



Discourses on Intimacy and Indiscretion in Modern and Contemporary Literature

Autofiction, Biofiction, Roman-à-clef and Beyond

Doctoral School of Literary Studies,
University of Pécs

7624 Pécs, Ifjúság útja 6., E/527.

22nd and 23rd May, 2025

Program

Day 1, 22nd May

9:45 Conference Opening

10:00–11.00 Plenary Session

Chair: Nóra Séllei

Keynote: Michael Lackey (University of Minnesota, Morris):
The Art of Metaphorizing (Not Representing) a Life in Biofiction

Session 1: Biofiction in Modern Hungarian Literature

Chair: Zoltán Z. Varga

11:15–11:35 Ágnes Major (HUN-REN, Institute for Literary
Studies, Budapest):
Biofiction in Plural. Géza Csáth as a Character in Literary Works

11:35–11:55 János D. Mekis (University of Pécs):
Entertainment, Education and More. Interwar and Socialist
Biographical Novels in Hungary in the Mid-20th Century

11:55–12:15 Dávid Szolláth (HUN-REN, Institute for Literary
Studies, Budapest):
The Possibilities of Biofiction in a (Neo)realistic Literature

12:15–12:45 Discussion

12:45–14:00 Lunch break

Session 2: Variations on Autofiction: Functions and Degrees of Fictionality in Contemporary Autofictions

Chair: Dávid Szolláth

14:00–14:20 Hassan Ait-el-Ouali (University of Debrecen): Hisham Matar's Autofiction. Exploring Exile, Memory, and Identity [online]

14:20–14:40 Ivana Taranenková (Institute of Slovak Literature, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava): Autofiction as Revealing and Overcoming Trauma in Contemporary Slovak Literature (Ivana Dobráková, Nicol Hochholczerová)

14:40–15:00 László Sári B. (University of Pécs): Repetition and Doubling the Self. Autofiction as Rhetoric/Politics in Ben Lerner's *The Topeka School*

15:00–15:20 Dóra Faix (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): From Autofiction to Collectfiction. The Encounter of Sophie Calle, Paul Auster, and Enrique Vila-Matas at the Intersection of Visual Art and Literature

15:20–16:00 Discussion

16:00–16:10 Coffee break

Session 3: Inside and Outside of the Speakable

Chair: János D. Mekis

16:10–16:30 Tamás Kisantal (University of Pécs): Can History Be Other Than Contemporary Literature? Some Remarks on the Cultural Role of Historiography

16:30–16:50 András Wirágh (HUN-REN, Institute for Literary Studies, Budapest):

Secrets Outspoken – Consequences Suffered. The Early 20th Century Hungarian Roman-à-clef

16:50–17:10 Veronika Kovács (University of Pécs):

The Boundaries of Intimacy and Publicity. Illness Narratives in Frigyes Karinthy's Journey Around My Skull and László Szilasi's Luther's Dogs

17:10–17:45 Discussion

Day 2, 23rd May

10:00–11.00 Plenary Session

Chair: László Sári B.

Keynote: Nóra Séllei (University of Debrecen):

How We (Can) Remember Medieval and Early Modern Women. Three Case Studies in Biofiction

Session 4: Making the Other, Making the Self in Life Narratives

Chair: László Sári B.

11:15–11:35 Csaba Horváth (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, Budapest):

“Standing in front of Myself.” The Stuffed Body as Biofiction – Gergely Péterfy: The Stuffed Barbarian

11:35–11:55 Anna Kérchy (University of Szeged):

“Closely united, immensely divided.” Reading Virginia Woolf's Flush and Sigrid Nunez's Mitz as Humanimal Biofiction

11:55–12:15 Olga Kajtár-Pinjung (University of Szeged):
Self-Fashioning in Total Institutions. Guantánamo Bay
and Mansoor Adayfi

12:15–12:35 Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (University of Szeged):
African American Life Writing in Percival Everett's James

12:35–13:05 Discussion

13:05–14:00 Lunch break

Session 5: Autofictions at the Crossroads

Chair: Ivana Taranenkova

14:00–14:20 Zoltán Z. Varga (University of Pécs):
Autofiction as a (Dead) (Serious) Genre or Who Still Wants
Ironic Self-Representations?

14:20–14:40 Gábor Böhm (University of Pécs):
Auto/Bio/Fictions. Self-constructions in the Novel A Book
of Memories by Péter Nádas

14:40–15:00 Ádám Demeczky (Eötvös Loránd University,
Budapest): The Monster of Rewriting. Authority, Authenticity,
and Stigma in Contemporary Autofiction

15:00–15:20 Beatrix Visy (HUN-REN, Institute for Literary
Studies, Budapest): The Girl and the Writer. The Displacements
of the Self in Andrea Tompa's Novels

15:20–16:00 Discussion

16:00–16:15 Closing remarks