

13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

Bristol, UK and Online

Monday 13th July and Tuesday 14th July 2026

8:30 am Bristol; 13:30 am New York; 4:30 pm Osaka

Online pre-conference workshops: Tuesday 7th July – Sunday 12th July

Conference Theme:
Connections



A WARM WELCOME TO THE 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

from

2026 Conference Chair: Jamie Barnes

Organising Committee: Kitrina Douglas, Trude Klevan and David Carless

Conference Administrator: Nadia Portelli

IT support: Kandis Douglas and Jessie Ip

If 'progress' has been an underlying metaphor that has guided our post-Enlightenment society for the last few hundred years, we are now at a point where we are able to see, in frightening clarity, the teetering edge to which this idea has brought us. No idea is hegemonic. There have always been voices that have questioned the dominant narrative and called us to pay attention in other ways. Such voices are inspirational. They peel back layers of reality and show us the implicate order that, deep down, we already know to be true. Listening to such voices, we breathe in and re-member ourselves. One of those guiding ideas is centred around the deep entanglement that exists between every living and non-living thing, a world of intricate and complex connections that we are blinded to when we gather around such alluring lights as 'progress'. We need to pay attention. Perhaps even switch off the light. But a world of connections and connectivity is also laced with danger, for we must not be seduced by its surface appeal but begin to truly understand our unique and complex connections with the world and with each other, the subtle rhythms by which we come together and by which we separate. Autoethnography and the arts associated with paying attention to lived experience can help us in this task, as we dig into what it means to live within an entanglement of connections, a relational and emergent world that we carry co-responsibility in shaping. I look forward to diving deep and exploring these themes together with you over the next couple of days.

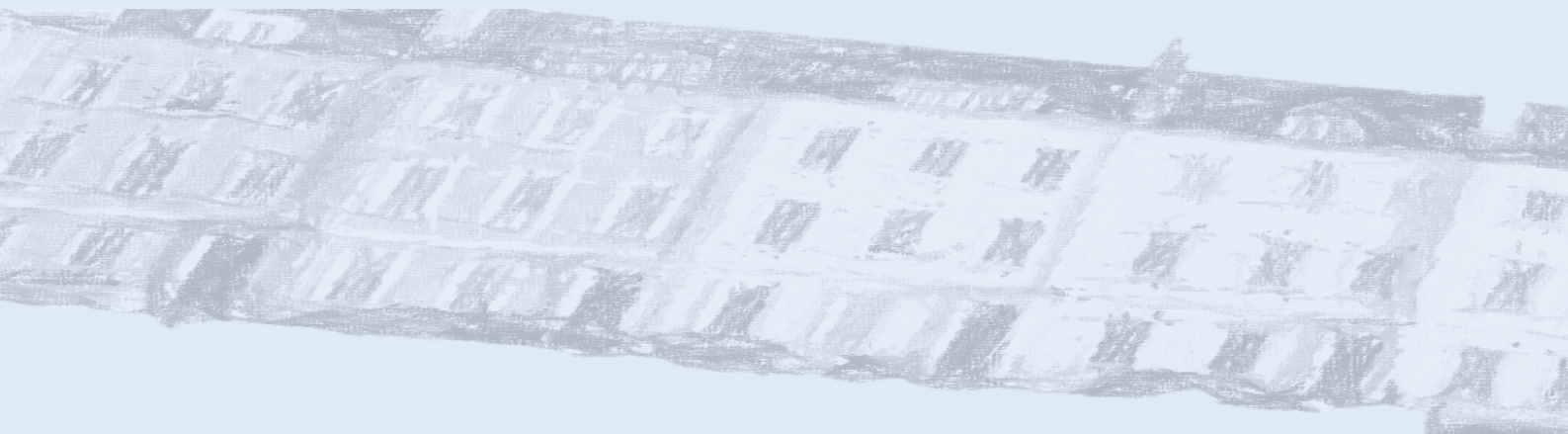
Jamie Barnes

ICAE 2026 Conference Chair

In what follows you will find the full conference programme.

A list of abstracts (in alphabetical order by author surname) is available online.

Please note all times are British Summer Time (BST).



