vanderventer (North of the Vincent Nursing Building)
(325) 315-4713

Food Service Center

Friday – 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Saturday – 8:00 am to 9:30 am; 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Crossroads Café (located in the University Center)

Friday – 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday – 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Roscoe's Bistro (located in the University Center)

Friday – 7:30 am to 9:30 am; 11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Roscoe's Den (Behind the Food Service Center)

Friday – 11:30 am to 3:30 pm; 7:00 pm to 12:00 am

Saturday – 7:00 pm to 12:00 am

To check the daily menus of all on-campus dining, go to www.dineoncampus.com/angelo

Parking

Parking is free on campus. Be sure to display your conference parking pass.

Wireless Internet on Campus

Internet access is available on campus. Connect to the wireless network named guest.angelo.edu. If you have any problems, call 325-942-2911.

Workshops

Several scholars working in the field of autoethnography have agreed to facilitate workshops. All conference attendees (presenting and non-presenting) are invited to participate. Check pages 7 - 8 for topic details.

Thursday, February 27

Preconference Presentation

Ally in Action: Friendship and LGBT Civil Rights

Lisa Tillmann, Rollins College

7:00

University Center – CJ Davidson, UC 100

This talk will chronicle my journey from small-town girl growing up in the rural Midwest in the 1970s and 80s; to naïve acquaintance coming to know particular gay men; to devoted friend/researcher chronicling the lives and relationships of a network of gay male friends; to committed ally working in service of LGBT equality and civil rights - on campus, in the community, and beyond.

Friday, February 28

Workshops

Staging Metaphor in Autoperformance

Jake Simmons and Christopher C. Collins, Angelo State University

9:00 - 10:15

University Center – Nasworthy Suite, UC 203

This interactive, performance-based workshop offers participants strategies for staging autoethnography. First, participants will be presented with strategies for mining autoethnographic text for metaphor. Next, performers will be introduced to praxis-centered possibilities for creatively spinning metaphor into both material and virtual objects with which to construct aesthetic stage environments.

Autoethnography, Activism, and Social Justice

Lisa Tillmann, Rollins College

10:30 - 11:45

University Center – Nasworthy Suite, UC 203

This workshop will help participants make connections between their own lived, emotional experience; oppression and inequality; and social change. By composing and performing evocative narratives, we will connect the deeply personal to the political and strategize on how to mobilize our own privilege and marginalization in service of greater peace, equality, and justice.

Lunch Break

11:45 - 1:45

The Ethics of Autoethnography

Tony Adams, Northeastern Illinois University

1:45 – 3:00

University Center – Nasworthy Suite, UC 203

The goal of this interactive workshop is to discuss ethical issues in doing, writing, and audiencing autoethnography. We begin by discussing the ethics of autoethnographic fieldwork, particularly the ethics of studying everyday, mundane experiences and researching others. We then discuss the ethics of implicating ourselves/others with autoethnographic texts as well as issues of access and truth. We conclude by discussing the ethics of evaluating autoethnographic texts.

What's Theory Got to Do with Story?:

Working with Theory in Autoethnographic Writing

Stacy Holman Jones, California State University, Northridge

3:15 - 4:30

University Center – Nasworthy Suite, UC 203

Autoethnographers often wonder how to incorporate or "add" theory to stories detailing personal experience. They also wonder how personal stories can and do function as theory in action. Rather than treat story and theory as finite and separate types of writing with divergent purposes and goals, this workshop focuses on creating an integrated, illuminating, and energizing relationship between theoretical and personal stories. Workshop participants will explore writing approaches for storying theory and theorizing stories and will learn several techniques for writing with and through theory in their personal storytelling.

**Participants should bring both story and theory excerpts to work with in the session.*

Dinner Break

4:30 - 7:00

Keynote Address

Doing Autoethnography ...or... How Autoethnography Does Me

Christopher N. Poulos, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

7:00

CARR 101

For over fifteen years now, I have taken my stand in this world—a world that is both hospitable and inhospitable to this identity—as an *autoethnographer*. In other words, I attune my consciousness (or, as some would have it, engage mindfully) with this world we inhabit, and seek to interpret the deeper meanings of human experience. Many ethnographers do this, but we autoethnographers cannot seem to find a way to leave *ourselves* out of the story. Another way of putting it is this: *I poke around the neighborhood, trying to figure out what the hell is going on here.*

And I write.

A lot.

And I choose to write mostly in the first person, claiming my stories of persons, places, actions, events, emotions, turning points, epiphanies, secrets, memories, and conflicts as my own, all the while striving to connect them to the larger social, political, and relational world I co-inhabit with you all. If the story I write resonates, it works.

Sometimes, as I am poking around, I am baffled by the actions of human beings, and by my reactions (or, I hope, *responses*) to what they say and do. In any event I find myself, more often than not, poking around, seeking some sort of sign or hint or clue or something that will lead me forward in my search.

But let me dispel all the rumors before they even start.

I did not choose this work.

It chose *me*.

