



# *Identity, Objects Materiality and Autoethnography*

Leila Papoli-Yazdi

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# *Who am I?*

- I have a PhD degree in the archaeology of recent past.
  - I have conducted multiple excavations across the world mostly in the Middle east.
  - I have used art as a means to communicate with the public in order to present my ideas and findings.
  - But...I am not an artist.
  - Office hours on Zoom, every Wednesday 10-12.
  - [Leila.papoli-yazdi@lnu.se](mailto:Leila.papoli-yazdi@lnu.se)
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# *My contribution*

- Today: identity, autoethnography, objects (Keywords and topics)
- Wednesday: Discussions on your objects (Mind mapping)
- Reflexive writing workshop: Borges's story
- Augusto Boal's "The theater of oppressed"
- Written assignment

- + Change aspect - How can I make a change?
- During the module you will start navigating and exploring the question "how can I make a change?" by **contextualizing your own identity**. This is a question that hasn't got one given answer but might have many answers or perhaps is best answered by more questions.
- To create change; a good and maybe necessary place to start is to reflect on your own position:
  - The complexity that builds one's identity.
  - How you place yourself in the world.
  - How this differs over time (past, present, future).

# *Rules for a happy Course*

- Everybody is **recognized**, which means that everybody has the right to participate as an equal.
- There are no stupid questions.
- How we work with each other is as important as the course's assignments.
- Nobody knows everything. Not knowing is the only way to learn.
- What we share in the classroom stays in the classroom.
- We only learn from each other when we build a network and start a dialogue.
- The teacher's job is to help, and learn from you.

# *identity*

- One of the most challenging concepts in the world
- So...we need to say something about it



Hello, how are you?



Good morning!



How was your weekend?



What the heck!



I've seen that movie!



sherlockholmes-fan.com





# *What is identity?*

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- How You Define Yourself?  
(2-3 keywords)





The narrative constructs the identity of the character, what can be called his or her narrative identity, in constructing that of the story told. It is the identity of the story that makes the identity of the character.

— *Paul Ricoeur* —

AZ QUOTES

Jean Paul Gustave Ricœur was a French philosopher best known for combining phenomenological description with hermeneutics.

# *What is identity?*

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- Self & the Other(Emanuel Levinas, Jacques Lakan)
- Mind and body
- Norms and Stereotypes
- Beauty standards
- Fixity and Fluidity
- Identity is rational and collective.

"Some of the creepiest, most atmospheric chills to permeate a cinema screen for years.  
A haunting, imaginative shocker which is likely to rattle around in your brain for days.  
Kidman is superbly cast. Prepare to be seriously spooked."  
\*\*\*\*\* (EMME)

NICOLE KIDMAN  
**THE OTHERS**

SOONER OR LATER THEY WILL FIND YOU.

UNION PRODUCTION A FILM BY JULIAN ARMAN  
CASTING BY JANE WOODS  
WWW.THEFILMFACTORY.CO.UK



ACADEMY AWARD WINNER 2007

GOLDEN GLOBE  
NOMINEE 2007

WINNER  
EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS 2006

A film by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

**THE LIVES OF OTHERS**

NOTHING IS PRIVATE. NOTHING IS SACRED.



