

## *Centre for Narrative Research Web Newsletter 3 - April 2003*

Welcome to the third issue of the CNR newsletter, which exists to distribute news of members', associates' and interested others' relevant research and writings, and 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 4: SEPTEMBER 12, 2003**

**Send to:**

**Molly Andrews (Chair), Shelley Sclater, Corinne Squire and Maria Tamboukou (codirectors)**

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### *Recent and Upcoming Events*

- **Dr. Sue Jackson**, who will be visiting CNR from New Zealand during summer-autumn 03, writes:

I am delighted to be able to spend three months of my sabbatical with CNR. I will be at the centre from July until October, on sabbatical from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. During my time at the Centre I will be working on publications from two projects. One of the projects examines narratives of young women and 'agony aunts' in letters written to a teenage magazine. The focus in this work is on young women's sexual identities and the discursive constructions of sexuality evident in the texts. In a completely different area, the second project investigates the constructions of gender in illustrations of children's early school readers across a 50 year period. So in this project it is illustrations rather than words that are treated as 'text'. The material I will be working on while at the Centre is from the second stage of the project in which we asked children to talk about the same illustrations as in the first phase, in order to examine their processes of sense making in relation to representations of girls, boys, men and women. Although I am at the CNS mostly during the summer break for students I am hoping to participate in as many activities of the Centre as possible. I am also looking forward to the opportunities to make both new connections and re-connections with people working in narrative studies.

Sue can be contacted at: [Sue.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Sue.Jackson@vuw.ac.nz)

- Research seminars are continuing, all at 1pm, N230 Brooker Building, University of East London, Barking Campus.

March 31<sup>st</sup> – **Caroline Bainbridge, UeL: 'Reconstructing memories of masculine subjectivity in memento: Narrative form and the fiction of the self.'**

Caroline Bainbridge is a Senior Lecturer in Psychosocial Studies at the University of East London. Her research interests focus on gender and subjectivity in cinema and she has a particular interest in the work on Luce Irigaray. She is the author of a forthcoming book entitled

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A Feminine Cinematics: Luce Irigaray, Women and Film (Editions Rodopi, 2003).

April 30<sup>th</sup> – **Sara Wajid, UeL: 'Reclaiming the Race Records: The politics of editing the nation's archive material on Jewish, Asian, Caribbean and Irish migrants for the World Wide Web**

Sara Wajid is narrative co-ordinator on Moving Here, a mass digitisation project for national archive and museum material pertaining to migration to England since 1840. Moving Here is a partnership of thirty organisations including the Public Record Office, the British Library and the V&A. Sara Wajid is a visiting fellow in the cultural studies department at UEL, a journalist and media studies lecturer.

- Postgraduate seminars in Biography and Narrative, organised by CNR, the OU and the Gender Institute at LSE, continue at The Gender Institute, London School of Economics.

April 1 **Monica Moreno, Goldsmiths' College**  
*Mestizaje, discrimination and visibility: a research proposal to study women's racial experience in Mexico.*

May 6 **Janette Bennett, Birkbeck College**  
*Understanding subjectivity and identity constructions of motherhood in relation to the childhood diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*

June 3 **Vicky Skiftou, Goldsmiths' College**  
*Social memory, oral history and visual culture: the contemporary construction of Greekness*

July 1 **Sabine Grenze, Gender Institute, LSE**  
*Power Structures in Narratives of Prostitutes' Clients*

**For further details, contact** Corinne Squire ([c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk)), Prue Chamberlayne ([p.m.chamberlayne@open.ac.uk](mailto:p.m.chamberlayne@open.ac.uk)) or Ros Gill ([r.c.gill@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.c.gill@lse.ac.uk)), or see the 'Seminars' webpage [here](#).

- **To Think is to Experiment: Postgraduate Research Presentation Day, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

The Centre for Narrative Research is organising the second Research Day for Students on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2003, at Barking Campus, University of East London. Last year we had an exciting day and we look forward to meeting again for an easy and relaxing day of presentations and discussions.

Papers from all research students (at master and doctoral level) as well as for dissertation third year students can still be considered for this event. Participants can contribute with a paper (15-20 minutes long) or more brief announcements or posters about their work. Please send a paragraph (100-200 words) summarizing your contribution -or just send two or three lines if you want to make a brief announcement or a poster. Direct enquiries to Maria Tamboukou, Centre for Narrative Research, [M.Tamboukou@uel.ac.uk](mailto:M.Tamboukou@uel.ac.uk)

- **Exploring Family Life Stories**

**Tutors: Rena Feld & Jack Latimer**

12 credits

Are you interested in recording the life story of someone in your family? We explore a range of issues and approaches, such as the ethics of handling family secrets. We also make an audio recording with an opportunity to practise interview techniques.

4 sessions (10am-4pm) on Saturdays starting 7 June.

Fee: full £54.50, concession £18

University of Sussex, Falmer. Tel CCE on 01273 678040 to enrol.

**Exploring Oral History: an interview training course**

**Tutors: Al Thomson & Lorraine Sitzia**

12 credits

Learn how to record living history and become an oral historian.