This is what I meant when I called what I do, in the title of my book, “Accidental Ethnography.” I did not seek it out. I stumbled upon it.

As “doing autoethnography” goes, I can safely say that my fingers—apparently channeling a spirit from somewhere beyond my conscious planning mind, beyond my simple everyday mental grasping—do the talking here. My fingers are a hard working lot. And I find, as I write, that I do not, strictly speaking, write autoethnography. In the actual practice of writing autoethnography, it actually seems to write itself. Or more, accurately, I can say I am little more than a conduit. Or it may be worse than that...it may well be that it writes *me*.

So this writing of autoethnography is a deeply embodied, starkly emotional, powerfully performative, painfully provocative, incredibly absorbed and absorbing form of communicative *praxis*. And if you go down this road, you will find yourself, as you seek to “do autoethnography” sucked inexorably into *a way of life*. You may find that autoethnography does you.

These days, autoethnography writes me into being, into relationship, into action, into emotion, into spirit, into epiphany. I could no more stop doing it than I could stop breathing. And as I write my way through this life, I find that this way of life writes its way through me. In this talk, I will explore how autoethnography writes *me*, and, in turn, implicates a very fine *we*.

Saturday, March 1

Organizational Cultures from Disciplines to the Academy

9:00 - 10:15

CARR 113

Chair: Sawyer Straw, Angelo State University

From The Social to The Bio-Medical Sciences: An Autoethnography of Passage Between Disciplines

Lea Hagoel, Technion, Faculty of Medicine & Carmel Medical Center, Haifa, Israel and Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, University of Haifa, Israel

Organizational Culture in the Context of Academic Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University: An Autoethnographic Examination

Vijay Srinivas, Syracuse University

An Ethics of ... In Autoethnography

9:00 - 10:15

CARR 128

Chair: Kalyn Stephens, Angelo State University

Soma, Seema, *Sacred: Prolegomena to an Ethics of Suffering*

Kyle McNease, Florida State University

Can You Eat Fruit?: A Vegan Autoethnography

Benjamin Haas, Borough of Manhattan Community College

"You Changed My Story": Ethics of Youth Authorship in Prison

Noah Lelek, Delta State University

Relationships

9:00 - 10:15

CARR 192

Chair: Zachary Bolen, Saginaw Valley State University

Partnership in The Midst of SCOTUS: Rulings on Prop 8/DOMA

Amy Arellano and Christina L. Ivey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Art of Friendship: The Power of Words to Wound and Heal

Christine M. Willingham, Florida State University

Storying the Reversal

Julianna Kirschner, Claremont Graduate University

Trauma

10:20 - 11:35

CARR 192

Chair: Tayler Jones, Angelo State University

Reproductive Time and Identity Politics: An Autoethnography of Pregnancy and Loss

Michaela D. E. Meyer, Christopher Newport University

Invisible Minority: (Re)presenting Sexual Assault through Fragments of Survival

Amy Arellano, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

(Re)Experiencing Memory: An Autoethnography of Sexual Assault

Lauren S. Moeller, Angelo State University

A Creative Expression of Living and Leaving Abuse

Sherrie Gurel and Lee Murray, University of Saskatchewan

Health/Care I

10:20 - 11:35

CARR 113

Chair: Jarvis Motte, Angelo State University

Performing Loss: Adjusting (My) Life to Accommodate Chronic Illness

Claire Smith, Independent Scholar

Merrickville, Ontario, Canada

Alone in a Crowd

Jim Speckels, Angelo State University

From Where There Are No Words: An Autoethnographic Exploration of the Phenomenon of Energy Healing from the Perspective of the Healer

Michelle Flowers and Lee Murray, University of Saskatchewan

Doing Auto-Ethnography: How to Survive and Thrive in Academia

10:20 - 11:35

CARR 128

Chair: Salma Siddique, Edinburgh Napier University

Auto/ethnographic Examples Concealed in the Corridors of Academia

Judith Okely, Hull University

Autoethnography and Education: Critical Reflections on the Role of a Student

Michael Palkowski, Edinburgh Napier University

The Road you Travel stays all Uphill: Autoethnographic Perspectives of a Midwifery Lecturer and Supervisor of Midwives

Nessa McHugh, Edinburgh Napier University

Define or be Defined: Scenes from the Life of a Postgraduate Research Student

Margaret McGowan, Edinburgh Napier University

Split Ends: From Iraq to Lady Di

Khushi Usmani, Educational Psychology the Ministry of Education, New Zealand

Lunch Break

11:35 - 1:15

Em/Bodies

1:15 - 2:30

CARR 128

Chair: Kelsey Merritt, Angelo State University

Of Fiber and Skin: Body, Memory, Text/ile

Jade C. Huell, Northwestern University

The Laws of Lust: Cultural Regulations on the Performance of Sex/uality

Dianah McGreehan, Angelo State University

Causing a RUHCUS: The Body as a Point of Discovery

Amy Arellano, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Health/Care II

1:15 - 2:30

CARR 192

Chair: Jeff Horrall, Angelo State University

Tales of a Dyscommunicaholic: An Autoethnographic Study of My Paramedic Communication

