

## **CNR**

**Centre for Narrative Research, UEL**

### ***Centre for Narrative Research Web Newsletter 4 - October 2003***

**Welcome to the CNR autumn 2003 newsletter. This resource 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 5: March 15, 2004**

**Send to:**

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

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### ***Forthcoming Events***

- The sixth narrative workshop, on 'Visual Narratives', is taking place on October 21 at Kings' College, Cambridge, with Alan Radley, Susan Bell, Valerie Walkerdine, Caroline Bainbridge and Wendy Luttrell. At the time of writing a few places are still available; please email Corinne Squire at [c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk) to book.
- The Seventh and Last Short Course in Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM) interviewing will run on three days each in November and December 2003 and in February 2004 in North London. Run under the auspices of the University of East London, it will be jointly tutored by Prue Chamberlayne (Open University) and Tom Wengraf (Middlesex University). Suitable for professional researchers in the social and cultural sciences and those concerned to explore areas of professional policy and practice, it provides a thorough training in biographic narrative interviewing and in the craft of twin-track BNIM analysis of the interview materials, as well as hands-on experience of comparing and theorising from cases within psycho-societal perspectives. The maximum number of students is 15. The cost until October 15th is £500 for the nine days; after October 15th, it rises to £550. For further information, please contact Tom Wengraf by email at [tom.wengraf@cheerful.com](mailto:tom.wengraf@cheerful.com) or by phone at 020-8883-9297.
- An event on 'Narrative and Mental Health' is planned for spring 2004; details will be distributed to the elist, which can be subscribed to from the home page of this site.
- Alongside the London East Research Institute at UEL, the Centre for Narrative Research is running an ESRC seminar series under the title, 'Methods in Dialogue,' from 2003-5. This series will explore the limits and conditions of interactive social science. Its central concerns are: Who and what is social research for, and whose voices does it represent? What are social researchers' and participants' interpretative rights over their data and each other? How does thick description and the rich social interpretation it affords relate to the need for

precise methods of explanation and generalisable conclusions ? What special problems of research design or delivery arise when attempts are made to 'empower' informants, to enable them to interrogate , and even co-construct the research story ? We believe that exploring these questions is a priority within the larger project of making what social scientists do more meaningful, more useful and more accountable. Anyone who might be interested in participating is urged to contact the Programme Coordinator, Eleni Kasapi, at [methods\\_in\\_dialogue@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:methods_in_dialogue@yahoo.co.uk), or the Programme Directors, Molly Andrews ([m.andrews@uel.ac.uk](mailto:m.andrews@uel.ac.uk)), Phil Cohen ([p.a.cohen@uel.ac.uk](mailto:p.a.cohen@uel.ac.uk)) and Maria Tamboukou ([m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk](mailto:m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk))

- We are holding an evening discussion on 'Narrative and the Image' at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, on January 22 - again, details to follow.

- We are very pleased to have 3 visitors with us this autumn. **Sue Jackson** is from Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. Sue will be presenting some of her work at an informal lunchtime seminar on Monday November 3, 1-2pm, Brooker Building, Barking Campus, University of East London, titled 'Look Janet', 'No you look John': Constructions of gender in early school reader illustrations across 50 years'. The paper examines 100 New Zealand readers, and suggests relatively little change in the availability of diverse representations of men, women and children. Sue's other research interest is in 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. Sue can be contacted at [s.jackson@uel.ac.uk](mailto:s.jackson@uel.ac.uk) or [sue.jackson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sue.jackson@vuw.ac.nz)

**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, is also visiting this autumn. She is presenting some of her work at a research seminar on Monday September 29, 1-2pm, Room 230, Brooker Building, UEL Barking campus, in a paper titled *Practice Narratives as a Tool for Reflective Learning*, which examines the stories, told by human service practitioners and managers of social and community services. The paper focuses on the ways in which narratives can be used as a tool in developing knowledge and reflective practice, particularly with students who have not yet had practice roles and experience on which they can draw.

