

# **International and Interdisciplinary Conference (Philosophy / History / Literature)**

## **Life Writing:**

### **Theory and Praxis of Biography**

#### First Call

**Date:** November 24-26, 2025

**Venue:** Instituto de Enseñanza Superior en Lenguas Vivas Juan Ramón Fernández

Carlos Pellegrini 1515, City of Buenos Aires

#### **Foundations:**

The biographical narrative is a hybrid genre in which different forms of discourse intersect. Because of its claim to truth, it is part of historiography, but also, as an account of the central episodes of an individual's life, it cannot be separated from the literary configurations in which it is presented as writing and, in fact, it is probably the most frequently written type of text. From politicians to sportsmen, scientists, artists, gangsters, etc., biographies are multiplying exponentially on the shelves of bookstores and libraries. Added to this is the phenomenon of biographies in media such as Wikipedia.

From a historical perspective, the genre was long considered a marginal field and not worthy of the academy, and this for social history as well as for Marxism, structural history, historical anthropology and other perspectives. Biography was paradoxically discredited along with the abandonment of the “grand narratives” (Lyotard). The latter, linked to the idea of progress in its different versions, typical of the nineteenth-century philosophies of history about the course of human evolution in general. Biography, on the other hand, was associated (unilaterally, by the way) with a conception of history that emphasized the individual in isolation from his or her social and political context. It is only in recent years that it has been rescued by microhistory, albeit in a partly different format.

Although in recent years, in the field of literary studies, research on the biographical field has taken on a new boom that has materialized in a series of important publications, even though it cannot be compared to other literary genres considered canonical. There is still a need to elucidate various aspects that are yet little explored.

From the philosophical perspective, the subject should be taken up again from the work of Dilthey - himself an author of biographies - who saw in it, and particularly in autobiography, a paradigm of historical writing. But the passage from first-person narration to third-person writing was hardly addressed in his works. On the other hand, the concept of “narrative identity” designed by Paul Ricoeur has not been studied as far as the configuration of biographical writing is concerned.

The significant title of the book edited by Hans Renders and David Veltman dedicated to biography: *Fear of Theory* (Brill, 2021) has not lost its relevance.

We cannot fail to mention the role that biography plays in the field of psychoanalysis. Both from the point of view of its reconstruction and for the self-understanding of the subject.

The proposal consists of a multidisciplinary approach to a subject that transcends the limits of the traditionally established canonical disciplines. Despite the relatively recent emergence of international societies and periodicals devoted to the subject, biography is still an avid field of reflection and theoretical research.

### **Organizing Committee:**

*Philosophy Area:* Daniel Brauer (coordinator): Omar Acha, Max Best, Mariana Fernández Talavera, Esteban Lythgoe, Facundo Martín, Adrián Ratto, Eduardo Weisz [The complete list will be informed in the Second Circular].

*History Area:* Alejandra Pasino (coordinator), Gustavo Paz, Beatriz Bargoni, Mariana Rosetti.

*Literature Area:* Miguel Vedda (coordinator), Patrick Eser, Silvia Nora Lavado, Juan Manuel Lacalle, Gabriel Darío Pascansky, Carola Inés Pivetta.

*Lenguas Vivas Institute Area:* Max Best (coordinator), Astrid Wenzel.

**Languages:** Spanish/ Portuguese/ English/ German/ French

**Deadline for communication proposals:** May 15, 2025

**Submit an extended abstract of up to 800 words**

**Request information and submit papers to the following address:**

**congresobiografia@gmail.com**

**Fees:**

Speakers USD 40 / Students: USD 20, Lenguas Vivas teachers: no fee.

Public: Free attendance

Bank Transfers accepted [account will be indicated in the next circular]. Payment at the beginning of the Congress will be available as well.

**Academic Committee:** [To be informed in the Second Circular Letter].

**Some of the topics and problems proposed for theoretical-critical reflection are:**

- Biographical writing, memory and personal identity

- Biography as a type of historical narration and its tropology /Biography and intersubjectivity.
- From the first to the third person: the relationship between autobiography and biography/Relationship between biography and artwork
- Cinema and biography
- Biography and the world of life
- Biography and History/Biography and Microhistory
- From ancient to postmodern biography
- Models of biographical writing
- New formats of biographical inscription: from the printed text to social networks
- Freedom and destiny in the constitution of life trajectories
- Biography and psychoanalysis/ The filmic biography/ Biography and acting performance
- Biography and translation
- Biography and its pedagogical use in the classroom