

Centre for Narrative Research Web Newsletter 1 - April 2002

We are planning to post a newsletter annually or twice-yearly, mainly to distribute news of members', associates' and interested others' relevant research and writings but also for short reviews of conferences, papers and books, and announcements of future plans. Please email us if you would like to contribute something about your work, or some other writing, to the next issue.

E-COPY DATE FOR ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

Send to:

Molly Andrews, Corinne Squire and Maria Tamboukou (codirectors)

m.andrews@uel.ac.uk, c.squire@uel.ac.uk, m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk

Recent and Upcoming Events

- After a successful third narrative workshop, this time on 'Narrative and Education', in March, a fourth has been scheduled, on 'Narrative and Health,' for Thursday November 14, 2002, Kings' College, Cambridge. Details will be posted to the elist and on the web page in the summer.
- The sold-out 'Narrative and Everyday Life' event at the ICA, to which many could not get tickets, is available on tape from Rachel Cottam, ICA, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH, for £11 - or call (44 1) (0) 20 7930 3647
- Forthcoming visitors at CNR include **Elizabeth Blaney**, from the University of New Brunswick, Canada, who is researching class and gender effects on the education of working-classed girls and women, and who will be making a brief visit on July 18. **Jennifer Lehman**, from LaTrobe University, Australia, who is a short story writer, social worker and social work lecturer, and who has uses short stories drawing on her practice both to illuminate her practice and to teach, will be here during the autumn semester. **Catherine Riessman**, from Boston College, will be at CNR and elsewhere in Britain during the month of November, and will be working on reflexivity, narrative identity and biographical disruption.

News of Members and Associates

Molly Andrews, UEL

My research in East Germany, conducted as an Associate Research Fellow of the Centre for Socialization and Human Development at the Max-Planck Institut in Berlin shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, made me appreciate the fundamental importance of political context which hinders or enhances the prospects for forgiveness. Using my data from interviews with forty people involved in underground oppositional activities in the years leading up the 'bloodless revolution' as well as with former employess of the Stasi, I have developed a psychological model of forgiveness which challenges traditional constructions of forgiveness as a wholly individual process. Building from this model, I have more recently begun to explore the similarities and differences between South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and East Germany's truth commission, and have been invited to be a keynote speaker at a conference on "Narrative, Trauma, and Memory" in Cape Town this summer. I will also be giving a paper on this topic at the forthcoming meeting of the International Society of Political Psychologists in

Berlin. As a political psychologist, I am also interested in the implications of the loss of country on the social identity of a community, and have just completed an article on this subject, to be published in an international collection including contributions from individuals from Northern Ireland, Latin America, South Africa, and other locations of acute political change. Building on this work and that of others, I have just finished editing a special issue for the journal *Narrative Inquiry* on Counter-narratives. A completely distinct trajectory of my work is on the social construction of aging and agelessness, and I have been invited to be a keynote speaker on this topic at the 4th International Symposium on Cultural Gerontology, to be held in Finland in the spring of 2003.

Michael Bamberg, Clark University

Michael Bamberg, Professor of Psychology at Clark University, MA, researches on narrative and discourse as the constitutive means for identity. In his project on the topic of identity formation in 10- to 15-year olds he is investigating the discursive means by which young males construe themselves as adolescents and as male. He is editor of the journal *Narrative Inquiry* and the book series 'Studies in Narrative'.

Prue Chamberlayne, The Open University

Prue Chamberlayne, Senior Research Fellow at the Open University, is researching relationship and boundary issues in work with homeless people, using biographical materials to develop a video training package. She is also evaluating health work with older people in a healthy living centre, using mapping, biographical and observation methods.

Phil Cohen, UEL

Phil Cohen, Director of the Centre for Cultural Innovation Studies at the University of East London, recently completed an ESRC funded project (with Les Back and Michael Keith from Goldsmith's College) focusing on young peoples constructs of safety and danger in Deptford and the Isle of Dogs. Two collections of research papers *Questioning Ethnographies* (Macmillan 2002) and *Race and the Other Scene* (Sage 2002) are forthcoming. He is currently developing a new project 'Born to Flying Glass' which looks at changing narratives of infant trauma and national memory generated by the 'blitz' in Britain and Germany during the 2nd World War.

