



Les Girls Restaurant Darlinghurst Road Kings Cross, 1988. City of Sydney.

In life-writing by and about queer lives, there are few examples of auto/biography that reflect, in their presentation of both content and structure, the anti-normative experience of queerness. Might a 'queering' of auto/biography better reflect this experience and hence be a truer representation of queer lives? What would such a queering look like? How might a writer use it as an activist stance against the contemporary tidal wave of anti-gender and anti-queer sentiment? These questions are the central considerations of a creative project that began as a historically informed biography of transgender woman Alison Clark but ended as an investigation into a queering of life-writing. The concept of performativity, as articulated by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, through Anna Poletti's lenses of collage and ventriloquism, as well as Saidiya Hartman's ideas on critical fabulation, have been my guides in this queering project. These techniques have also strengthened my activist aims in helping me create a work of queer resistance that, while acknowledging trauma, moves beyond it to celebrate and value lives lived beyond the binary and normativity in a hoped for future of accessibility and abundance.

Queering Auto/ Biography: The Many Lives of Alison Clark



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Please note that this presentation will discuss gender based violence and trauma associated with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Details

Thursday 25 June
2026, 11am-12pm

In person

Seminar room 6.71,
Level 6, RSSS Building,
146 Ellery Crescent,
ANU

Zoom

[bit.ly/
BioWorkshop2022](https://bit.ly/BioWorkshop2022)

This presentation will be made online via Zoom. Attendees are still welcome to come in person if they wish.



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