RELEASE DATE FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2007

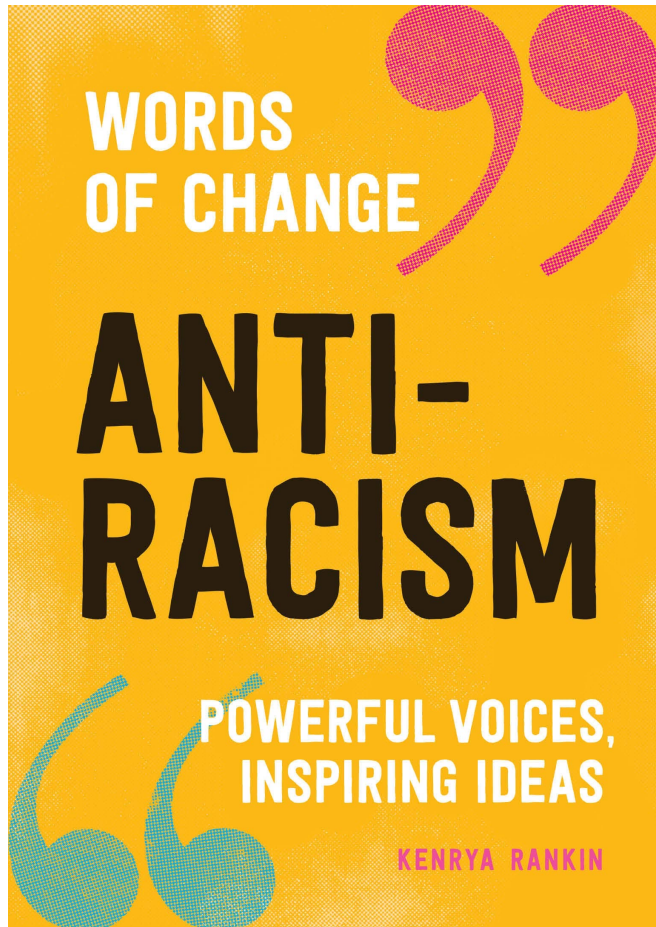
# *Aspects of identity*

- Who am I?
  - How do I think about myself?
  - How does the world view me?
- 
- Psychology-Psychiatry
  - Sociology



*Is identity  
constructed?*





*Modernism*

*Power*

*Gender*

*Race*

*Context*

*Socio-economic status*

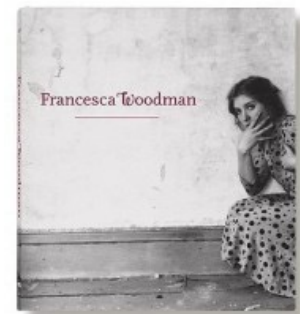
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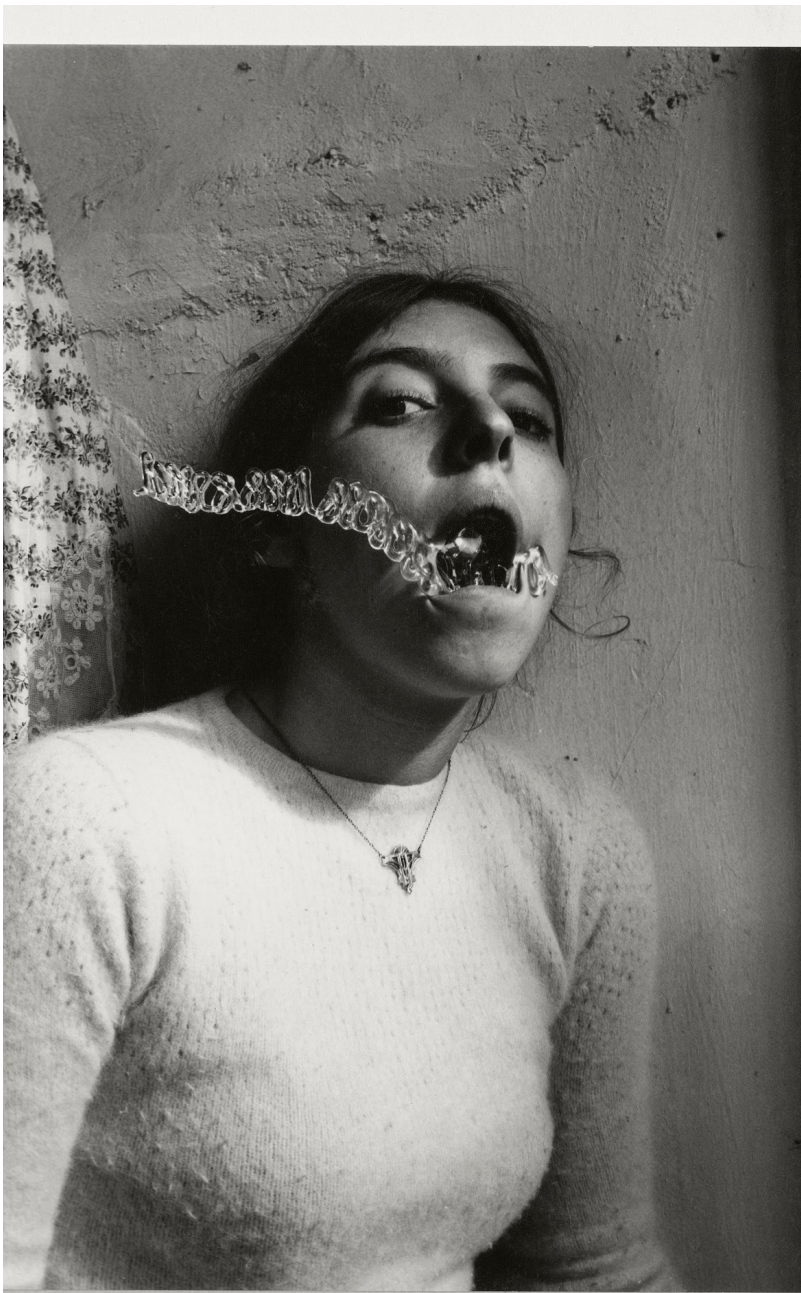
# *Power and identity*

