

CNR
Centre for Narrative Research, UEL

Centre for Narrative Research Web Newsletter 5, April 2004

Welcome to the CNR spring 2004 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 6: September 15, 2004

Send to:

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➤ ***Forthcoming Events***

to think is to experiment

The third research day for students is taking place on April 28th at Barking campus, University of East London, Room N025, 10.00-5.00.

Research Day Programme

10.00-10.30	Lose your head and see who you really are: Douglas Harding's "headless way" - implications for psychology, Toni Brennan & James Walsh, University of East London
10.30-11.00	<i>Confinement in Context: Four Generations of Childbirth Stories</i> , Ruth Silver, University of East London
11.00-11.30	<i>Participatory Action Research in a community development setting – obstacles and opportunities</i> Stefanie Buckner, University of Central Lancashire
11.45-12.15	<i>Affective Structures of Emotional Disclosure. A study of some of the possible psychophysical and linguistic modifications due to repeated emotional disclosures.</i> Darren Ellis, Loughborough University
12.15-12.45	<i>The body in psychopathology</i> , Ian Tucker, Loughborough University
12.45-13.15	Desiring dissent/dissenting desires: the politics of negotiating everyday spaces, geographies and inner worlds in the art of the Chinese diaspora. Diana Yeh, University of East London
14.00- 14.30	Why should I care? An educator's personal narrative in a climate of political spin Jayne Osgood, London Metropolitan University
14.30-15.00	<i>The effects of gender on the employment of classroom-based support staff in schools</i> , Frank Bonner
15.15-15.45	<i>Fertility Related Discourses and Female Subjectivity: Narratives of Professional Women</i> , Merryn Smith: University of Cardiff Wales
15.45-16.00	<i>Turkish Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector and the European Information Society: Innovation for Integration?</i> Aygen Sibel Kurt University of East London
16.00-16.30	<i>Feminism, Women's Organisations and Civil Society in Turkey</i> Cigdem Esin, University of East London

- √ Alongside the London East Research Institute at UEL, the Centre for Narrative Research is running the third seminar of the 'Methods in Dialogue,' ESRC funded seminar series on May 7th, 2004 with the theme: 'Negotiating Research in Context'. Speakers and themes:
- 10.15 Prue Chamberlayne and Lynn Froggett: "A Psychosocial Approach to Research in a Community Development Agency: exploring the tensions"
- 11.30 Ian Parker and Alexandra Zavos "On doing something with knowledge other than research"
- 1:30 Trisha Greenhalgh "Synthesis of data from diffuse and heterogeneous sources: a narrative approach to the science of systematic review"
- 2:30 Srikant Sarangi "Interpretive practices in professional discourse studies"

Anyone who might be interested in participating is urged to contact the Programme Coordinator, Eleni Kasapi, at methods_in_dialogue@yahoo.co.uk, or the Programme Directors, Phil Cohen (p.a.cohen@uel.ac.uk), Corinne Squire (c.squire@uel.ac.uk) and Maria Tamboukou (m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk)

- √ The seventh narrative workshop, on '**Narratives of/on sexuality**', is taking place on October 28 at Kings' College, Cambridge, with Sally Munt, University of Sussex, Matthew Waites, Sheffield Hallam University, Rebeca Jones, Open University and Joanna Phoenix, University of Bath. Details of the programme will be circulated nearer to the date. To reserve a place, please email Maria Tamboukou at m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk.
- √ The CNR short course 'Narrative Analysis' is running as a summer course this year 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).
- √ The CNR 2004-2005 seminar series programme has now been finalised. All seminars are held on Mondays 1-2 pm at Docklands campus, Room LD3010
- October 11th, 2004, 'Secondhand stories', Michael Hanne, University of Auckland, New Zealand,
- November 1st, 2004, Derek Michael Robins, University of East London
- December 6th, 2004, Alexandra Georgakopoulou, King's College, London
- February 7th, 2005, 'Life Without Narrative: Linking Freud and Durkheim through the Unconscious', Michael Erben, Centre for Biography and Education, University of Southampton.
- March, 3rd, 2005, 'Condoms, Adolescence and Time', Nicole Vittelone, Manchester Metropolitan University
- April 18th, 2005, '@repertoires of the Self: Autobiographical Aspects of Bobby Baker's performance works', Catharine McLean-Hopkins, 'University of Manchester
- May 16th, 2005, 'Photographs, community, networks and relationships in everyday life', Barbara Harrison, University of East London.

