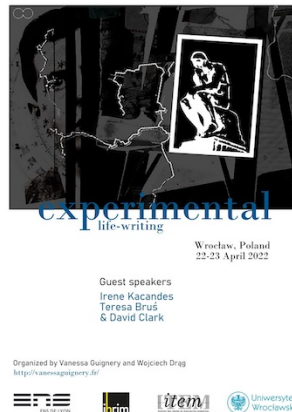


# International conference

## Experimental Life-Writing

22-23 April 2022

University of Wrocław, Poland



Organised by [Wojciech Drag](#) (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)

9.15-9.25 Opening (main university building, first floor, Aula Leopoldina – AL)\*

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 Valentov** (University of Lleida, Spain): “Metaphor & Embodiment in Graphic Illness Narratives: *Catalogue Baby* (2021) by Myriam Steinberg and *Hairless* (2020) by Tereza Drahořovsk”

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

**Wojciech Drag** (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 Drag]

**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 God, there were terrible things”: 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]

**Maité 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.