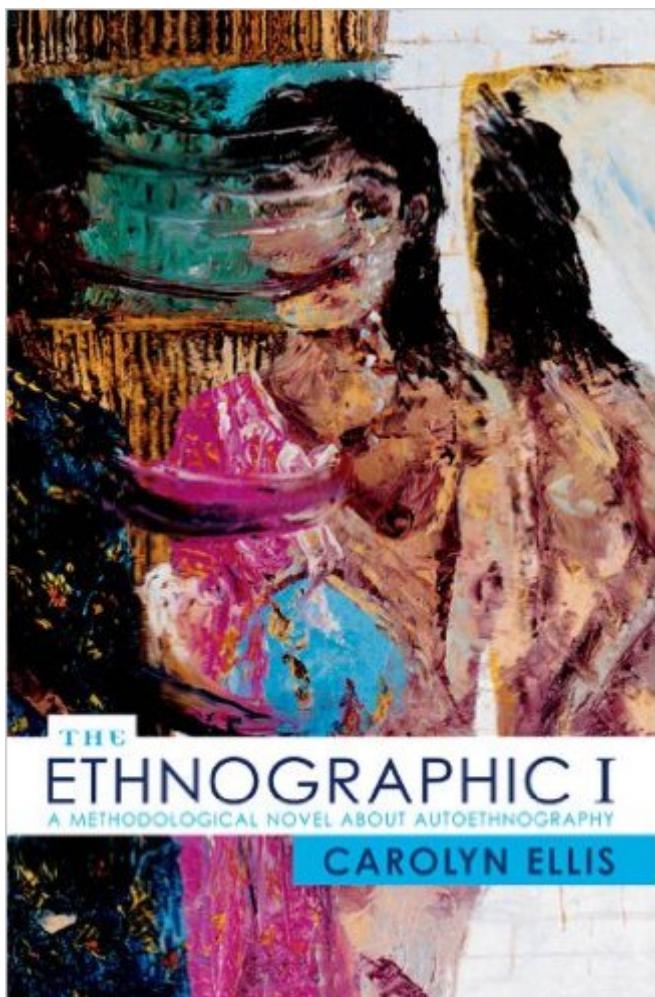


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# The Ethnographic I: A Methodological Novel About Autoethnography (Ethnographic Alternatives)



## Synopsis

A methodological textbook on autoethnography should be easily distinguishable from the standard methods text. Carolyn Ellis, the leading proponent of these methods, does not disappoint. She weaves both methodological advice and her own personal stories into an intriguing narrative about a fictional graduate course she instructs. In it, you learn about her students and their projects and understand the wide array of topics and strategies that fall under the label autoethnography.

Through Ellis's interactions with her students, you are given useful strategies for conducting a study, including the need for introspection, the struggles of the budding ethnographic writer, the practical problems in explaining results of this method to outsiders, and the moral and ethical issues that get raised in this intimate form of research. Anyone who has taken or taught a course on ethnography will recognize these issues and appreciate Ellis's humanistic, personal, and literary approach toward incorporating them into her work. A methods text or a novel? The Ethnographic 'I' answers yes to both.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating read -- methodological theory presented in the form of a novel, a college prof teaching a class on a fairly new, "post-postmodern" form of reflexive qualitative writing, auto/ethnography. Could be seen as the manifesto for the sub-genre. Auto/ethnography is not embraced by all in the social sciences, such as anthropology, sociology, communications, psychology, medical health, etc., but it is growing. If the personal is political, why not the ethnographic...If you can't take a graduate course with Ellis at USF, then you can vicariously sit in on this class through this book.

I was very interested in this book because autoethnography is difficult to do and as a research methodology its much maligned as being "navel gazing". However, there is much to learn from the intrapsychic ponderings of individuals. The internal dialogue we have with ourselves is an important source of information for us and our life trajectory that it would be useful to share. I am almost finished and really enjoy the way the author creates a novel of the methodology as a means of illustrating the progression.

Wonderful book. It taught me a lot about autoethnographic writing without ever becoming boring. I didn't have trouble reading it or keeping my interest high. It is true. Humans have always told stories. That's how we make sense of our world. This book has taught me so much more than I ever learned from my quantitative studies in psychology.

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