Using the War: Changing memories of World War Two

2005 CONFERENCE:

Oral History Society with King's College, London

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd July 2005 at King's College, London

This international oral history conference marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It seeks to address the War's consequences and legacy in the memories of participants and for successive generations. The conference is organized with two major themes which reflect the ways in which the War continues in many countries to play a part in historical consciousness and everyday life.

Remembering, Forgetting and Silence

The conference will explore how different individuals who lived through the war choose to remember or choose to forget their experiences. What are reasons for this? What are the relationships of individual memories to dominant historical discourses?

In exploring this we also want to uncover the costs and rewards of remembering the war in relation to a range of perspectives from the psychological (trauma) to the economic (pensions). Within this we are interested in encouraging papers, presentations, posters and displays that explore the changing nature of these perspectives.

We also want to invite papers that address the issues of intergenerational communication of memories of war. What impact does remembering and forgetting have on the individuals themselves and their families and other potential audiences? What does it mean for those (and their families) whose war experiences are hidden from history? Or, how are those who cannot talk about their experiences recalled by others?

A final strand within this theme is mythic memories, including the adoption of 'war identities'.

Using memories of War

Another major theme of the conference will be the ways in which memories of the conflict have been used in the production and use of history. This includes the use of social memory in establishing and maintaining (or not preserving) memorialisation and in the commemoration of the conflict. Does this have a particular resonance for displaced peoples?

Our second theme also includes the ways in which oral history and reminiscence have been employed by the media and in education to publicly represent the War both in histories and in the ways this representation has been used to 'frame' and 'benchmark' the memories of subsequent conflicts. Has the use of memories changed media and education representations of the War? Similarly, we are calling for papers that consider how reconciliation events and battlefield tourism has shaped memories of war.

In considering how memories of war are used, we would also want to invite the participation of those who have utilized these memories in reminiscence as a therapeutic intervention. For example, does remembering the War always promote wellbeing?

Anyone interested in participating should submit a 250 word abstract to Belinda Waterman, University of Essex, belinda@essex.ac.uk by 30 June 2004 (we will be responding to potential participants in September).

BSA AUTO/BIOGRAPHY STUDY GROUP

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE 2004

The 2004 Annual Conference will be held at the
University College Chichester

Friday 16th July to Sunday 18th July

The cost for the full conference will be around £170.
Booking forms will go out at Easter.

We look forward to seeing you in Chichester.
The conference venue is an attractive one and Chichester is a particularly beautiful
place during the Summer months.

Conference organisers: Michael Erben and Maggie Boniface

Auto/Biography

an interdisciplinary and international journal

Editor: Andrew Sparkes

Reviews Editor: Michael Erben

www.autobiographyjournal.com

Culture and the Unconscious 2

Psychoanalysts, Artists & Academics in Dialogue



July 9th and 10th 2004, at the [School of Oriental and African Studies](#), London WC1

Outline of Conference

Our first Culture and the Unconscious Conference, held in July 2003, brought together psychoanalysts and psychotherapists, writers and artists, and academics engaged in the study of literature, film, music, painting, and art forms, to consider how psychoanalytic approaches could enrich the understanding and experience of culture. The purpose was to bring the clinically-based insights of psychoanalysts and the theoretical and critical approaches of academics into dialogue with one another. A particular aim was that cultural works would be presented and artists take part in discussion of them. Hitherto, the consulting room, the studio or theatre, and the academic seminar room have been rather remote from one another in their engagement with psychoanalysis, and although much understanding of culture has been achieved in these settings, each approach has been somewhat impoverished by its distance from the others. The seclusion of psychoanalysis in specialist professional enclaves was not the aim of Sigmund Freud, its founder, or of many of his leading successors in this field. For Freud, the dilemmas and conflicts posed by the unconscious manifested themselves through culture, and there could be explored in symbolic terms and find some kind of resolution. Freud believed that a deeper understanding of the unconscious would contribute to a better world. The aim of this Conference was to help bring the unconscious back to centre stage in our understanding of culture and society.