We borrow from Michel Foucault's understanding

- Power is *everywhere*, and in contemporary societies it is expressed through knowledge ("regimes of truth")
- Power is *productive*: 'We must cease once and for all to describe the effects of power in negative terms: it 'excludes', it 'represses', it 'censors', it 'abstracts', it 'masks', it 'conceals'. In fact power produces; it produces reality; it produces domains of objects and rituals of truth. The individual and the knowledge that may be gained of him belong to this production' (Foucault 1991: 194).
- Discourses are organised series of statements about something; they are the vehicles through which power operates

- Francesca Stern Woodman was an American photographer best known for her black and white pictures featuring either herself or female models. Many of her photographs show women, naked or clothed, blurred, merging with their surroundings, or whose faces are obscured. Many of her photographs show women, naked or clothed, blurred, merging with their surroundings, or whose faces are obscured.
- Her work continues to be the subject of much positive critical attention, years after her death at the age of 22, in 1981.

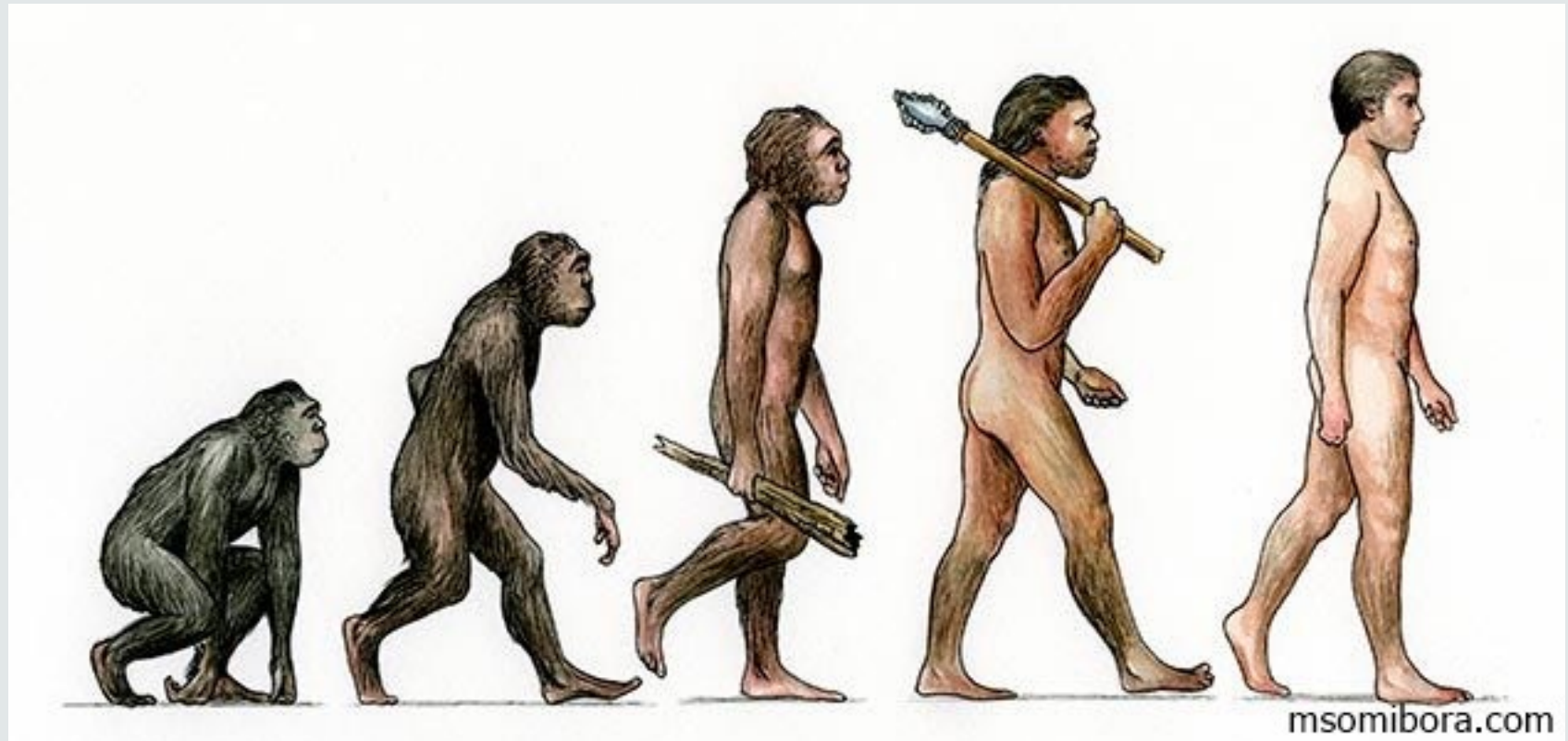




portrait talking to vince



*What are the “things” we call “things”?*





<https://allyouneedisbiology.wordpress.com/2015/12/26/meat-evolution-humans/>



# a global history of object design

**1** When, why, how did design begin?  
Exploring the origins and nature of design up to the Middle Ages

**2** Industrialisation of design  
The Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, Arts & Crafts and more

**3** The truth about Modernism  
'Good Design' in Europe, Britain, Scandinavia, the United States, etc.

**4** Globalisation of design, then ...?  
The cause of rampant consumerism or the means of survival?



Design Museum, Denmark

Design Museum- Stockholm



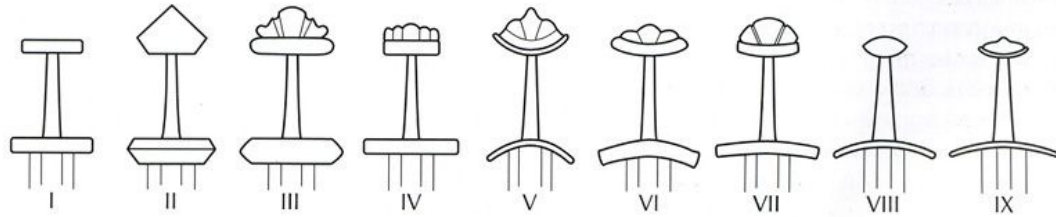
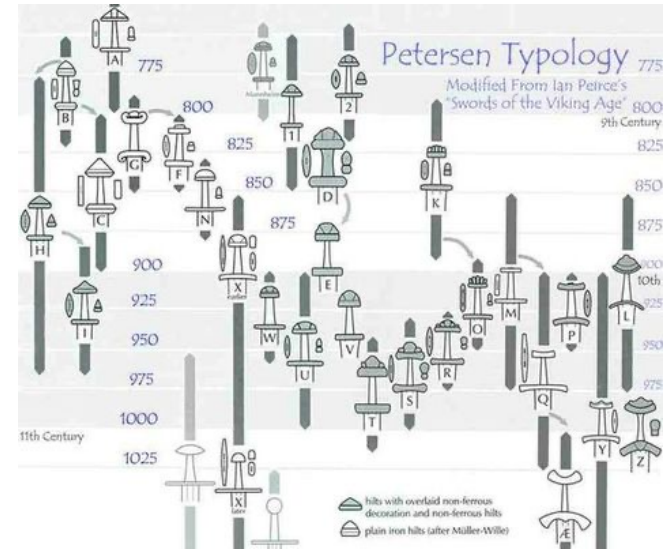


Fig. 1. I - VII. Wheeler's typology of Viking Age sword hilt types associated with British find-places, from R.E.M. Wheeler, *London and the Vikings* (London, 1927), fig. 13, p. 32. VIII - IX. Oakeshott's extension of the classification, from R. Ewart Oakeshott, *The Archaeology of Weapons* (London, 1960), fig. 57, p. 133. Drawing by Lee A. Jones.



