CALL FOR PAPERS
Special Issue: Cyber Autoethnography, Cyber Culture, and Cyber Identities
Abstracts Due: January 25, 2017

Editor: Dr. Ahmet Atay (College of Wooster)
Special Issue: Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies

Traditionally, most autoethnographic research dealt with cultural experiences that are bounded by the idea of relational aspects of our communication and by our presentations and performances of identities in physical and cultural contexts. Hence, this research has focused on the physical dimensions of human experiences, such as coming out (Adams, 2011), bulimia and body (Tilmann, 1996), face-to-face interactions, family relationships (Poulos, 2012), disability (Lindemann, 2010), and home and identity (Chawl, 2014). However, not many autoethnographies have focused on human experiences in cyber spaces. Similarly, scholars working on autoethnographic research have widely ignored human experiences and cultural identities within mediated cultures as well as in digital and cyber spaces.

Some of the recent scholarship in popular culture and cultural studies aims to bridge the gap between autoethnography and mediated representations, for example, Boylorn’s (2008) work on representation of Black women on reality television. Furthermore, the entire issue of Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies, “Iconography of the West: Autoethnographic Representations of the West(erns)” examined the notion of representation through an autoethnographic lens. In addition to media representations, some scholars, such as Lavery (2007), Monaco (2010), and Sturm (2015), studied different aspects of television and popular culture fandom. Recently, Manning and Adams (2015) co-edited a special issue of Popular Culture Studies Journal, focused on the usage of autoethnography in popular culture scholarship.

By building on the previous scholarship that discusses the link between media and popular culture and autoethnography, the purpose of this special issue is to focus on the idea of cyber or digital autoethnography. Building on Gajjala’s work (2002, 2004, 2006) and work such as that of Terri Senft (2008) as well as on work by anthropologists such as Tom Boellstorff (2012), we argue that because of increased digitalization of everyday life, our identities and realities are becoming increasingly mediated and digitalized. Hence, our identities are patched together and they are the mixture of (cyber)experiences, (cyber)stories and (cyber/mediated) representations. In order to study our lived experiences within a culture, which is heavily digitalized, we need to develop a methodology that would allow such experiences to be studied. In this special issue, our goal is to develop the theoretical framework of cyber autoethnography and also present cyber autoethnographic writing that breaks the boundaries of traditional, physical-based, space-bound autoethnographies.

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We welcome autoethnographic manuscripts that engage (but are not limited to) the following domains of issues and experience:
1-Theorizing cyber autoethnography
2-Cyber identities and autoethnography
3-Cyborgs
4-Digial homes
5-Cyber autoethnography and cyber culture
6-Cyber cosmopolitanism

Abstracts are due by January 25, 2017, with a word length of no more than 500 words. Full-length manuscripts are due on August 25, 2017, with a word length of no more than 6,000 words including references, endnotes, and so forth. Abstracts should emailed as Word documents to Ahmet Atay (aatay@wooster.edu) for an initial review.

Work Cited