**Ruth Ballardie** from Victoria University, Australia, is a visiting student with us this year, and will be discussing some of her work in the Biography and Narrative graduate seminar series organised by CNR, the Gender Institute at LSE, and the Open University, on Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5-6.30pm, London School of Economics (room details to be announced on the elist). Ruth's paper is title 'Tomboy Lives: An exploration of tomboy identity amongst lesbian and heterosexual women,' and is a naturalistic enquiry into tomboy experiences, informed by feminist and social constructionist perspectives, which explores the complex development of gender identity within the fabric of social relationships though the recalled experiences of nine lesbian and nine heterosexual women.

- Short courses running this year at CNR are Life Histories, now begun; Genealogical Research Strategies, running in Spring 2004 for the first time; and Narrative Analysis, running as a summer course in the last 2 weeks of August, 2004. Please see our Short Courses page on the site for more details, or email Corinne Squire ([c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk)) or Maria Tamboukou ([m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk](mailto:m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk))

- From the Manchester Metropolitan Discourse Unit, their autumn programme:

### **FIRST TUESDAY MMU DISCOURSE UNIT OPEN RESEARCH SEMINARS**

These meetings have varied formats and will take place in different rooms throughout the year. Contact Ian Parker beforehand if you are travelling to come to a meeting so we can notify you of any late changes ([I.A.Parker@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:I.A.Parker@mmu.ac.uk)).

Tuesday 7 October 2003, 2.30-5.30, Room OB109, **TAKING TRAUMA SERIOUSLY:** 2.30-3.20 **Jane Kilby** (Department of Sociology, University of Salford) *'To wish this on nobody: The reality and representation of sexual trauma'*; 3.30-4.20 **Judeline Clark** (University of Durban-Westville, South Africa and Discourse Unit) *'Re-membering trauma: challenging discourses of "trauma" and "memory" in contexts of sociopolitical transitions - some reflections on South Africa'*; 4.40-5.30 **Antony Froggett** (Red House Psychotherapy Service) *Discussant*.

Tuesday 4 November 2003, 2.30-5.30, Room OB109, **THE TASK OF THE TRANSLATOR:** 2.30-3.20 **Daniella Caselli** (Department of English, University of Salford) *'Value and Visibility: The Politics of Translation'*; 3.30-4.20 **Babak Fozooni** (Discourse Unit) *'Abusive film translation'*; 4.40-5.30 **Alexandra Zavos** (Athens and Discourse Unit) *'Language-Space'*.

Tuesday 2 December 2003, 2.30-5.30, Room OB109, **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO KRITISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE?:** 2.30-3.20 **Morten Nissen** (Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen) *'Kritisk Psykoloji: Subject to Transforming Ideologies'*; 3.30-4.20 **Susanne Schade** (Bakhtin Centre, University of Sheffield) *'"Critical" practices and theories – always a dead end! On the functionalisation of critical sciences in capitalism – the case of German critical psychology'*; 4.40-5.30 **Johanna Motzkau** (Department of Human Sciences, University of Loughborough) *'A version of what happened'*.

Details of First Tuesday meetings for Spring 2004 will be circulated in December 2003. To be added (or removed) from the Discourse Unit emailing list, contact [I.A.Parker@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:I.A.Parker@mmu.ac.uk)

## ***News of Member Publications***

### ***Maria Tamboukou, UEL***

Maria Tamboukou (2003). *Women, Education and the Self: A Foucauldian Perspective*, London: Palgrave, Macmillan. This book links Foucauldian ideas to feminism and education. Its central argument is that the Foucauldian notion of technologies of the self needs to be gendered and contextualized. This argument is pursued through a genealogical analysis of autobiographical texts of women educators in the UK at the turn of the nineteenth century. This is a new theoretical approach, since Foucault's work has proved to be of great interest to feminist scholars but as yet, his theories have only intermittently been used in educational feminist work.