*classification*

# WHAT OBJECTS MEAN

An Introduction to Material Culture

Second Edition

**ARTHUR ASA BERGER**



# *Objects*

# *Subjects*

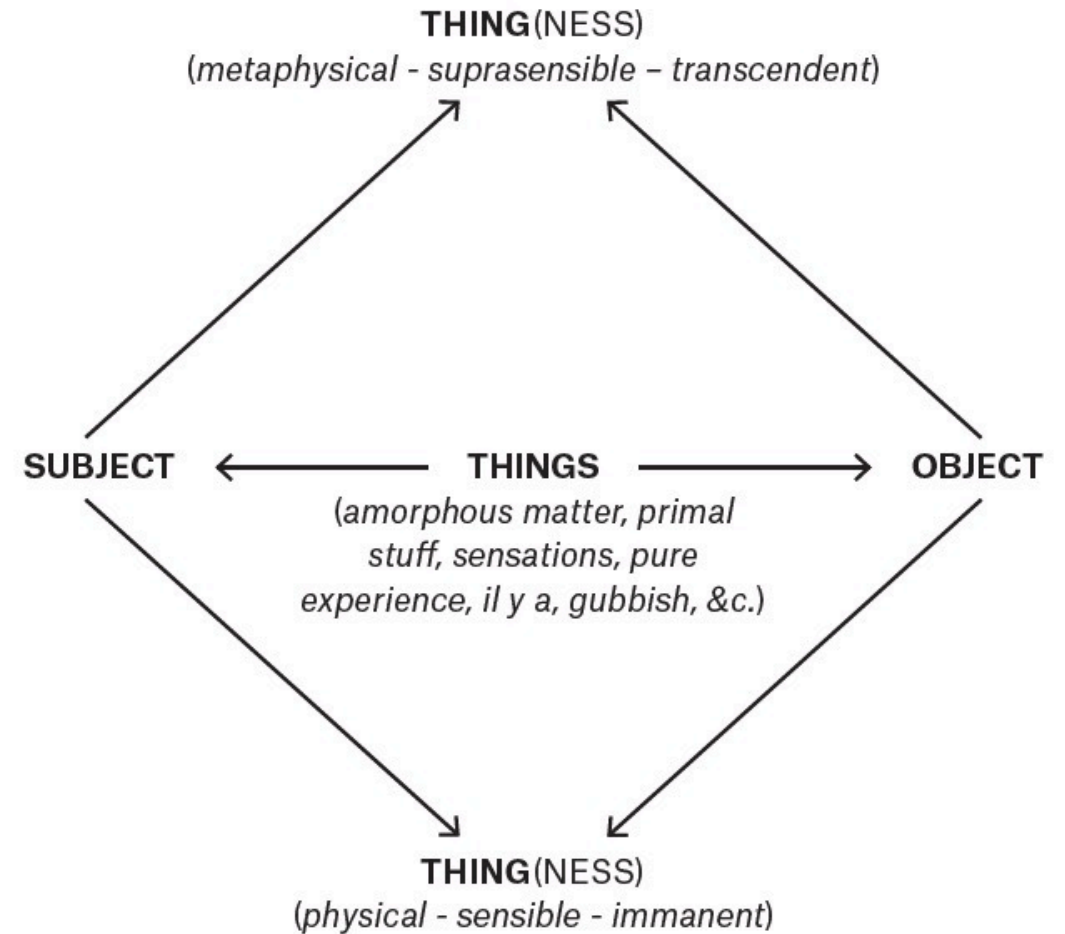
# *Things*

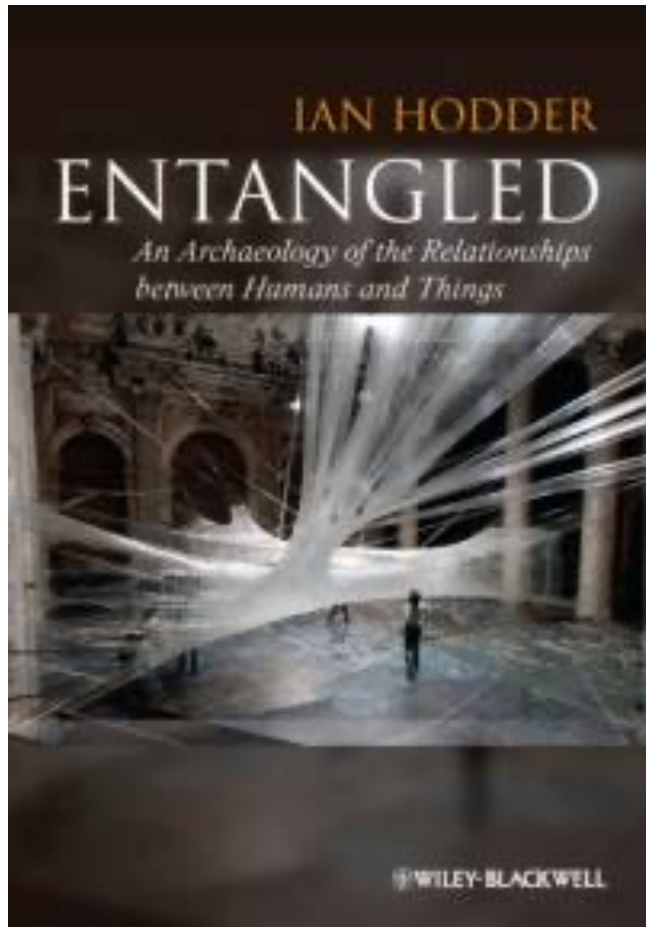
- Difference between **objects** and **things**: objects become things when they no longer serve their intended function (this core insight from Heidegger)
- Focus on the relation between subject and object - *it is the relation* that makes us subjects, and makes things objects