CONFERENCE VENUE

Engineers House
The Promenade, Clifton Down, Bristol, BS8 3NB



By Air:

Engineers' House is 8.2 miles from Bristol Airport (15-30 minute drive, depending on time of the day). There are taxi ranks at the airport or a bus service to Bristol bus and coach station in the city centre.

By Bus/Coach:

From Bristol bus and coach station take a taxi or the number 8 bus. You should get off in Clifton Village (the Percival Road stop). The return bus departs from the same bus stop as when you arrive at Engineers' House.

By Train:

Coming into Bristol, use Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. Please put destination as Bristol Conf Ctr which will apply an automatic train ticket discount on the GWR website when coming from various London stops such as Paddington. From Temple Meads take a taxi or catch the number 8 bus outside of the station from the designated bus stop. You should get off in Clifton Village (the Percival Road stop). The Return bus stop is the same bus stop as when you arrive at Engineers' House (the Percival Road stop).

By Car from M5:

Leave the M5 at Avonmouth Junction 19 and follow the A4 Portway exit to Bristol. After approximately 5 miles take a sharp left just before the Clifton Suspension Bridge on to Bridge Valley Road (sign posted Bristol Zoo). At the top of Bridge Valley Road take the 1st right onto Clifton Down bearing right. Follow Clifton Down 0.3 miles and Engineers' House will be on your left just after Percival Road. Parking is available on site.

Routledge

Eleni Steck from Routledge will be on the publisher's stand located in Room Two. Feel free to drop by for a chat and to view a selection of the latest autoethnography books.

INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Thank you for submitting your work to ICAE 2026.

Please note the following:

- Your presentation should not exceed **8 minutes** in length. Shorter presentations allow us to schedule fewer parallel sessions (which equals bigger average audiences) and protects time for audience responses and questions.
- If you have a digital/visual component to your presentation (e.g. slide show, or short film etc.) please note **there are no facilities to accept memory sticks** as these can transmit viruses. If you have not already sent your file to the conference administrator, please store it on the cloud for online access.

ONLINE PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 8 July - Sunday 12 July

The pre-conference workshops provide an additional opportunity to come together in small groups to explore and develop contemporary issues in autoethnographic practice. Through these workshops we hope to create a supportive protective space to develop our skills and understanding while also learning a little about others from different disciplines and backgrounds.

Wednesday 8th July	Ethical Challenges in Autoethnography: Considerations in the Round 5pm-8pm (BST)
Thursday 9th July	Autoethnography for Beginners 2pm-5pm (BST)
Friday 10th July	Safeguarding in Autoethnography: Strategies and Practices for Wellbeing and Mental health 5pm-8pm (BST)
Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th July	Two-day workshop Creating Poetry in Research: From social science research to a life giving practice 10am-2:30pm (BST)
Saturday 11th July	Haunting, autoethnography and critical family histories. 5pm-7:30pm (BST)

For further information and to register please visit the website <https://boomerang-project.org.uk//>

KEYNOTES



Betweener Autoethnography: Border Smuggling as Knowledge, Resistance, and Radical Inclusion

Claudio Moreira (University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA)

Marcelo Diversi (Washington State University, USA)

What happens when scholars inhabit the borders of languages, race, ethnicity, social classes, cultures, and histories? In this keynote, we invite you to reflect with us on our collaborative autoethnographic work as we explore the generative possibilities of what we call betweener bodies—living, moving bodies shaped by journeys across national, social, cultural, and epistemological boundaries. From these spaces of in-betweenness emerge what we describe as border smugglers: individuals who carry memories, stories, and ways of knowing across the borders that attempt to divide and contain us. Through memory, reflection, and storytelling, betweener autoethnography reimagines how knowledge is produced, shared, and lived. In this sense, autoethnography becomes more than a research method; it becomes a way of knowing, living, and resisting. Our work seeks to create representational “double mirrors” that reflect encounters with injustice while illuminating paths toward dignity, solidarity, and hope. In these mirrors we see both the wounds produced by systems of exclusion and the fragile possibilities for connection that remain. At its heart, betweener autoethnography asks a simple but urgent question: How might our histories and stories help us find each other’s humanity—and expand the circle of us?