Barbara Harrison, UEL

Currently I am completing two publications which have arisen out of my previous work on women's health and work at the end of the nineteenth century. Both of these concern the Women's Factory Inspectorate, and one is a collaborative project with a colleague at Victoria University Wellington which compares the British and New Zealand Inspectorate. My principal project otherwise is a study of Photography and Everyday life. Field work in the form of interviews (45) and observation has been conducted and transcribed. More interviews with different groups will take place over the next 6 months, and systematic analysis commenced. A book proposal on this work is under consideration, for the CNR Narrative Perspectives series. I am also writing on photography and memory, photography and narrative, visual methodology, and 'Photography and Resistance: Revisioning the Body.'

Jayne Ifekwunigwe, UEL

My research endeavors are under transition, from a focus on Critical 'Mixed Race' Studies, exemplified by the publication of *Scattered Belongings: Cultural Paradoxes of 'Race', Nation and Gender* (London/New York: Routledge, 1999) and the completion of the 'Mixed Race' *Studies Reader* (London/New York: Routledge, forthcoming), to an emphasis on two unfolding projects. The first is a book project, provisionally entitled *Roots and Routes: Rethinking African Diasporas*, which will investigate the contours and problematics of the African Diaspora with a specific emphasis on the ways in which transnationalism and globalisation force a rethinking of traditional paradigms. I am also working on an edited collection, provisionally entitled, *The Tourist is Political*, which links my own ongoing visual and ethnographic research on the management of public memory as manifest in cultural and heritage tourism in Cape Town, South Africa to similar research enterprises in other milieux. The main objective is to look at the political consequences, the ethical problematics, and the economic potential of peace, cultural, and political tourism initiatives in the comparative ethnographic contexts of South Africa, Brazil, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Ghana, the Gambia, Senegal, U.S.A. (Harlem, New York, and Oakland, California) Northern Ireland, and England (London).

Mike Locke, UEL

Current research with our partner agency, the Institute for Volunteering Research, on Retention of Volunteers (for the Home Office), the UK evaluation of Millennium Volunteers (for the Department of Education and Skills and equivalent national government agencies) and voluntary action in faith-based communities (funded by Rank Benevolent Trust).

Also, working with colleagues' projects in CIS, on reviewing a support service for co-ordinators of refugee community organisations (for Evelyn Oldfield Unit) and on theory of trust.

Publications

Locke, M (2001) 'Faith, voluntary action and social policy: a review of the research' *Voluntary Action* Vol. 3. No 1 [with Lukka, P]

Locke, M (2001) 'Bowling along: community leaders in East London' *Voluntary Action* Vol. 3. No 2 [with Sampson, A and Shepherd, J]

Mark Freeman, College of the Holy Cross

Mark Freeman continues his exploration into identity and selfhood via autobiographical narrative. Special emphases include the relationship of autobiographical narrative to conceptions of the good life; the poetic moment of narrative self-fashioning; and the "narrative unconscious," which refers to those culturally-rooted dimensions of one's history that have yet to become part of one's story. Most recently, he has sought to complement his longstanding interest in the self with an in-depth exploration of the category, and place, of the Other in autobiographical narrative as well as psychological life more generally.

Ann Phoenix, The Open University

CNR Web Newsletter March 2002

With my Open University colleague, Rosaleen Croghan and with Janine Hunter and Chris Griffin, of Birmingham University, I am conducting an ESRC-funded study that examines the relationship between consumption and identity for 12-13 and 16-17 years olds in urban and rural schools around Milton Keynes and Birmingham. In addition to questionnaires and interviews, some young people will be given disposable cameras to photograph the possessions they value and their shopping expeditions. Researchers will accompany a few young people as they shop and interview a small sample of parents about their feelings about young people's consumption and how they negotiate with their children about money for such items.