At the first Conference, around eighty papers were presented, and sessions focused on such topics as Van Gogh's life and painting, on Beckett's play *O*, on *The Crying Game* and *The Sopranos*, on visual representations of the Great War, and on the theme of reality and fiction in psychoanalysis and literature. The aim of developing a dialogue between these different perspectives on the unconscious was fulfilled by the Conference, which combined experiences of considerable intensity with an abundance of interesting ideas. A selection of papers from the Conference will be published in the next year. Meanwhile, we intend to continue this dialogue in a second Culture and the Unconscious Conference, to be held in London in July 2004.

In this second Conference we hope that several kinds of presentation will be made, drawn from the experiences of the clinical consulting room, from the theories and critical methods of academics, and from the creative practice of artists and writers. We aim in particular to bring these different perspectives together, in joint presentations around the shared experience of a particular expressive form or work of art, and in debates on key issues. It is our belief that reflections on culture are most interesting and productive when they take place in a context where emotions and sensations as well as minds are engaged.

Conference Themes

Among the Themes for this Conference will be:

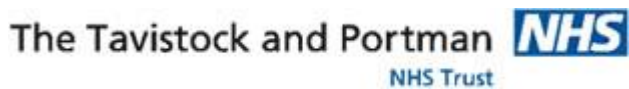
- Affect and the Senses
- War and Empire
- Moments of being in Everyday Life
- Biography and Autobiography

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- Aspects of the Life Cycle
- Creativity and Imagination
- Terror and Delight
- Childhood
- Politics, Psychoanalysis and Culture

Jointly organised by the:

University of East London (Schools of [Social Sciences](#) & [Cultural and Innovation Studies](#))



Conference Organising Committee

1. [Caroline Bainbridge](#) (School of Social Sciences, UEL)
2. [Candida Yates](#) (School of Social Sciences, UEL)
3. Helen Powell (School of Cultural and Innovation Studies, UEL)
4. Marilyn Lawrence (The Tavistock Clinic)
5. Michael Rustin (School of Social Sciences, UEL; The Tavistock Clinic)
6. David Bell (The Tavistock Clinic)
7. [Susannah Radstone](#) (School of Cultural and Innovation Studies, UEL)

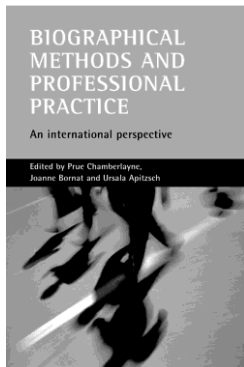
Early Booking for the Conference

The full-rate fee for the two days of the 2004 Culture and the Unconscious Conference will be £120, or £70 per day, with half-price concessions for students. The cost will include coffees and teas, at reception, morning and afternoon, and a drinks reception on the Friday evening. There will this year also be a Conference dinner open to all participants, the cost of which will be an additional £25, payable with the booking fee.

Bookings before 28th May 2004 can be made at a concessionary rate of £120, with the same half-price concession for students. A booking form is available online at this address: [cultureandunconscious2_reg-form.doc](#)

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➤ *News of Member Publications*



Biographical methods and professional practice: An international perspective

Prue Chamberlayne and Joanna Bornat, **School of Health and Social Welfare, The Open University**, and Ursula Apitzsch, **Department of Sociology and Political Science, J.W. Goethe University, Germany**

The turn to biographical methods in social science is yielding a rich harvest of research outcomes and invigorating the relationship between policy and practice. This book uses a range of interpretive approaches to reveal the dynamics of service users' and professionals' individual experiences and life-worlds.

It shows how biographical methods can improve theoretical understanding of professional practice, as well as enrich the learning and development of professionals, and promote more meaningful and creative practitioner-service user relationships.

With contributions from leading international experts, it provides a valuable comparative perspective. Researchers, policy analysts and practitioners, postgraduate students, teachers and trainers will find this book a stimulating read.

