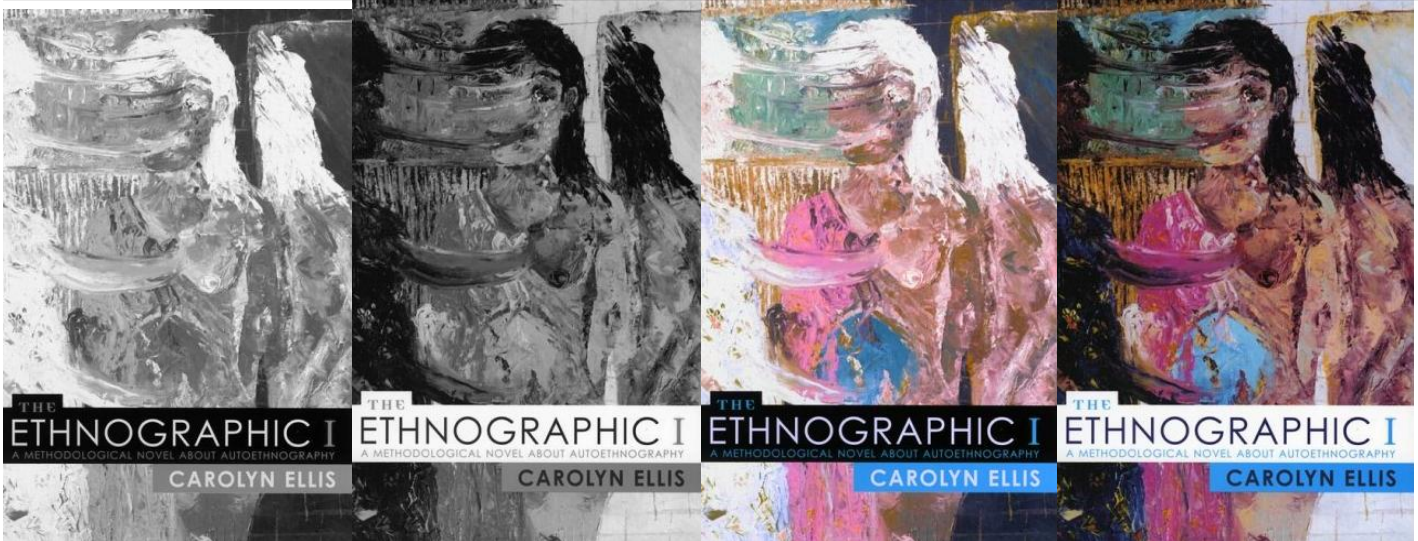


# CAROLYN ELLIS



## Writing Autoethnography



**Carolyn Ellis** is professor of communication and sociology at the University of South Florida. She is the author of *Fisher Folk: Two Communities on Chesapeake Bay*, *Final Negotiations: A Story of Love, Loss, and Chronic Illness*, *The Ethnographic I: A Methodological Novel about Autoethnography*, four edited collections, and more than 100 articles, chapters, essays, and autoethnographic stories. Her forthcoming book is entitled, *Making a Life: Autoethnographic Adventures*. She currently is the co-editor for the book series, *Writing Lives: Narrative Ethnography* with Left Coast Press. Professor Ellis has served as President of *Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction* and chair and founding member of two divisions of national organizations, "The Ethnography Division" of *National Communication Association* and "The Emotions Section" of *American Sociological Association*. She has given numerous workshops and keynote presentations all over the world, including the United States, South Africa, Finland, Italy, Canada, China, and Denmark.

Dr. Ellis is a qualitative researcher, who works at the intersection of social science and humanities. In her work, she seeks to convey a cultural way of life through the presentation of stories about particular lives, and to document the moment-to-moment, concrete details of a life story, both important ways of knowing. Her focus is on autoethnographic inquiry and narrative writing and storytelling, particularly in the areas of emotions, illness, grief and loss, aging, and relationships. Along with her colleagues, she has developed research and writing procedures that reflect the ways people cope with intense experiences and relate to close associates in everyday life. Her goal is to humanize social science projects, evoke emotional responses, and open up conversations about lived experiences and qualitative research. (Photo: Carolyn & "Buddha")



## Benefits of attending the Masterclass:

In the last two decades, many qualitative researchers have experimented with narrative and autoethnographic writing, concentrating on writing in a more evocative and literary style and including themselves as participants in their interview and ethnographic studies of others. Likewise, there has been a burgeoning of autoethnographic projects that focus directly on the research and personal experiences of the author. Dr. Ellis will lead a 2-day Masterclass on *Writing Autoethnography* in which participants will have the opportunity to examine and practice personal narrative writing as well as try out ways to incorporate these techniques into ongoing ethnographic research.

The Masterclass will include assistance in writing autoethnography as a stand-alone research article or as an integral part of a more traditional qualitative research project. Participants may bring 3-5 (or more) pages of writing to work on in the session. This may be descriptive material from a qualitative project of their own—including ethnography, interview, focus group, autoethnography, or other—or it may be personal narrative written specifically for this session. If participants do not have material to bring, they may try their hands at constructing narrative with other participants in small groups during the session. Session attendees will work on improving narrative and autoethnographic writing and on adding scenes, character development, conversations, dramatic action, and the "I" of the researcher to more traditional writing. Some familiarity with Ellis's *The Ethnographic I: A Methodological Novel about Autoethnography* would be helpful though not mandatory.

Prof Andrew Sparkes (Exeter), Prof Dawn Freshwater and Dr Kip Jones (Bournemouth) will assist Prof Ellis in facilitating the group work.

The Centre for Qualitative Research Masterclasses appeal to both post-graduate students and academics working with qualitative methods. The Masterclass will be held over two full days, 10 & 11 April, 2007, at Bournemouth's Talbot Campus, a rural setting not far from the city centre.

### Schedule:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Registration          | 9.00  |
| First Session Begins  | 9.30  |
| Lunch                 | 12.30 |
| Second Session Begins | 13.30 |
| Day Ends              | 16.30 |

## Costs and Booking Information:

**The one-time, special fee of £99.00 for this Masterclass** includes two full days with the course facilitators, all refreshments and all class materials. Cheques should be made payable to **Bournemouth University**. Invoices can only be issued on receipt of a purchase order number. Cancellations received up to six weeks before each masterclass will be refunded less an administration charge of 25%. No refunds can be processed after six weeks have elapsed. Places are limited and operate on a "first come, first served" basis.



**Centre for  
Qualitative  
Research**

<http://www.qualitative-research.co.uk>

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