

This talk hopes to contribute to a closer appreciation of how memoir and fiction represent experiences of illness and grief and how readers engage with them. It will draw on literary works written on the thin line between memoir and fiction to consider the questions they raise on the power and limitations of fiction and memoir: are there limits to the testimonial power of memoir? Can the artifice of fiction, its power to shift perspective and step into others' minds, prove enabling to articulate otherwise inarticulate experience? Are the differences in the writing of memoir and fiction replicated in the reading of each form?

