

# THE FEMINIST ETHICS OF REMEMBERING: AN EXPLORATION INTO HOW OUR MEMORIES ARE SHAPED BY OUR VALUES AND RELATIONSHIPS

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## INTRODUCTION

As a creative writer who often writes about my own life, I have long been interested in the topic of memory. Specifically when it comes to memoir. My peers and I have often discussed the complications of crafting our memories into personal narratives, when they inevitably involve other people, who might hold conflicting views of the same events. This project is an opportunity to explore some the ethical questions around memories, and writing about memory.

## QUESTIONS

Are our memories really ours alone?  
What ethical opportunities and responsibilities exist within practices personal narrative?

## METHODOLOGY

This research project has involved reading selected articles from various philosophers, including multiple works by Susan Brison (*Aftermath: Violence and the Remaking of a Self*) and Sue Campbell (*Our Faithfulness to the Past: The Ethics and Politics of Memory*). There were also multiple philosophical discussions with my advisor, and a small discussion group with Uvic students.

## PHILOSOPHICAL THESIS

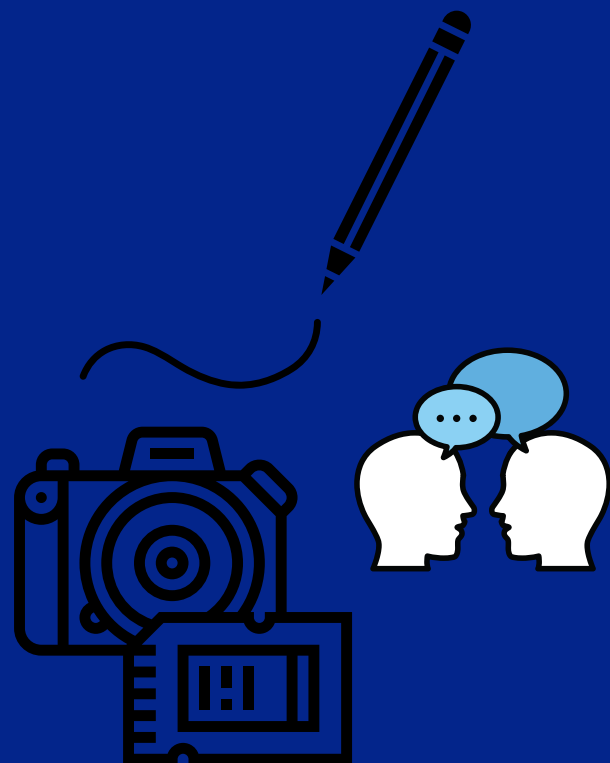
Drawing upon Susan Brison's theory of the self as relational, I defend a philosophical case for the relational character of memory. Once this is established, I argue for sharing our memories, as personal narrative, and in forms such as memoir, as an ethical practice, rooted in care for the self and others.

## CONCLUSION

While personal narrative and memoir can often be seen as self serving or self indulgent, there is ethical value in sharing our memories and our personal truths as a way to care for eachother and help to shape our shared memory context into one that values transparency and honesty, rather than silence and denial.

# If memory is relational, sharing our memories can be an ethical practice.

# Personal narrative, in forms such as memoir, can be used as way to care for the self and others, amidst a culture that values silence, and denial.



SHARE A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

AN ANONYMOUS MINI-MEMOIR



WERE YOU TOLD STORIES ABOUT THIS MEMORY BY OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE? PARENTS? FRIENDS? IS IT ENTIRELY YOUR OWN RECOLLECTION?

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO READ THE OTHER MINI-MEMOIRS?

DOES IT CHANGE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR OWN?