Infinite Knots: On Staying Connected & Weaving Our We

Durell M. Callier (University of Delaware, USA)

Dominique C. Hill (Colgate University, USA)

What are the necessary tools needed to stay connected in this political moment, across geographies, and despite all the forces that would seek to separate us? Through dance, collage, and poetic reflection, this performative autoethnographic inquiry weaves together nearly two decades of collective practice to map the infinite knots that have held us together — and the ones that nearly came undone. Here, we interrogate connection itself: as deliberate, iterative, political, and our key to survival. We honor those in the room, those who could not stay, and our co-conspirators across borders whose global solidarities have and continue to sustain our work. In a fractured world hungry for belonging, we ask: what does connection make possible — and why do we fundamentally struggle with it? This offering is both archive and invitation, a reckoning with why weaving *our we* is not incidental to liberation work; it is the work.



INVITED SESSIONS

MOVEMENT THEME

We spend a lot of time sitting down! Sedentary time which, for many of us, is not good for our health, wellbeing, creativity ... or our multifaceted connections to the wider world. To counter this, the ICAE committee have invited three autoethnographers currently researching movement to offer some movement activities for any delegates who would like to join in.

Nadia Portelli, Niel Stander and Chloe Norton Lamb will be offering the following sessions during the conference:

Gentle Run, Monday, 6:00 - 7:00 am

- All welcome. Meet at 6:00 am at Clifton Suspension Bridge.
- Approx 3-5 miles

Panel Presentation, Monday, 10.10 – 11.00 am

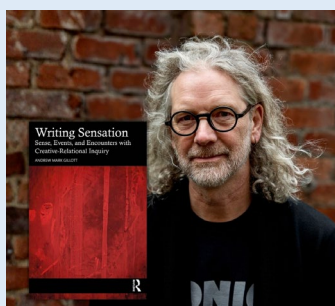
- In Session 4, Nadia, Chloe and Niel will be presenting their research and inviting collective dialogue

Guided Walk of Ashton Park, Tuesday, 7:30 – 8:30 am

- All welcome. Meet at Clifton Suspension Bridge at 7:30 or join online for the 'Virtual Walk'
- At the start of this session, Niel will provide 'guided activity' cards - optional activity prompts to support and encourage embodied thinking and creativity during the walk.

Walking Reflections, Tuesday, 8:30 – 8:50 am

- In Session 12, Niel, Chloe and Nadia will invite reflection and discussion of the morning walk.



“Writers Chair” interview with Andrew Gillott (University of Stirling), author of *Writing Sensation*, published by Routledge.

Session 18 (Tuesday 1:30 pm) will feature discussion and reflections on publishing autoethnography. The session will focus specifically on moving from thesis to book.

Spotlight Panel: Meditations on Joy & Wonder

Session 11 (Monday 3:45 – 4:30pm)

In the song *Joy*, Nick Cave sings of being visited late one night by “a ghost in giant sneakers, laughing stars around his head.” The ghost tells him: “We’ve all had too much sorrow, now is the time for joy.” ‘Meditations on Joy & Wonder’ takes up this call, featuring contributions from Art Bochner (University of South Florida), Carolyn Ellis (University of South Florida) and Kitrina Douglas (University of West London).

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All sessions are available online and in person

