

Finding the Bones: Structure & The Art of the Essay

A workshop by Irina Dumitrescu

June 7, 2024 | 12 - 6 PM

Many writers find developing a good structure one of the most challenging parts of writing an essay. It is even more difficult when shifting from scholarly to public writing, which offers more options for shaping a work, but it also puts more demands on the writer to tell an engaging story. In this intensive workshop, we will closely examine short and long-form essays from magazines, newspapers, and literary journals, look at standard structures used in journalism and creative nonfiction, and use writing prompts to develop our craft.

Workshop readings and discussion will be in English, but participants are welcome to do written exercises in whatever language they choose.

Irina Dumitrescu is Professor of English Medieval Studies at the University of Bonn and a columnist at the Times Literary Supplement. She also co-hosts a podcast with Mary Wellesley at the London Review of Books. In addition to these publications, she regularly writes for the *New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Longreads*, *Times Higher Education*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. As a memoirist, Irina has been included in *Best American Essays*, shortlisted for the James Beard Foundation's MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, and received the McGinnis-Ritchie Award for nonfiction.

This event is open to MA and PhD students as well as faculty members. Limited spots are available, and registration is required. To register, please send an email to Gulsin Ciftci <gulsin.ciftci@uni-muenster.de>.