

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Autotheory as a Literary Practice

Ghent University, Belgium | 17 September 2026

Venue: Rustpunt, Ghent

Registration	<i>from 8.30</i>
Opening & welcome remarks by the organising committee	<i>9.00 – 9.15</i>
First session: The Body: Writing Motherhood, Writing Illness	<i>9.15 – 10.45</i>
<i>Chair: Hannah Van Hove (VUB – FWO)</i>	
Kim Schoof (VU), 'Literary Experimentation in Recent Dutch-language Autotheory on Childbirth'	
Dagmar Vandebosch (KU Leuven), 'Autotheory and (Non-)Motherhood in María Fernanda Ampuero's <i>Visceral</i> '	
Zoë Mendelson (Glasgow School of Art), 'Fever Dream: Writing through Ill-Being and Medical Fictioning'	
Break	<i>10.45 – 11.00</i>
Second session: Beyond the Anglophone	<i>11.00 – 12.00</i>
<i>Chair: Kris Pint (Hasselt University)</i>	
Alex Brostoff (Georgetown University), 'The Autotheory Effect'	
Helena Van Praet (UGent – FWO), 'Whose Autotheories? A Model for an Appreciation and Extension of Autotheory from a Literary Perspective'	
Lunch	<i>12.00 – 13.00</i>
Keynote Lecture	<i>13.00 – 14.00</i>
<i>Chair: Helena Van Praet (UGent – FWO)</i>	
Lauren Fournier, 'Autotheoryfictions'	
Break	<i>14.00 – 14.15</i>
Third session: Inquiries into (Material) Form	<i>14.15 – 15.45</i>
<i>Chair: Lars Bernaerts (UGent)</i>	

Tessel Veneboer (LUCA School of Arts – KU Leuven), ‘Pseudo-autobiography and the Politics of Form in Kathy Acker’s Early Work’

Laura Haynes (Glasgow School of Art): ‘Autotheory in the Archive: Tillie Olsen’s Collective Memoir as Literary Counter-History’

Beth Casserly (KU Leuven), ‘Mind the Gap: Text, Image, and Narratorial Control in Graphic Autotheory’

Break 15.45 – 16.00

Fourth session: Autotheory and the Neoliberal Economy 16.00 – 17.30

Chair: Laura Cernat (KU Leuven – FWO)

Luisa Wan (University of Cambridge), ‘Putting “I” on the page: Complicity as an Autotheoretical Style in Cathy Park Hong’s *Minor Feelings* (2020)’

Vilashini Cooppan (University of California at Santa Cruz), ‘Autotheory and Love in the Age of Neoliberal Capitalism’

Liza Mattutat (Leuphana University Lüneburg), ‘Writing Intimacy: Autotheory and the Aesthetics of Immediacy’

Closing remarks by the organising committee 17.30 – 17.45

Organising committee:

Lars Bernaerts (Ghent University), Hannah Van Hove (VUB – FWO) & Helena Van Praet (Ghent University – FWO)

Scientific committee:

- Lars Bernaerts (Ghent University)
- Laura Cernat (KU Leuven – FWO)
- Maria Gil Ulldemolins (Hasselt University)
- Kris Pint (Hasselt University)
- Hannah Van Hove (VUB – FWO)
- Helena Van Praet (Ghent University – FWO)
- Sven Vitse (Utrecht University)