DAY ONE: Monday 13th July

6:00-7:00	Gentle Run (with Niel Stander, Chloe Norton Lamb and Nadia Portelli) Meet at Clifton Suspension Bridge - all welcome	
8:30	In-person Registration Douglas Suite, Engineer's House, Bristol (refreshments available) Online Conference Room Opens Host: Jessie Ip (please sign in and bring your morning coffee online)	
8:45	Conference Welcome: Room 1 Jamie Barnes	
9:00	Session 1: Room 1 Connections & Queerness Chair: Jamie Barnes Luke Anderson, Tennessee Tech University Please Stop Attacking My Marriage. Elazar Ben-Lulu, Ariel University Celebrating Fifty Years of Jewish Pride: An Autoethnographic View on Queerness, Diaspora and Homeland in an American Gay Synagogue. Sacha DBK*, University of Brighton (Dis)connections of a non binary, transmasculine genderwright: reflecting my intersectional, gender-refined body into the world. Sabina Fathima Khan, Independent Scholar Storytelling as Attempts at Connection: A Strange but Familiar Account.	Session 2: Room 2 Health & Healing Chair: Trude Klevan Trude Klevan & Knut Tore Sælør, University of South-Eastern Norway Prescriptions and disruptions: Autoethnography vs. the Central Scrutinizer. Sarah Donaldson, University of Edinburgh Holding Intention: A Narrative and Critical Autoethnography of Trauma and Responsibility. Mihoko Motooka, University of the Ryukyus The Pain I Felt in Transitioning from a Childcare Worker to a Faculty Member at a Childcare Training College: Slowly Healing and Becoming a "Milieu". Princess Oyewale-Orire*, University of Malta Wearing the Mask: Black African Sub-Saharan Nurses, Belonging, and the Cost of Connection.
10:00	Changeover	
10:10	Session 3: Room 1 Troubling Histories Chair: Jamie Barnes Iris J. Gildea*, University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto Autoethnography of a witch: feminist phenomenology meets autoethnographic poetics in connections between history, spirituality, sexual violence, healing & belonging. Sheona Goodyear, University of Birmingham The vessel: How serene encounter epiphanies sting. John Cook, Independent Researcher Visiting my younger self in London at a time of squatting, conflict and cooperation: the discomfort resulting from reconstructing my past.	Session 4: Room 2 Run Chair: David Carless Nadia Portelli, University of Malta 2.9 Million Connections. Chloe Norton Lamb, University of West London Road to Kona. Niel Stander, University of the West of Scotland Taking a Question on the Run.

11:00	Refreshments Break	
11:30	Session 5: Room 1 Curious Connections & Encounters Chair: Ken Gale Ken Gale and Jonathan Wyatt, University of Plymouth and University of Edinburgh Encountering Pete(s) Centre for Creative-Relational Inquiry. Alexandra Pitt, SOAS and University of the West of Scotland Every Time I Flip an Egg: Connecting with Ghosts. Simone Kreher, Fulda University of Applied Sciences Telling a Story – Creating Connections – Playing a Piece of Music. Rubina Khatun, University of Hertfordshire Darn!	Session 6: Room 2 Animal Instincts Chair: Knut Tore Sælør Ashley Gallimore, UWE “Horse Girls.” Kiyoka Hayashi, Keio University A Sense That It Is Okay to Exist: Within the Cycle That Begins with Chickens and Vegetable Scraps. Aly Foy, University of Cumbria The Fox & The Dog: Folktale in Autoethnography. Aqeel Qureshi*, Keio University Spring Falls on All — Branches Grow Short and Long: A Deliberative Autoethnography of Sado and Salah.
12:30	Lunch	
1:30	Session 7: Room 1 Art-ful Connections Chair: Simone Kreher Jeanine Balzan Engerer, University of Malta Narratives of Counselling: Exploring Youths’ Stories of Creative Counselling in Adolescence aged 16 to 18” From My Diary to My Doctorate- Making sense of my adolescence. Bethan Habron-James, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester & Bangor University Voices present and past. Jenn Layton & Ann Lehmann-Kuit*, University of Nottingham & Western Sydney University Autoethnographic digital collaborations from across the globe- connecting neurodivergent 'neurokin.' Elena Lomas*, University of Southern Queensland Analogue/handmade Collage as Reflective Space in Creative Practice: An Autoethnographic Exploration and Model.	Session 8: Room 2 Borderlines & Boundaries Chair: Trude Klevan Abíódún Abdul, University of Nottingham Yorùbá Yonder From Africa to Europe to Asia in One Childhood: Unravelling Complex Narratives through Autoethnography. Kirti Devnani, University of Edinburgh Questioning the Assumption of Safety: A Critical Autoethnographic Exploration of Discriminatory Remarks and Boundary Violations in Counselling Supervision. Paula Franciulli*, University of São Paulo Leaving Home to Find Oneself: An autoethnographical account of migration, work, and affection. Pâmela Damilano dos Santos*, University of São Paulo Dwelling in borderlands: weaving psychological care amidst differences.
2:30	Changeover	
2:40	Session 9: Room 1 Hazard Occupation Chair: Nadia Portelli Bernadette Fitzgerald, University of Edinburgh Agency in the Agency Job Economy. Carol Maluleke, Henley Business School Leadership Reputation within South African Community-Based Organisations: An Analytical Autoethnographic Exploration. Jenny Dalzell, University of Warwick Invited to watch: observing a parole hearing after homicide.	Session 10: Room 2 Challenging Orthodoxy Chair: Jamie Barnes Annalise Elliott*, University of West London Neuroquirky Connections: Lived Experience vs Diagnostic Criteria. Michal Ornan-Ephratt, University of Haifa Dyslexia Is in the Details: An Authoethnography of a Senior Adult Dyslexic. Harriet Marks*, University of Plymouth Creative Self-Expression: Connecting with Autism through Creative Methodology.