# Thing theory

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- **Thing theory** names an approach that scholars use to investigate human-object relations in art, literature, culture, and everyday life.
- It borrows from Heidegger's distinction between objects and things, which posits that an object becomes a thing when it can no longer serve its common function.





# What is Ethnography?

- ✦ Ethnography is a means to report graphically and in writing the culture of a certain people
- ✦ A qualitative research method which was initially associated with Anthropological research and aims to study “cultural phenomena”
- ✦ Has since been adopted by many other fields including sociology, psychology and even the business world (ethnography as market research is becoming more and more widely used)
- ✦ Ethnographic research has an extremely wide scope. Where there is culture, there *can* be ethnography

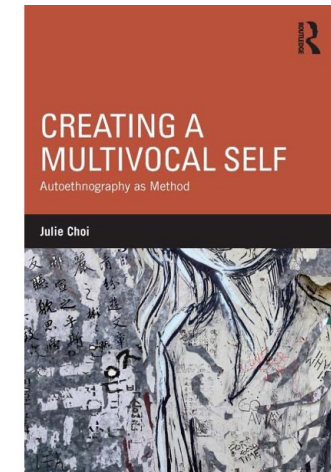
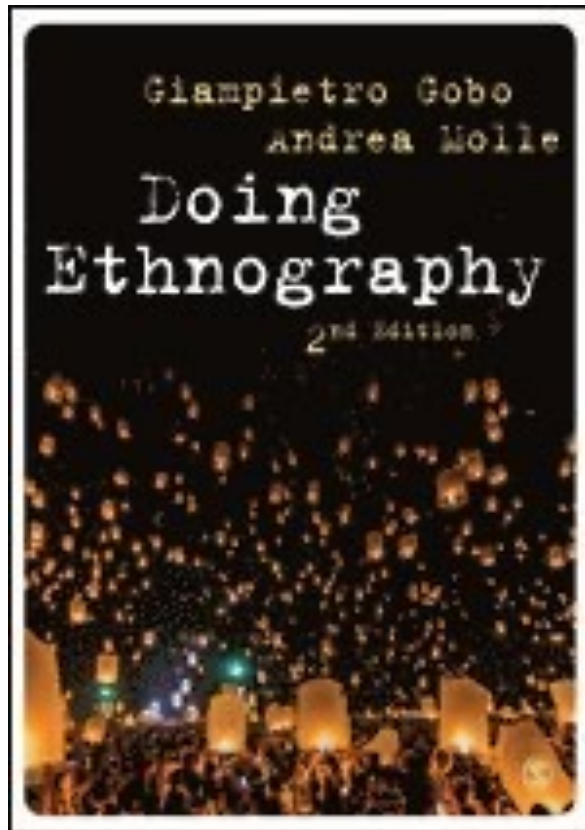
# Auto- ethnography

- What is Ethnography?
- What is the difference between auto ethnography and auto biography?
- 1970s: The term autoethnography was used to describe studies in which cultural members provide insight about their own cultures.

*On a Mission ;A  
Manifesto for  
Autoethnography(2017)  
Jonathan Wyatt*

- ...This is who I am. Let me tell you how it is, how it should be, how it will be, so there can be no doubt. The manifesto says let me tell you how it is so you can call me to account when I fail to deliver on what I declare. The manifesto sets us up.
- Professor Denzin's call for a paradigm that sees autoethnography as inquiry, activism, critique, 'critical citizenship', and empowering and inspiring social imagination

