



Exciting Opportunity To Participate in National Poetry Month

Description

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The personal is poetry. Poetry and autoethnography are natural companions. They go together like bitters and soda, peanut butter and banana, oysters and champagne. How many of us have written poetry when some life situation makes us sad, mad, or perplexed? Think of how many poems there are about break ups, dead pets, and horrible exes. As such, I invite you to participate in National Poetry Month (NaPoMo) over at [The AutoEthnographer's new Facebook Group](#). Click the preceding link or scan/click the QR code below to get started:

Personally, I find poetry to be the language of emotion and turn to verse when I need to make sense of a situation, feeling, or relationship. "The personal is poetry...Poetry of personal experience is vital. Poetry has the power to highlight slippery identity-negotiation processes and present more nuanced views of marginalized and stigmatized identities, to demonstrate embodied experience and to be social research and autoethnography" (Faulkner, 2017a, p. 93).





Photo of woman street poet by Yeongkyeong Lee on Unsplash

Poetry & Autoethnography

Autoethnographic poetry does more than help us process bad relationships. It is a powerful research tool that can help researcher-poets critique, resist, and reimagine better social worlds. In an *ars poetica*, I wrote that “poetry...makes me a better social scientist. When you read poetry, my poetry, I want you to do more than think about your own life; I want you to critique how social structures scaffold your experiences of relating” (Faulkner, 2017b, p. 150). Using poetry about personal experience, relationships, and identity negotiations makes for evocative, creative, and powerful social research.

For these reasons—personal and professional—I find participating in NaPoWriMo (National Poetry Writing Month) during April to be rewarding to my whole person. The times that I have pledged to write a poem a day and followed through, I have affirmed my belief in the power of poetry and committed to writing poetry as part of my creative process (see Faulkner, 2020). Of course, not all the poems I write during the month are good, but that is beside the point. The practice of regularly putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard or voice to software is a good way to get in the habit of writing poetry and to experience the benefits of poetry.

**CLICK OR SCAN OUR LOGO TO JOIN
OUR NEW FACEBOOK GROUP**

Participate!

We invite you to write and read along with us at [The AutoEthnographer's new Facebook group](#) during NaPoMo. Each day in April we will post an autoethnographic poem or link to a poem along with a poetry writing prompt. Some of these will be from our own archives. Others will be originally written for NaPoMo. And still others will be by our favorite poets.

You are encouraged to share your own autoethnographic poetic responses to our daily prompts. Likewise, come and share your old favorites along with us. And we may even invite you to publish your shared work in a special article at the magazine! The goal is for us to celebrate poetry and our personal stories together.

**[READ POETRY AT
THE AUTOETHNOGRAPHER](#)**

References

Faulkner, S. L. (2020). *Poetic Inquiry: Craft, Method, and Practice*, 2nd ed. Routledge.

Faulkner, S. L. (2017a). Poetry is Politics: A Poetry Manifesto. *International Review of Qualitative Research*, 10(1), 89-96. doi:doi.org/10.1525/irqr.2017.10.1.89

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Credits

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