Contents: Introduction Ursula Apitzsch, Joanna Bornat and Prue Chamberlayne; **Part One: Putting the subject into policy and practice:** Biographical methods and social policy in European perspective Prue Chamberlayne; Balancing precarious work, entrepreneurship and a new gendered professionalism in migrant self-employment Ursula Apitzsch; Considerations on the biographical embeddedness of ethnic entrepreneurship Maria Kontos; Ethnic entrepreneurship as innovation: Feiwei Kuperberg; **Part Two: Subjectivity in context:** The social subject in biographical interpretive methods: emotional, mute, creative, divided Andrew Cooper; A socially and historically contextualised psychoanalytic perspective: Holocaust survival and suffering Daniel Bar-On; Professional choices between private and state positions in Russia's transformation Victoria Semenova; Maintaining a sense of individual autonomy under conditions of constraint: a study of East German managers Ulrike Nagel; **Part Three: Self-awareness in research and practice:** Biographical reflections on the problem of changing violent men David Gadd; The biographical turn in health studies Wendy Rickard; Ethical aspects of biographical interviewing and analysis Kaja Kazmierska; Ghost writers: using biographical methods across languages Bogusia Temple; **Part Four: Recognising trajectories of disempowerment:** 'Bucking and kicking': race, gender and embodied resistance in healthcare Yasmin Gunaratnam; Biography as empowering practice: lessons from research Joanna Bornat and Jan Walmsley; 'It's in the way that you use it': biography as a tool in professional social work Riitta Kyllönen; Interpreting the needs of homeless men: interviewing in context Karin Schlücker; **Part Five: Biographical resources in education and training:** In quest of teachers' professional identity: the life story as a methodological tool Marie-Françoise Chanfrault-Duchet; Narratives, community organisations and pedagogy Rosemary Du Plessis, Jane Higgins and Belinda Mortlock; Doctors on an edge: a cultural psychology of learning and health Linden West; Intercultural perspectives and professional practice in the university: what's new in Germany Lena Inowlocki, Maria Teresa Herrera Vivar and Felicia Herrschaft.

Paperback £24.99 (US\$32.50) ISBN 1 86134 492 9
Hardback £55.00 (US\$69.95) ISBN 1 86134 493 7
234 x 156mm 352 pages March 2004

**Boundaries and Relationships in Homelessness Work:
Lola, an Agency Manager**

Tom Wengraf

Abstract: The professional is also a human being. This paper explores the complementary and contradictory relation between biography and vocation in the history of a nurse who became a social work manager, as revealed in a biographic-narrative interview. **It touches on the difficulty of feeding back insights to the interviewee through a case-study paper of this kind**, interpreting this difficulty through the concept of ‘defended subjectivity’, and on the theory-in-use in social work and professional training.

To read the article, please visit: <http://www.qualitative-research.net/fqs-texte/1-04/1-04wengraf-e.htm>

➤ ***Conference Reports***

4th International Auto/Biography Association (IABA) Conference

‘Inhabiting Multiple Worlds: Auto/Biography in an (Anti) Global Age, 15-18 March, 2004, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

√What implications are there for life-writing in an age that is at once increasingly global and anti-global? In which locality, nationality, race, ethnicity and creed are becoming less important in some places and yet strongly resurgent in others?

Many contemporary auto/biographers write of inhabiting multiple worlds, of living between different cultures, languages, ideologies, discourses, localities, domains, or dimensions of experience. Their narratives are often intersected by multiple allegiances, to here and there, past and present, actual and imagined, traditional and modern, centre and periphery, descent and consent. What does this signify? That living in multicultural societies and with rapid intercontinental travel, global media, education and communications, individuals are tending less and less to configure their identities simply within the confines of nation, locality, gender, ethnicity, or race? At the same time, there are signs that identity seems to be enacted by some writers as resistance to such things as linguistic and cultural homogenisation, immigration, multiculturalism, secularisation and economic transnationalism. Are we seeing the end of "identity politics" or its transformation? The beginning of "global culture" or the beginning of its end?

The above questions invited a wide range of themes and topics that were addressed in the four days of this conference and included:

- Immigrant and diasporic self and life narratives, especially the Chinese diaspora
- Travel writing as auto/biography.
- Electronic self and life writing, the internet, global identity online, "digitised subjects".
- Global media - film, video, TV, internet -- and identity construction.
- Blockbuster memoirs and auto/biographies, global publishing, the manufacture of global fame.
- Inhabiting multiple worlds in auto/biography before and after the mid-twentieth century in colonial situations.
- New identities enacted via global movements.