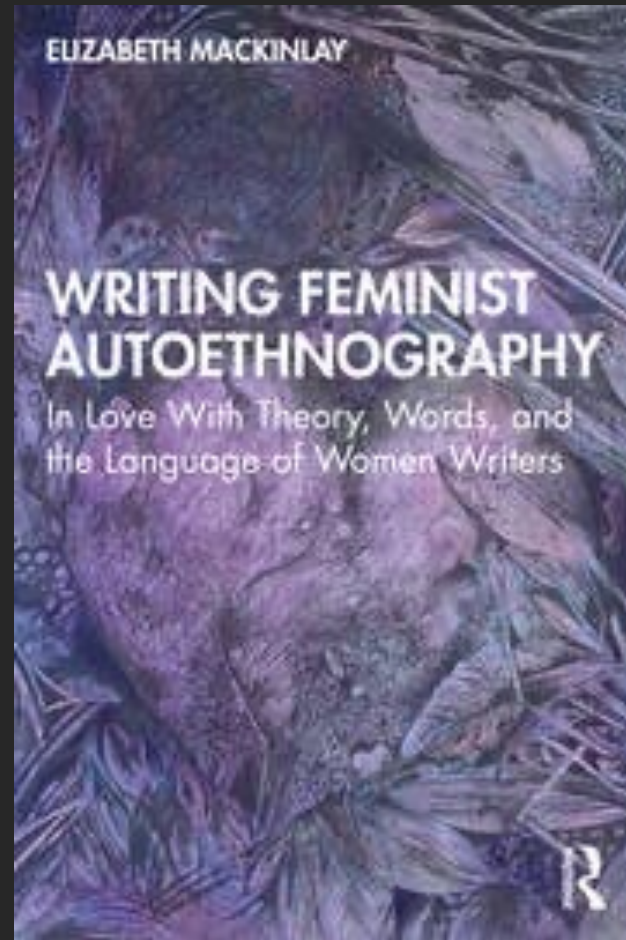
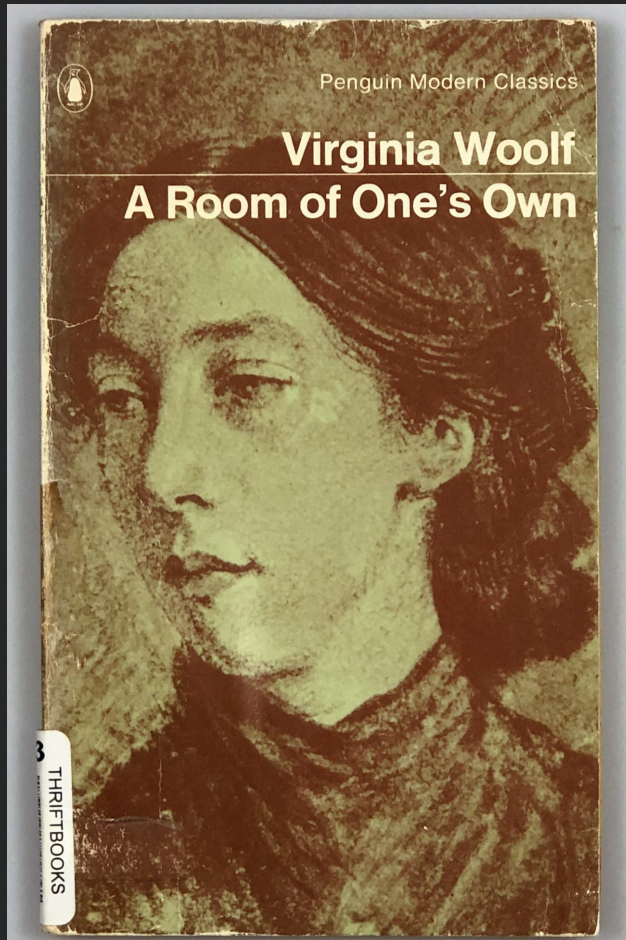
Denzin, N.K.(2010). The qualitative manifesto:A call to arms. Walnut Creek,CA:Left Coast Press.



