

Webinar: Autofiction as Life Writing

Dates	Monday 22 August 2022
Times	18.00 – 19.30
Location	Zoom
Level	All welcome

Course description

What is autofiction and why is everyone talking about it? Is it just a marketing term or are we watching the emergence of a form of life writing which is more daring than memoir and less guarded than autobiographical fiction? Do its practitioners, such as Karl Ove Knausgaard, risk too much for their writing? Knausgaard's six volume epic *My Struggle*, a minute exposure of himself and also his family (who no longer speak to him) is described by him as a 'Faustian pact', but is art ever worth that much? And to what extent can the reproduction of a life's banalities be seen as art anyway?

In this webinar, our life writing tutor, Frances Wilson, reveals the lengths that writers have gone to tell their tales, regardless of the consequences.

This course takes place on Zoom and we will email you a joining link the day before. You will be encouraged to ask questions using Zoom's chat function.

Live captions will be provided by Stagertext.

Tutor

Frances Wilson is a biographer and critic. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, her books include *The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth* (Faber, 2008, winner of the British Academy Rose Mary Crawshay Prize), *How to Survive the Titanic: Or, the Sinking of J Bruce Ismay* (Bloomsbury, 2011, winner of the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography), and *Guilty Thing: A Life of Thomas De Quincey* (Bloomsbury, 2016, longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize, and shortlisted for the Historical Writers Association Non-Fiction Crown, the National Book Critics Circle Award, The Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the Biographer's International Organisation Plutarch Prize). She was a judge for the Baillie Gifford Prize for non-fiction 2019, and is currently chair of the judges for The Goldsmith's Prize. Her new life of D H Lawrence was published in May 2021.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required, all welcome.

Accessibility

Live captions will be provided by Stagertext.

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