Shelley Day Sclater, UEL

I have a synopsis out for a book entitled *Narrative Subjects*. It will be one of a series co-edited by the four co-directors of CNR (currently under negotiation). It is mostly a theoretical book about selves and identities. It explores what kinds of psychological data may be derived from narrative work, and argues the case for a narrative psychology. It explores the methodological, analytical and ethical issues that arise when we use psychological or psychoanalytic theory to underpin our interpretations of data derived from human subjects.

I have recently co-edited (on behalf of the Cambridge Socio-Legal Group) *Body Lore and Laws* (Oxford, Hart) which will be currently in press and will be launched in February 2002. I am currently working (with Rachel Cook, APU) on *Surrogacy: International Perspectives* (Oxford, Hart). I am also currently co-editing a special issue of *Qualitative Inquiry* on Art Education – it derives from an international conference in Finland that was held in January 2001 at which I gave a keynote speech.

Corinne Squire, UEL

Corinne is currently writing up research on narratives of HIV from a longitudinal British study funded by the Nuffield Foundation, and from a South African study. She is editing a special issue of *Qualitative Inquiry* on narrative analysis, and is also planning, with South African colleagues, a Southern African issue of the *International Journal of Critical Psychology*. She recently went to Zimbabwe to work with Centres for Disease Control ethnographers on HIV prevention education. She is also writing on television talk shows and is co-editing a collection of papers on emotions in public life.

Merl Storr, UEL

I've spent all year on a book with the provisional title of *Business or Pleasure? Femininity and Consumption at Ann Summers Parties*, to be published by Berg Press in 2003. I've given papers on the Ann Summers research at the University of North London's Centre for Research on Gender and Ethnicity, and at the ESRC-funded seminar series 'Sexualities: Representation and Lived Experience' at the University of Leeds. And, er, that's it!

Maria Tamboukou, UEL

CNR Web Newsletter March 2002

is co-director at the Centre for Narrative Research in the Social Sciences (CNR) at UEL. She is also visiting Research Fellow at King's College, University of London. Her research interests are in the sociology of gender and space, the exploration of Foucauldian analytics and the use of auto/biographies in research. Writing genealogies is the main focus of her publications and current research work. She is currently editing with Stephen Ball a book on genealogy and ethnography, researching and writing papers for a genealogy of Greek women and working theoretically on the use of Foucault and Deleuze in sociological inquiries.

Valerie Walkerdine, University of Western Sydney

Valerie Walkerdine, Foundation Professor of Critical Psychology and Head of the Centre for Critical Psychology at the University of Western Sydney, has recently published 'Growing up Girl: Psychosocial Explorations of Gender and Class' (with Helen Lucey and June Melody, Palgrave, 2001) and 'Mass Hysteria: Critical Psychology and Media Studies' (with Lisa Blackman, Palgrave, 2001).

Alan White, UEL

1) Working on an article on time, work & the new capitalism. I am looking at Thompson's arguments in the 'Time, Work-Discipline.....' article on changes in the measurement and appreciation of time (especially as related to work discipline) and seeing how they play with regard to current formations of global capital and its regimes of work.

2) Research stage of an article (with Lisa Blackman from Goldsmiths) on culture/cultural studies and capitalism. This will trace a rough historical arc from the mid-19th century to the present and look at the narrative construction and the 'real nature' of the links between cultural studies and 'capitalism'.

3) Planning a conference (late 2002/early 2003) on Castells with Damian White from Cultural and Innovation studies. This may become a Signs of the Times/UeL joint venture.

Candy Yates, UEL

My current PhD research addresses what could broadly be called cultural and cinematic narratives of masculinity and masculine jealousies and their relationship to late modernity. My analysis of masculinities reflects broader debates in cultural studies and feminist film studies about gender, cultural change and the feminisation of society. This involves using psychoanalysis and cultural theories to explore the narratives of jealousy contained within the film itself and the narratives of masculinity as constructed in the star persona of the male star and the representation of his life history in the press.

I've also published articles with Shelley Day Sclater that have utilised a psychoanalytic approach to narrative, including a psychoanalytic reading of science and GM foods.

In the past, I've also given papers on food and eating, which could broadly be construed as 'narrative' study as it addressed the popular narrative of 'the search for real nourishment' as contained in Orbach's work on eating disorders, and Princess Diana.