3:30	Refreshments Break
3:45	Session 11: Room 1 Spotlight Panel: Meditations on Joy & Wonder Chair: Kitrina Douglas Art Bochner, University of South Florida Carolyn Ellis, University of South Florida Kitrina Douglas, University of West London
4:30 – 5:20 pm	KEYNOTE 1: Room 1 Chair: David Carless “Infinite Knots: On Staying Connected & Weaving Our We” Durell M. Callier (University of Delaware) and Dominique C. Hill (Colgate University)

DAY TWO: Tuesday 14th July

7:30-8:30	Guided Walk of Ashton Park (with Niel Stander, Chloe Norton Lamb and Nadia Portelli) Meet at Bristol Suspension Bridge at 7:30 (also available as an online ‘Virtual Walk’)	
8:30	Online Morning Welcome Host: Jessie Ip	
8:30-8:50	Session 12: Room 1 Walking Reflections Chairs: Niel Stander, Chloe Norton Lamb and Nadia Portelli	
9:00	Session 13: Room 1 Beyond writing Chair: Jonathan Wyatt Jonathan Wyatt, University of Edinburgh When Writing Ends. Yang Liu*, University of Edinburgh Names on the Tombstone: The Living and the Dead. Amanda Moore Voelker*, University of Edinburgh The Dark Swifts Will Return: An autoethnography of connection without enclosure after totalizing religion. Manfath Jabin Haque*, Sylhet, Bangladesh Writing An Incomplete Story: Autoethnographic Reflection, Creative Practice, and Connections in Representing Bangladeshi Women's Lived Experiences	Session 14: Room 2 Where the spirit meets the bone Chair: Jamie Barnes Jamie Barnes, University of Sussex Autoethnography to Autoaltergraphy: exploring similarity across difference. Hanna Schweigert, University of Sussex Family, Loss, and Anticipatory Grief: A Retrospective Autoethnographic Analysis of Terminal Illness’s Impact on the Family. Pascale Waschnig, University West London Yesterday Jesvir Kaur Mahil, University for Life Phoenix Rising in Gaza
10:00	Changeover	
10:10	Session 15: Room 1 Sensory Awakening Chair: Trude Klevan	Session 16: Room 2 Poetry 1: Caring & Complexity