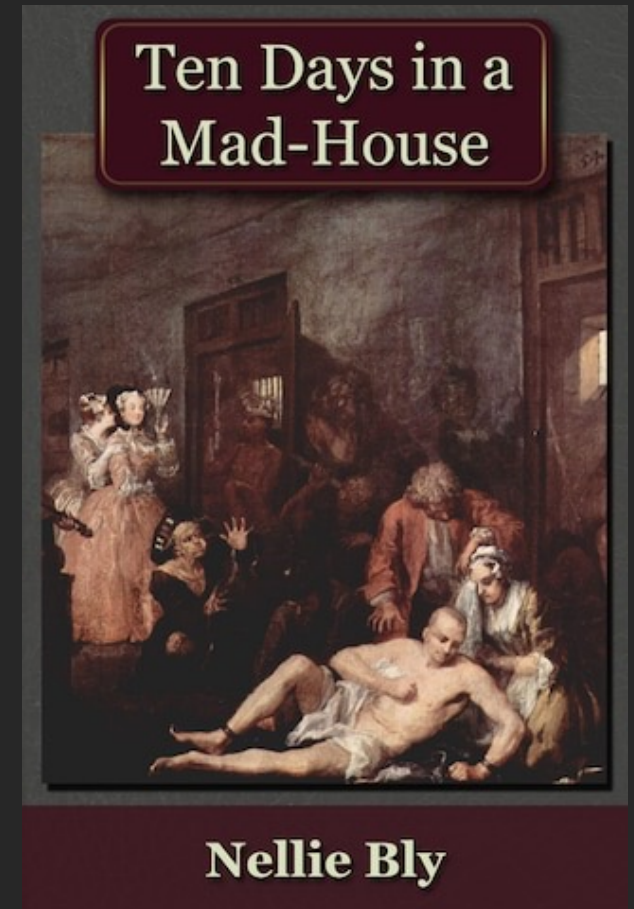
## What is autoethnography?

auto / ethno / graphy

Autoethnography is the act of writing about oneself in order to explore and understand one's culture.



How? : notes, diaries, photos, illustration, poems



*Angelo and Jennifer Merendino*



# The Duck Pond: An Autoethnographic Comic

## Emily Thiessen



After breakfast I went to the cover and a lamp. There are quite a few fellow students with suitcases. I try to guess if they are just moving in or returning. I met our third roommate, Jay from the Philippines. Sorted out wifi, struggled with the awful internet, did laundry. It's starting to feel like home in here.

I went for 茶立 with a girl from Myanmar & a gaggle of Malaysians. We took selfies & played with big & small dogs.



At 9am it's already soul-crushingly hot.

I finally met 信明的老婆. She's 78

shushu and I walked to the "菜市场", it's just a cluster of stalls at the end of 路. The street was built by a 英村人 who made \$ in Singapore.

shushu talked about me to the 菜菜的人 in Hokkien.

这个很好

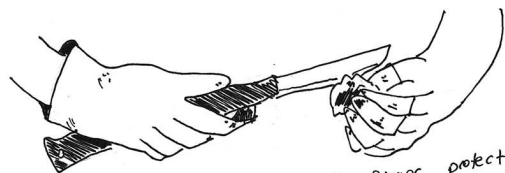
Neighbour helps her to 买东西

I only aspire to have 老人 say to other people about me, "这个很好"



英村社. 迎神节日, 今年农历二月初十日  
演戏从二月初二开演到十三日止(夜夜活动)

唱戏 ↑ 这时候英村最热闹  
v. o.



special oyster gloves & finger protectors (?)

信明 knows everyone on this street, of course, and kept going into different shops as we made our way back, including a store that sells things for newlyweds: bedsheets, computers, towels, grandy plastic cups and plates, all in red and pink, as well as hell money. shu shu bought a pack.

这是为了去宗祠吗?

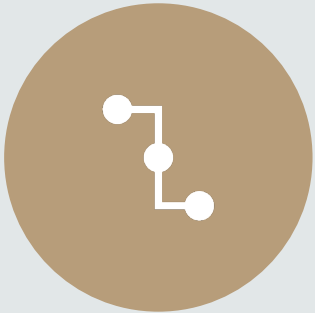
对对

unappetizing murky bucket of shucked oysters (which I drew wrong - as unshucked oysters) Truly oysters are an ugly animal.

# *Next session*

- Wednesday 6 October, 09.00-14.00
- Workshop: Mapping with objects, LPY
- During the workshop, we will continue to reflect on the concepts we explored in today's lecture.
- The workshop will consist of a series of short mapping exercises where you will explore different ways of thinking about yourself and your chosen object. You will present your results during the workshop; presentations will be followed by a discussion that connects what you did to the central theoretical concepts we explored.

# *To do before Wednesday*



- CHOOSE AN OBJECT



- READ THE HANDOUT



- WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN ON WEDNESDAY BUT: YOU WILL DRAW A (MIND)MAP AND YOU WILL WRITE ABOUT THE OBJECT YOU CHOSE



- PREPARE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LECTURE/CONCEPTS/ETC (IF YOU HAVE ANY)