Maria Tamboukou,(BA, MA, PhD) is Senior Lecturer in Psychosocial studies and Co-Director, of the Centre for Narrative Research in the Social Sciences at the University of East  
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London. Her research interests and publications are in the sociology of gender and education, gender and space, the exploration of foucauldian and deleuzian analytics and the use of auto/biographies in research. She is co-editor with Stephen J. Ball of *Dangerous encounters: genealogy and ethnography* (Peter Lang, 2003).

**Review:** "*Genealogies are much written 'about' but seldom done. Maria Tamboukou's work is an exciting and innovative genealogy of women educators, full of insights into their lives. It is Foucauldian scholarship at its best, working both as a substantive history and as a guide to the genealogical method. Maria Tamboukou shows us what a genealogical history can look like and what it can do.*" Stephen J Ball, Karl Mannheim Professor of Sociology of Education, University of London, Institute of Education, UK.

## *Conference Reports*

*Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences: June 12-15, 2003*

*Maria Tamboukou*

This was the first international interdisciplinary Conference I have ever attended and I was really impressed by their intellectual commitment to interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary sessions. Presenters would come from all fields of the Social Sciences, including, Sociology, Education, Politics, Anthropology, Psychology, Women's studies, History, while sessions would cover themes such as Ethnic Studies, International Relations, Area Studies, Communication, Journalism, Urban and Regional Planning, Public Administration, HIV narratives, ethnic identities, globalization problematics, to name but a few, while there were sessions across the disciplines. I was also able to listen to papers from all over the world, particularly from Asian countries, which gave me a very good overview of the different dimensions and directions that social sciences are unfolding in countries outside Europe and North America.

The theoretical range of the interests was also impressive. I will specifically refer to three areas that I am particularly interested in, namely gender studies, Arendt's notion of the political and Deleuze's philosophy.

Given my interest in Gender Studies, I was very much interested in a session organized by the Nagoya Women's Studies Group in Japan. Their presentations and the discussion shed light in a very grey area indeed. I talked with the convenors of the session and they were very interested in the CNR activities here at UEL, so we exchanged addresses and arranged to find opportunities to be in touch about our work here and there. Within the gender area studies, I also attended a session of comparative research on transgender in Thailand and the UK. One of the presenters, Anne Beaumont, who is doing her PhD at the University of Essex has actually accepted my invitation to come and give a guest lecture on my 'Psychosocial Studies of Gender' Unit in September

In August we (the CNR) organized a symposium on political narratives for the Critical psychology Conference in Bath. I was therefore more than interested in attending a session on the relation of political theory and the Social Sciences, where Hannah Arendt's work and her unique notion of the political were in focus. The session gave me a lot of insights for the

paper and I am now corresponding with the presenter, Peter Baehr from Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

Beyond my own session on the Deleuzian notion of nomadism, I was able to attend a whole session of the Deleuzian debate in Cultural Studies, an area very rarely touched by researchers working in the UK.

*The Women's Library, London: 'Women on Display', June 26*  
*Molly Andrews*

The Women's Library ran a one day workshop on Thursday, June 26th called "Women on Display: Issues around exhibiting Oral History." While the workshop was primarily designed for, and attended by, oral historians and/or museum curators, the small group (approximately 50) also included people from other backgrounds, including academics, radio broadcasters, and someone working with elderly people in theatre. The impetus behind the workshop was to mark an exhibit of the Women's Library, called 'Keeping Pace: Older Women of the East End', created by Rachel Lichtenstein. The exhibit itself was very compelling, based on Lichtenstein's life history work with ten women living in the East End, and included not only text but a rich array of visual material, including some of the women's writings, favorite objects from their homes, and their craft work. The workshop was comprised of six talks (including one by Lichtenstein), and provided very rich food for thought.