	Yoshiko Ohno*, University of Osaka Soft Serve in Midwinter: A Poetic Autoethnography of Living After Suicide Loss. Mia Livingston, University of Edinburgh Here, the territory is rage. Michelle Bradley, University of Edinburgh Exploring Connections between Loss and Desire. Peter Hone, Northumbria University The Scared Child An Autoethnographical Journey of Cultural Awakening.	Chair: Knut Tore Sælør Ann Delilkan, New York City College of Technology, City University of New York "Scrub a Little Harder?" Lucinda Bolton*, Keele University Living in Nights: Sleep, Motherhood and the Longing to Be Known. Annalise Elliott*, University of West London Mother. Knut Tore Sælør, University of Southeastern-Norway I'm not stupid. Edwina Morris, University West London "Nurse!"
11:10	Refreshments Break	
11:30	Session 17: Room 1 Education & Learning Environments Chair: Jamie Barnes Victoria Wright, Loughborough University Cultivating a space for education for sustainable development. Dione Mifsud, University of Malta Multiple walls in limited spaces. Naoyuki Yamada, Kansai University Encountering Difference in Writing: Between Expression and Control in Educational Practice.	Session 18: Room 2 Poetry 2: Movements Chair: David Carless Tim Buescher*, Independent AdvanceRetreatSurrender. David Carless, University of the West of Scotland The Hut. Kitrina Douglas, University of West London Searching for slack water.
12:30	Lunch	
1:30	Session 19: Room 1 Hosting Difference Roundtable Chair: Jamie Barnes	Session 20: Room 2 Publishing Autoethnography – Moving Beyond the Thesis Chair: Kitrina Douglas with Andrew Gillott author of <i>Writing Sensation</i> and Eleni Steck of Routledge, Taylor & Francis
2.20	Changeover	
2:30	Session 21: Room 1 Familial Connections Chair: Sally Chisholm Jess Moriarty and Vanessa Marr, University of Brighton Mothers and Fairy Tales: A collaborative autoethnographic account of our experience as mothers who work in academia. Mahreen Mamoon*, Purdue University (Un)Mothering in Academia: A Filmed Autoethnographic Installation Walkthrough. Katy Mahood, UWE	Session 22: Room 3 Panel Troubling Connections Chair: Trude Klevan Naoyuki Yamada, Kansai University Mihoko Motooka, University of the Ryukyus Kiyoshi Hamana, Tachibana Ainosono Nursery School When Connection Becomes Difficult: Knotworking Across Difference in Collaborative Early Childhood Education in Japan

	Murmurations of the mind: creative writing, internal family systems and the scattered self.	
3:20	Refreshments Break	
3:40	Session 23: Room 1 Lifetime Contribution Award Dissertation Award (Sponsored by Routledge) Curated by Trude Klevan and Knut Tore Sælør	
4:10-5:00	KEYNOTE 2: Room 1 Chair: Kitrina Douglas "Betweener Autoethnography: Border Smuggling as Knowledge, Resistance, and Radical Inclusion" Claudio Moreira (University of Massachusetts Amherst) & Marcelo Diversi (Washington State University) Conference Close	

SOFIA CENTRE FOR CREATIVE RESEARCH CERTIFICATE IN AUTOETHNOGRAPHY COURSE

Winter 2026-27

- Online course designed to support students, academics and professionals who wish to develop their autoethnographic practice within a supportive and experienced online community
- Featuring contributions from leading autoethnography scholars across a range of disciplines and countries
- Incorporating writing/creation workshop activities as well as opportunities for tutor and peer review and feedback
- Selected Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 7:30 pm (UK time) between November 2026 - January 2027 (dates TBC)

Course Content:

- Purposes and possibilities of autoethnography
- Developing and refining autoethnography study proposals
- Approaches to autoethnographic inquiry (including narrative, poetic, film/visual, performative, musical)
- Ethical considerations in autoethnography
- Situating and locating autoethnography within contemporary landscapes
- Community, connections and support in autoethnography
- Protecting health and wellbeing during autoethnographic projects
- Publishing, presenting and responding to autoethnography

For further information visit:

<https://sofiaevents.org>

***** SAVE THE DATES ****

**ICAE 2027 will be held in Bristol, UK
Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 July 2027**

Online workshops 7th - 11th July

**ICAE 2028 will be held in Drammen, Norway
Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 June 2028**

Conference venue: University of South-Eastern Norway

Online workshops 19th – 23rd June



Drammen is less than 40 minutes from Oslo by train. Situated on the banks of the Drammanselva river and at the mouth of a beautiful fjord, it is the second largest city in Eastern Norway. Drammen is rich with cultural events, top-class art museums, street art, and both historical and modern architecture. Popular visits and tours include road trips south along the Drammensfjord, nearby coastal settlements like Holmsbu, the beaches at Rødtangen, local fruit farms, and hiking in the nearby mountains.

For the latest information visit:

<https://boomerang-project.org.uk>