The conference was held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, located on a beautiful wooded site overlooking Tolo Harbour in the New Territories. The keynote speakers included Maxine Hong Kingston, Paul John Eakin and Gillian Whitlock. All I can say is that for me it has been a wonderful intellectual-and not only- experience.

Maria Tamboukou, CNR, University of East London.

British Sociological Association Auto/Biography Study Group Conference, March 26, 2004, London Institute of Education

This was my first experience of a long running conference series that runs in winter and spring in London, at the Institute of Education, and in a larger format in the summer, at other locations, in association with the journal *Auto/Biography* and other projects of the Study Group. The events are unique in drawing in an interdisciplinary group of presenters and participants who work on autobiography and biography from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. In this case, for instance, the group included artists, writers, literary theorists, feminist theorists, psychologists and medical sociologists, among others. Another compelling feature of these events is the small size: each conference has space for around 30 attendees, and all sessions run as plenaries. At the March event, this meant that despite people's disparate backgrounds, common discussion threads developed across the day.

The March meeting continued the winter conference's focus on 'Art, Literature and Auto/Biography,' a popular topic which stimulated a large number of paper submissions. The only criticism voiced of the day was in fact the crammed schedule. However, in comparison to larger conferences, the leisurely length of sessions and the continuity and collaborative nature of the discussions made the packed timetable seem light. The sessions themselves helped, since we

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were treated to papers that were uniformly well-prepared and engaging. They ranged methodologically from an interview study of artists doing Ph.Ds and their difficulties in biographically combining ideas of themselves as 'creative' and as 'analytic' (Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson and John Hockey, University of Gloucester), to a paper, written in a kind of critical collaboration, about childhood memory and uncertainty (Nicky Hallett and Patricia Debney, University of Kent). Theoretically, the work took in a development and application of Bourdieu's ideas about art and the avant-garde (Mike Grenfell, University of Southampton) and a Foucauldian genealogy of women artists' productions of auto/biography (Maria Tamboukou, University of East London), as well as a new historical typography of literary biography (Mike Benton, University of Copenhagen), some speculations about the resistant effects of literary marginalia (Corinne Squire, University of East London), a reflexive consideration of the place of Betty Friedan's work in second wave feminism and its aftermath and a new formulation of oppositional visual narratives (Monica Pearl, University of Manchester). This proved a very thought-provoking event for me, and I envisage it serving this function, regardless of the exact programme, on many future occasions.

For details of the next event, contact Prof Michael Erben, mde@soton.ac.uk

Corinne Squire, University of East London

Celebrating 10 Years of Psychoanalytic Studies conference, February 10th 2004.

The conference included student presentations, Ron Britton, Barry Richards, Margaret Rustin, Meira Likierman, Jill Boswell, Janine Sternberg. It was a mixture of autobiographical reflection, theory and observation. The observations were narrative reports of two year observations of infants in their families.

Jo Brown, University of East London

➤ *Research news from CNR members*

√ **Jo Brown, University of East London**

In July 2003 I gave the annual guest lecture (on M16) on 'Seeking the Truths of Love: Learning from Experience and Learning by the Book'. This was a self-reflexive account of how a psychoanalytic model of learning and rules of the academy were combined (or held in uneasy tension) in my work. I provided an account of how I searched for love in theory, in narrative interviews and reflected on the way in which my research positioned me as a Doctor of love!

I submitted an article entitled 'Reflexivity in the Research Process: A Psychosocial approach' to the International Journal of Social Research Methodology in October.

I have submitted an analysis of a narrative account of romantic love (The Compelling Nature of Romantic Love: A Psychosocial Perspective) to Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society

I am currently working on a book proposal which will detail a psychosocial approach to narrative studies in the context of love

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I am working on an ESRC bid (with Barry Richards) using the method of interviewing I developed in my PhD to investigate the relationship between therapeutic culture, experiences of citizenship and the media. I have completed the ESRC methods section.

I have also begun to write a dialogue on love (aimed at a broader audience - a kind of Socratic dialogue - the symposium on love).