

**Milfull, Tim**, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

**Unravelling Whaley's Folly: The Perils of Writing Autobiographical Fiction and Fictionalised Memoir**

Thomas Whaley died under mysterious circumstances in an eighteenth-century roadhouse somewhere in England. He left behind a family, at least one mistress, a wealthy estate, and a series of legendary exploits detailed in a long-lost handwritten memoir.

Whaley is also my second-cousin many times removed, and together, our lives form the chief creative component in my PhD: a multi-layered work of creative nonfiction embracing Whaley's story and mine.

While my research involves historiographic metafiction and other narratological theories, this paper examines my creative practice in terms of autobiographical fiction and fictional biography; specifically, with reference to the research of Philippe Lejeune and Carolyn Barros, I am searching for the most ethical path to appropriate the lives of others for creative nonfiction, and to effectively intertwine two very different stories from the eighteenth and twenty-first centuries.