**SEMINARIUM LICENCJACKIE 2025/2026**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

**Dr hab. Teresa Bruś, prof. UWr**

**Lives in Texts: Autobiography, Biography, and Life Writing in the 20th & 21st Centuries**

This seminar explores the literary and theoretical dimensions of life writing — including autobiography, memoir, and biography — in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will examine how writers shape identities through narrative and non-narrative forms, how cultural context and historical trauma inflect memory, and how formal experimentation challenges traditional boundaries of truth, selfhood, and authorship. We will engage with canonical and contemporary texts, as well as critical debates around ethics, genre, voice, and narrative authority.

We will discuss multiple biographies of the same figure, biographies of celebrities, authors, writers across cultural boundaries, and biographical writing that blends fiction, theory, and speculation; we will ask how lives are narrated, translated, mythologized, and framed within political and ideological structures. Special attention will be given to questions of authorship, representation, ethics, archival practices, genre fluidity, memory, and performativity.

We will be invited to select our own topics of the B.A. thesis. Hopefully, the main keywords in this seminar: autofiction, fragmented selves, digital lives, lives in translation, narrative play, subjectivity, memory, truth, identity, performativity, and genre fluidity will spark new and exciting paths for us to pursue.