*Psychology of Women Conference, Northampton, UK: 8-10 July*  
*Sue Jackson*

The POWS conference this year was held at University College Northampton and took place thanks to the efforts of organizers Sally Johnson, Rose Capdevila, Lisa Lazard and team. The 2003 conference themes were parenting, health, feminist theory and women at work. I am always delighted if my trips over from New Zealand enable me to attend a POWS conference and once again I was not disappointed. Unfortunately I missed Ann Woollett's keynote, 'Parenting: mothering, fathering, and being parented', on the first day thanks to British Rail but the keynotes from Fiona Tasker, Wendy Stainton-Rogers, and Erica Burman on the subsequent days each offered material that was engaging and thought-provoking in different ways. Fiona's presentation worked with the parenting theme and addressed the relatively neglected area of lesbian parenting, particularly issues of prejudice, invisibility and the child's relationship with the non-biological parent. Wendy and Erica's keynotes took up the feminist theory theme of the conference. Wendy's presentation focused on her developing theory of agency and authentic identities: she traced the gendered aspects of 'doing' identity in which she argued that men are able to stake an agentic identity for themselves whereas women's identities are more forged around meeting the needs of others, setting up a 'responsibilisation' of their agency. Erica began her keynote with a critical examination of feminist theory, social theory and feminist psychology in the context of political action then moved on to use a 'war technology' billboard advertisement to illustrate the use of a feminist psychological analysis as a way of challenging traditional gendered representations being harnessed under globalization and mobilized within multinational discourse. In addition to the keynotes there were many interesting papers presented related to various aspects of the

conference themes, but the papers presented by postgraduates merit particular mention as they were of an impressive standard. This year postgraduate students were invited to submit conference papers for the award of the POWS Postgraduate Conference Paper prize; the award was made to Pat Short, a clinical psychologist from Broadmoor Hospital. In addition to implementing the award, POWS will be giving further recognition to the high standard of papers through publishing a number of these papers in POWS Review. To conclude, a review of the conference would not be complete without mentioning the social aspects and, as I have always found to be the case, POWS 2003 once again provided a wonderfully friendly conference with an excellent social programme.

*British Sociological Association Auto/Biography Summer Conference, Exeter:  
11-13 July  
Michael Erben*

This was the 12th Auto/Biography Summer Conference. The theme was a general one and attracted a wide range (both national and overseas) of extremely good and methodologically developed papers – ranging through history, sociology, psychology and art and literary studies. It is invidious to pick out individual papers but a brief selection will give an indication of scope. Andrew Sparkes (editor of *Auto/Biography*) in a discussion of the *tour de France* ace Lance Armstrong talked of how particular selfhoods can be forged in a complex relationship between illness, athleticism and early parental socialisation. Tom Couser (of Hofstra, NY University), also on bodily matters, provided an account and interpretation of the *New York Times* obituary of Lucy Crealy, the author who had written of her own disfigurement. An intellectually deft and critical examination of the obituary made for an intrinsically arresting study in which points of general and crucial relevance for life (and death) writing were developed and discussed. Margaretta Jolly (of the University of Exeter) raised the vital methodological issue of the social and historical validity of personal letters via an exchange of letters (referring to gender, domestic relations and trauma) of a couple affected by the Greenham Common anti-nuclear protests. Shelley Day Sclater (of the Centre for Narrative Research) offered a fascinating and often moving retrospective of the development of psychosocial auto/biography over the last twenty years with specific and particular reference to the work and study of the late Ian Craib. Hilary Dickinson (of Greenwich University) in a discussion of children's reasoning used the autobiographies of a range of authors to explore, in a psychoanalytically grounded paper, the ways in which some writers do or do not recall or refer to the reasoning practices of their childhood selves.

The general discussion at the conference was of a high order and the social atmosphere was most congenial. The organisers Brett Smith and Andrew Sparkes are to be congratulated. The Summer residential conference for 2004 will be at University College Chichester (16-18 July). In the meantime there will be two one-day conferences on the topic of Art, Literature and Auto/Biography at the University London Institute of Education on, respectively, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

