

## **“Autoethnography”: A workshop with Prof. Annette Boudreau** Université de Moncton, Canada

**March 18 2019, 15.00-18.00**

Grüner Salon, Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, Sensengasse 3a, 1090 Wien (6. OG)

Organized by Mi-Cha Flubacher & Brigitta Busch, Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, Universität Wien

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*Autoethnography* emerged at the crisis of representation in social sciences and the humanities that called for alternative forms of research and of interaction with research participants as well as for the interweaving of the personal with the professional, i.e. research. Reflexive and personal in nature, autoethnographies should be read as “stories of/about the self told through the lens of culture” (Adams et al. 2015: 1). In this workshop, we would like to explore the possibilities and limits of autoethnography a bit further, linking it to our own research. How can we analytically align our personal experiences with our research question and vice versa – or is it at all possible to detach autobiography from ethnography? How can we systematically acknowledge bodies and emotions? And how can we avoid to not get stuck in identity politics, which could run the danger of erasing structural questions related to distribution and inequality?

While this workshop will draw on the expertise and/or questions of the participants who have varied experiences with autoethnography or are simply interested in learning more, it is a particular pleasure to start it off with an input by Prof. Annette Boudreau, who has always reflected the interplay between the personal and the professional in her work on linguistic insecurity and the legitimate speaker in the context of Acadia, a ‘periphery’ of francophone Canada. As she puts it, a reflexive account is far more than an autobiography, “il s’agit plutôt d’extirper ce qu’il y a de social au cœur d’individu, de trouver l’impersonnel dans le personnel ou, en d’autres mots, d’expliquer sa trajectoire sociale” (Boudreau 2016: 15).

### **References:**

Adams, Tony E., Holman Jones, Stacy Linn & Ellis, Carolyn (2015). *Autoethnography: Understanding qualitative research*. Oxford. Oxford University Press.

Boudreau, Annette (2016). *A l’ombre de la langue légitime: L’Acadie dans la francophonie*. Paris: Classiques Garnier.

### **Preparatory reading:**

Boudreau, Annette (2016). *A l’ombre de la langue légitime: L’Acadie dans la francophonie*. Paris: Classiques Garnier. p. 13-23; 49-53.

Ellis, Carolyn & Adams, Tony E. (2014). The purposes, practices and principles of autoethnographic research. In Patricia Leavy (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*. New York: Oxford University Press. (p. 254-276)

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Participants with or without prior experience in autoethnography are welcome.

Please register by March 7 and send a short abstract of your work (300-500 words) by March 14 to:

[mi-cha.flubacher@univie.ac.at](mailto:mi-cha.flubacher@univie.ac.at)

Please also cf. Annette Boudreau’s talk on March 19, 18.30-20.00 (Sensengasse 3a, Hörsaal 1, 1. OG):  
“Linguistic insecurity and the legitimate speaker. The case of Francophones in Canada (Acadie)”

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