

Eric G. Wilson

Thomas H. Pritchard Professor of English at Wake Forest University

Winston-Salem, NC, US

Wilson is a leading expert in the relationships between literature and psychology.

Biography

As a leading expert in the relationships between literature and psychology, Eric G. Wilson embraces what many fear: melancholy, mental illness, and controversy. A distinguished Romantic scholar and best-selling author, Wilson chronicles his struggle and ultimate embrace of bipolar disorder in the wake of his daughter's birth, challenges America's obsessions with superficial happiness, and explores William Blake's vision of creativity and the practices it implies.

Well-versed on subjects ranging from film and religion to humanism and technology, Wilson has appeared on NBC's Today show, NPR and BBC, and his work has been featured in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek and Los Angeles Times. "Everyone Loves a Good Train Wreck" – which explores the many forms of morbid curiosity and argues that macabre fascination is essential for a good life — was released in the spring of 2012. He is currently blogging on the topic for Psychology Today.

His most recent release, "Keeping it Fake," Wilson draws on the science, philosophy and social pressures that shape our inauthentic lives arguing that people regularly create less-than-authentic identities, whether it is through Facebook profiles, plastic surgeries, or tuning into a news channel that simply verifies our opinions.

Areas of Expertise

American Culture and Mental Health, Literature and Psychology, Film and Religion, Western Esoteric Traditions, Humanism and Technology, Transatlantic Romanticism, The Gothic

Education

City University of New York, Graduate Center

Ph.D. English Literature

Wake Forest University

M.A. English Literature

Appalachian State University

B.A. English Literature

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