Two oral history experts teach you how to prepare, conduct, document and interpret oral history interviews.

4 sessions (10am-4pm) on Friday 6 June, Saturday 7 June, Friday 27 June and Saturday 28 June

Fee: full £54.50, concession £18

University of Sussex, Falmer. Tel CCE on 01273 678040 to enrol.

- International Conference of Political Psychology: Contesting conflict, challenging consensus, 27<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> August, Bath, England

**MAKING SENSE OF POLITICAL NARRATIVES**

**Symposium presented by The Centre for Narrative Research**

**General description of symposium:** This symposium dually explores the personal dimension of political narratives and the political significance of personal narratives. The papers, presented by the co-directors of the Centre for Narrative Research, examine four different sites of political/personal narratives: truth commissions, Parliamentary debates on asylum, talk about HIV in South Africa, and the writings of women educators at the turn of 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain. In these contexts, the presenters grapple with complex interrelationship between individual constructions of the self (and by implication, the not-self, or others) and the overtly political, and question the boundaries between the self and the social.

Symposium to include the following papers:

Molly Andrews *Talking about forgiveness*

Shelley Day Sclater *Identity positions in political discourse*

Corinne Squire *The politics of HIV talk*

Maria Tamboukou *Women's political narratives in the interstices of constructed dichotomies*

- Shelley Day Sclater is one of the conference organizers for **The Second Tampere Conference on Narrative "Narrative, Ideology and Myth"** which will take place 26-28 June 2003, Tampere, Finland. Visit the website at <http://www.uta.fi/conference/narrative/> for further information.

## Narrative Short Courses

For the second year running, CNR will be offering two postgraduate-level courses, in **Life Histories** (Autumn 2003) and **Narrative Analysis** (Spring 2004), each to run over 10 weeks. Both courses are aimed at people with work-related or research interests in life history and narrative. The courses integrate study of relevant theories and methods with building skills through workshop exercises.

For more information on these course, please contact Corinne Squire:  
C.Squire@uel.ac.uk

- A sixth narrative workshop, on 'Visual Narratives', will be held on October 2003, Kings' College, Cambridge. Speakers include Alan Radley, Valerie Walkerdine, Further details can be obtained from the codirectors. A 'Narrative and Subjectivity' workshop will follow in March 2004.

## *News from Members and Associates*

- As of April 1, the codirectors have asked Dr. Molly Andrews of UeL to act as CNR Chair. This is a year-long, rotating position that both help us maintain an identifiable public 'face,' and will recognise the work, inside and outside CNR, of one of our members, associates or advisors. We thank Molly for taking on this task, and congratulate her!
- Just published!

Edited by Prue Chamberlayne, Michael Rustin and Tom Wengraf

Biography and Social Policy in Europe:  
experiences and life journeys

(Bristol: The Policy Press 2002)

for details of this volume of case studies, look at:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/Publications/TPP/pages/bm013.htm>

- **Dave Harper, Psychology, UeL, writes:** I'm writing a chapter entitled 'Storying policy: Constructions of Risk in proposals to reform UK Mental Health legislation' for the forthcoming book 'Narrative Research in Health & Illness' (edited by Trish Greenhalgh, Brian Hurwitz and Vieda Skultans) based on the paper I gave at the CNR day in November. I'm also giving a paper entitled 'Deconstructing paranoia' at the International Conference of Narrative Therapy & Community Work in Liverpool in July.
- The University of East London's School of Psychology's Critical Psychology Group has a symposium at the Bath Critical Psychology conference in August: 'Professional Critical Psychology: A contradiction in terms?'

**Bipasha Ahmed:** "So you're here to slag us off then": problems and Challenges in conducting Critical Psychological research.

**Pippa Dell & Irina Anderson:** "Practising Critical Psychology: Politics,  
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Power and Psychology Departments".

**Dave Harper:** "Compromise or collusion, contradictory or critical? Reflections on one critical clinical psychologist's involvement in UK Mental Health Act campaigns."

Discussant: **Carla Willig** (City University)

**Professor Magali Sarfatti Larson**, in Philadelphia, writes:

We had a very interesting panel on narrative at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, Molly Andrews was unable to attend. Mark Jacobs of George Mason University talked about how caseworkers in the juvenile court system use narrative to construct a positive-redeemable image of their client (or the reverse); Doug Porpora of Drexel University talked about narrative in the hard sciences and Joseph Turow of the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania connected his work on TV shows about doctors with the institutional context to which they seem to refer. As a discussant who had not read the papers (because there were only talks) I tried to distinguish different types of narratives by the degrees of freedom that their unfolding allows. We also discussed the notion of a repertory of narrative models, part of the collective imaginary, the constitution of which could be seen as one of the main objectives of a sociology of culture. As we discussed the political uses of narrative, I tried to distinguish narrative, which tends to be closed (and to be untouchable the more it approaches mythical quality), from debate, which is never ended, never closed, and is the essence of democracy. An idea that we could all explore is whether narrative lends itself much more than debate to demagogic and anti-democratic manipulation, precisely because it tends to closure and works on a pre-constituted repertory.