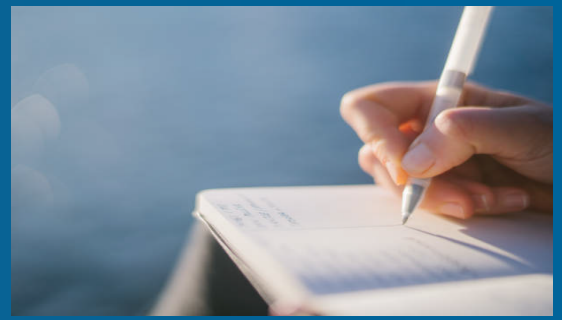


“WHO OWNS THE STORIES OF OUR LIVES?”



A reading and reflection by creative writer Lise Saffran

Sponsored by the Glasscock Center for Humanities Research
and the Department of English

Hosted in GLAS 311 (Library). Free & open to the public.

April 25, 2021 | 2:00-3:30 P.M.

The Glasscock Center for Humanities Research and the English Department at Texas A&M University invite you to join us for a reading and discussion with public health storyteller, novelist, and essayist Lise Saffran. As a visiting guest speaker during Fall 2021, Saffran studied and discussed an archive of first-person stories about Ebola, malaria, and COVID-19 collected by the Global Health Humanities T3 grant (Howell, Showers Johnson, Dague, Yeoman). She now returns to read excerpts from the final draft of the creative work inspired by these stories and discuss the process of composition. Her work, entitled "Crossing the River: A Meditation on Infection, Community, and Grief in a Changing World," pieces together excerpts from oral histories, historical and literary research, and personal reflection, forming a lyrical nonfiction collage illuminating the challenges in this type of storytelling. After the reading, she will reflect upon her methods and process, answering questions such as the following: in a media environment where stories both connect and divide us, how do we balance curiosity, humility, respect, and empathy as we approach the accounts of others' lived experiences and perspectives? When are public health stories such as those that involve Ebola, Malaria and Covid-19 global health stories and when are they specific, local, and personal?

The former Director of the Master of Public Health Program at the University of Missouri and recent Co-Chair of the Health Humanities Consortium (HHC), Lise Saffran's research, teaching and writing center on the value of narrative in public health communication and as a mechanism for self-reflection toward the ethical practice of public health. Her creative publications include the novel *Juno's Daughters* and her scholarly publications include explorations of authenticity in science communication and the power of fiction writing to disrupt biases.



Lise Saffran, MPH, MFA

Associate Teaching Professor
Department of Public Health
University of Missouri

To register for the event, visit: tx.ag/CrWriting

* Hybrid option, online access: tx.ag/CrWrWeb*



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