

## Rebellious Publishing in the Aspiring Sciences

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Ranking practices, both symbolic and formal, construct a landscape wherein particular kinds of knowledge and writing are taken more seriously. This article introduces my own experience with personal narrative research, and discusses it as an undervalued method in the social sciences. Despite autoethnography's stigmatized reputation in many academic fields, conditions in higher education encourage scholars to work in the method because it is time and cost efficient. These conditions include but are not limited to an increasing number of venues to place such work; the growing obligations for professors in the arenas of teaching, advising, and service; changes in and impact of scholars' relationship to job security, tenure, and prestige; and limited resources. In the case of autoethnography, negative conditions produce positive latent effects, as autoethnography can create important theory. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2017 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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### INTRODUCTION

In sociology's struggle to be respected as a "hard" science, quantitative research has been valued over qualitative traditions (Blumer 1969). This

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