



The Madeira Conference Papers

In 2015, the fourth IABA Europe conference took place in Funchal, Madeira, hosted by the Centre for Atlantic Studies (CEHA) and co-hosted by the *European Journal of Life Writing*.

This conference aimed to advance contemporary discussion on narrating lives (telling life stories) by and the interpretation of life narrative and life writing, and the tensions to which these may give rise. Almost fifty participants from all over the world presented papers relating to a range of different subjects, including the effects of narrating lives on power relations; by whom lives are written, and in what form; the role of archives in preserving, publishing and 'canonising' life stories; the dialogue between the writer/producer of ego documents and the researcher/reader; the question of the ethics of life writing; and the impact of narrating lives on trade and communication in Atlantic history.

After the conference, participants were invited to submit articles based on their papers, to be published in the *European Journal of Life Writing*. In this section of the journal you will find a selection of topics addressed during the conference; starting with the first two articles, we will publish more in the course of this year.

The editors