Aaron Deason, University of Texas at Tyler

Developing Relationships in Nursing Homes: A Case Study with an Autoethnographical Focus

Colleen Mestayer, The University of Southern Mississippi

Becoming and Unbecoming: Autoethnographic Perspectives of "Working While Narcoleptic"

Nicole Eugene, Ohio University

Identities and Selves

1:15 - 2:30

CARR 113

Chair: Sylvia Sutton, Angelo State University

Still Standing, Still Here: Rising Song of an African American Woman

Janice D. Hamlet, Northern Illinois University

Living my American Dream: An Autoethnography of International Students' American Dream

Su Zhaohui, University of Texas at Austin

Philosophies, Spiritualities, and Religions

2:35 - 3:50

CARR 208

Chair: Sydney Skeen, Angelo State University

Autoethnographic Mindfulness

Clare Anzoleaga, California State University, Fresno

Que(er/ry)ing Christianity: Questions, Answers, and More Questions

Christina L. Ivey, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Madman: Faith and the Death of God in Autoethnography

Scott Jarmon, Angelo State University

Methodologies of Autoethnographies

2:35 - 3:50

CARR 113

Chair: Dee Martin and John Marc Cuellar, Angelo State University

Mentorship and Autoethnography: Can Autoethnography in Graduate Work be Successful without Developing Relationship

Lee Murray and Sherrie Gurel, University of Saskatchewan

Doing Autoethnography as Performative Response: Writing Book Reviews as Autoethnographic Reactions

Amber Johnson, Prairie View A&M University

Rising Expectations: Working with Tolerance and Trauma when Supervising Academic Research and Clinical Practice

Salma Siddique, Edinburgh Napier University

A Method for Deconstructing "Real"ity Television: Autoethnography, Story and Theory

Stephanie Jacobs, San Francisco State University

Genders and Feminisms

2:35 - 3:50

CARR 128

Chair: Haley Bays, Angelo State University

Still Trapped in That Locker Room: An Autoethnographic Exploration of Relational Aggression Among Girls

Michaela D. E. Meyer, Christopher Newport University

We Accept You, Some of Us: Secret Gender Rules in Alternative Rock Scenes

Amanda Hill, Angelo State University

The Unprotective Mom: The Biggest Secret of All

Lee Murray, University of Saskatchewan

Family

2:35 - 3:50

CARR 192

Chair: Evelyn Sullivan, Angelo State University

Shattered Images: (Re)membering Father
David Purnell, University of South Florida

(Un)Finishing My Father's Art: Between Liminality and Communitas
Devin Collins, Angelo State University

Lost in Hope: A Personal Narrative of the (De)construction of Hope
Dianah McGreehan, Angelo State University

Dinner Break

3:50 - 7:00

Keynote Address

Autobiographical (Performance and) Synchronicity

Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, University of Southern Illinois Carbondale

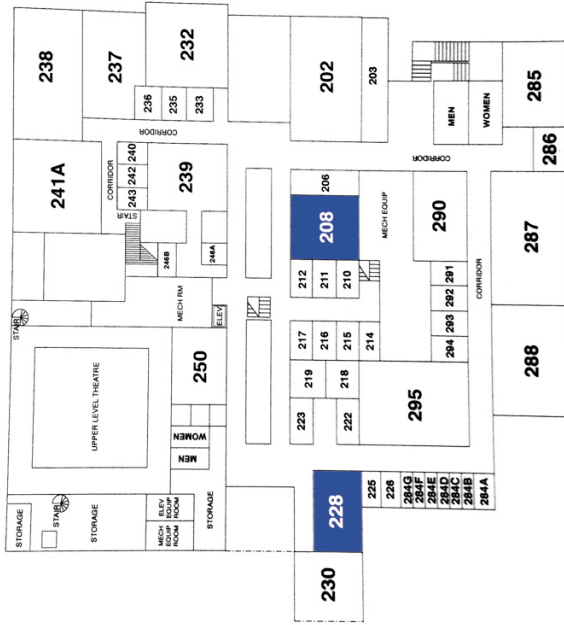
7:00

CARR 101

In this address, I explore C. G. Jung's notion of "synchronicity," the sense of a meaningful, although not causal, connection between events that might otherwise seem unrelated. Because much autoethnography trades in the perception of pattern and connection by a person making sense of the world, synchronicity offers a term the conference audience and I can productively engage to ask questions about how autoethnography construes connection and how the connections it articulates fare among reader—both lay and scholarly. I'll draw on the work of Jung, Robert Hopcke, Marie-Louise von Franz, and others to draw out examples of autoethnographers writing and performing about synchronicity, as well as its role in reading and audiencing autoethnography.

Carr Education-Fine Arts Building Floor Plan

Second Floor



First Floor



■ Conference Presentation Areas

✕ Saturday Registration Table