

Friday Forum – April 2024

Autofiction: The politics of creative writing

Chaired by Professor Paul Giles

Co-convened by Prof Paul Giles and A/Prof Lisa O’Connell

Friday 26 April 2024, 3.30pm–5.00pm AEST

To be held via Teams and in person at ACU Melbourne campus
Greg Craven Centre, room 11, level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata building (421.7.11)
115b Victoria Parade, Fitzroy VIC 3065

ABOUT THIS FRIDAY FORUM

English studies have been significantly impacted over recent years by a shift in focus from literary history to creative writing. This has had implications for curriculum planning and hiring in higher education, as well as influencing discussions of literary works in the broader public sphere. Autofiction, combining elements of autobiography and fiction, has become an increasingly recognisable form, and in the era of the “Voice” it also carries increasing political resonances. The panelists for this Friday Forum discuss these issues from a variety of perspectives.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

[Emmett Stinson](#), Associate Professor of English and Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Tasmania, author of *Contemporary Australian Writers: Murnane* (University of Melbourne Press, 2023).

[Caoimhe Higgins](#), PhD student at Mary Immaculate College, Ireland, and visiting scholar at ACU, contributor to *The Routledge Companion to Sally Rooney* (2024) and *The Frontier of Writing: A Study of Seamus Heaney’s Prose* (Routledge, 2024).

[Saskia Beudel](#), author of *Borrowed Eyes: A Novel* (Picador 2002) and *A Country in Mind: Memoir with Landscape* (University of Western Australia Press, 2013), recipient of author fellowship from the Australian Copyright Agency (2022), currently working on a book on endurance cycling for Duke University Press’s “Practices” series. (“Books in the Practices series are for real-life hobbyists, devotees, and enthusiasts. They are by and about amateurs in the original sense—those who engage in pursuits out of sheer love and fascination.”)

[Anh Nguyen Austen](#) is an autofiction writer, researcher and lecturer in the Centre for Refugees, Migration and Humanitarian Studies at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, ACU, and convenor of the Refugee & Asylum Seeker Writers’ Weekend Retreat at Airey’s Inlet, April 2024.

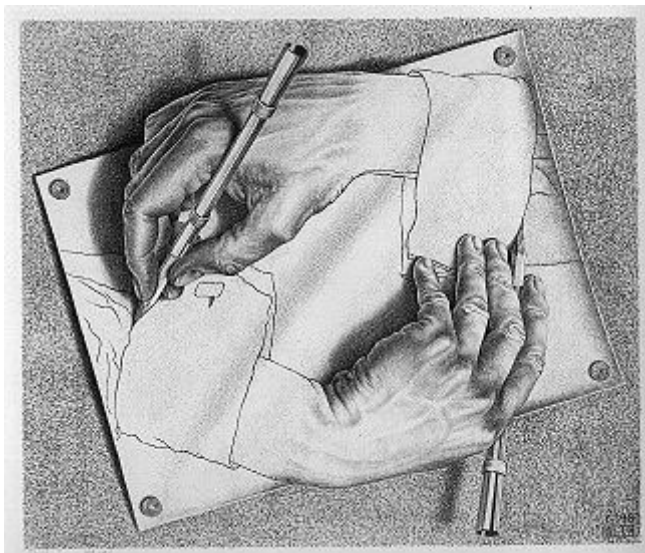
ABOUT THE CHAIR

[Paul Giles](#) is Professor of English in the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences. He is the author of eleven monographs and numerous essays on English, American and Australian literature and culture.

RSVP

If you received this flyer via email with an accompanying Teams link, no registration is necessary. To register to receive the Teams link, please book here: <https://events.humanitix.com/friday-forum-autofiction-the-politics-of-creative-writing> .

Inquiries ihss@acu.edu.au



Drawing Hands by M. C. Escher, 1948, Lithograph.
Source: [Wikipedia](#).