

# CNR Centre for Narrative Research, UEL

## *Web Newsletter 16, October 2009*

Welcome to the CNR fall 2009 newsletter. The 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 18: March 20, 2010

Send to: Molly Andrews, Corinne Squire and Maria Tamboukou (co-directors)  
m.andrews@uel.ac.uk c.squire@uel.ac.uk m.tamboukou@uel.ac.uk

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### ***CNR Seminar Series***

**CENTRE FOR NARRATIVE RESEARCH  
RESEARCH SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2009-2010**

**Tuesdays, 12:00- 1:00 pm**

*University of East London, Docklands Campus*

Oct 6 Rachel Aldred, UeL , Room EB 1.03

Making "everyday cyclists": cycling cultures within a mass motorised society

Nov 3 Richard Walsh, University of York , Room EB 1.39  
Literary, Fictive and Narrative Understanding: Reflexiveness and the  
Contingency of Sense

Feb 22 Saeed-Reza Taljooy, University College, London, Room tba  
Narrative in Iranian Documentary Cinema

March 23 Sadie Wearing, London School of Economics , Room tba  
Narratives of Decline and Degeneration? Representing the Aging Body

April 20 – Libby Bishop, Timescapes, University of East Anglia, Room tba  
Ethical and methodological issues in sharing qualitative data: Cases from  
Qualidata and Timescapes

**2009-10 Graduate Seminars in Narrative, Discourse and Representation**  
**The Centre for Narrative Research, UEL**  
**and**  
**The Gender Institute, London School of Economics**

All seminars take place on Tuesday evenings, 5.00-6.30pm, at the London School of Economics.

**All welcome, especially graduate students.** For further details contact Corinne Squire (c.squire@uel.ac.uk), or Hazel Johnstone (h.johnstone@lse.ac.uk). Details are also on the CNR website: <http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/home.htm>, and the Gender Institute website: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/depts/gender/narrative.htm>

Rooms will be announced through the CNR e-list

October 6 Alexandra Zavos, Manchester Metropolitan University  
*Gender, migration and the anti-racist movement in Athens.*

November 3 Ava Easton, York University  
*Fractured minds - the role of narratives in the reconstruction of the self following encephalitis*

December 1 Sharon Gallagher, University of East London  
*Biopolitical and psychocultural uncertainties of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME): ways of living with severe illness through life histories.*

February 9 Nicola Samson, University of East London.  
*Narratives of women's belonging: Life stories from an East London street.*

March 2 Mireille Hebing City University  
*Refugee stories in Britain: Narratives of personal Experiences in a network of power relations*

April 20 Stefanie Buckner University of Central Lancashire  
*Older people's experiences of recent urban regeneration - a case study based on a biographical-narrative interview*

May 6 Linda Asquith University of Huddersfield  
*The surviving remnant - life after genocide*

## **Seminar and Workshop Announcements**

### Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research Seminars Autumn Term 2009

Unless specified, all seminars are at the University of Sussex, Tuesdays 12.30-1.55pm, in Russell Building room 9. (Wheelchair accessible).

27 October  
*Lorraine Sitzia, University of Sussex*

*QueenSpark Books: A practical example of radical history-making in the community.*

In order to survive a rapidly changing political and social climate, QueenSpark Books has had to adapt whilst trying to hold onto its original beliefs. Lorraine Sitzia explores how the ideals of radical history-making translate into practice, by considering the internal and external factors that have shaped QueenSpark's development over the past 35 years.

3 November  
*Mary Ingoldby, Freelance oral historian*

*Creating Soundscapes for exhibitions and galleries*

How do you use personal testimony in exhibitions and galleries - is it compelling or is it just annoying? Mary Ingoldby is an oral historian and sound artist and will speak about creating soundscapes for galleries and for specific places. She will discuss mixing original voices with song and poetry and play excerpts from recent work.

10 November  
*Catherine Baker, University of Southampton*

*The inter-cultural encounters of peacekeepers in Bosnia- Herzegovina*

Catherine Baker discusses the inter-cultural aspects of peacekeeping based on oral history interviews with British and Danish peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, with a particular focus on the self-positioning and identity construction of interpreters and linguists.

17 November

*Julie Billaud, University of Sussex*

*Afghan women: Stories from the 1920s onwards*

Afghan women have been depicted in the international press as a monolithic and homogenous group in need of 'rescue' from a 'barbaric culture'. Julie Billaud explores this representation with the personal stories of Afghan women collected in her fieldwork in Kabul 2007.

1 December

*Chris Webb, Huddersfield University*

*Producing history - Oral historians as the 'middle men' of history*

Christopher Webb will draw on his experiences as an oral history 'worker' within the heritage industry to highlight the dilemma of maintaining one's independence as a contentious historian while producing history as a commodity.

8 December

*John Walker, University of Sussex*

*How reminiscence can facilitate Deaf people's health and wellbeing*

The Our Space project aims to identify spaces that will facilitate Deaf people's health and wellbeing through reminiscence activity in real and virtual space. This seminar explores the development of an on-line archive where the visual recording of narratives in British Sign Language is central to the website. [www.deaflifehistory.org.uk](http://www.deaflifehistory.org.uk).

For more information, email [log in to unmask] or [log in to unmask] Centre for Life History & Life Writing Research, 01273-873585, <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhr/>  
Dr. Margaretta Jolly  
Co-Director, Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research  
Centre for Continuing Education

Sussex Institute  
University of Sussex  
Falmer, BN1 9QQ  
01273-873585

Raphael Samuel History Centre  
[www.raphael-samuel.org.uk](http://www.raphael-samuel.org.uk)  
Archive Workshops and Open Days

The Raphael Samuel History Centre's archive days provide a guided induction to some of London's remarkable archival resources. The workshops are free and open to all - but spaces are limited so reserve your place with Katy Pettit on [k.pettit@uel.ac.uk](mailto:k.pettit@uel.ac.uk)

#### WORKSHOP 1

*The Hall Carpenter Archives at the London School of Economics*

The Hall-Carpenter Archives (HCA) are Britain's major resource for the study of lesbian and gay activism in the UK. This half day workshop - marking LGBT History Month 2010 - will guide you through some of the highlights of the collection, giving you the chance to handle leaflets, newspapers, letters, diaries and ephemera from the 1950s to the present. The workshop is led by Raphael Samuel Centre's Matt Cook and LSE archivist Sue Donnelly

Saturday 20th February 2010, 2.00 - 5.00  
London School of Economics Library  
10 Portugal Street  
London WC2A 2HD

#### WORKSHOP 2

*Bishopsgate Institute Archives (including the archive of Raphael Samuel)*

What was the 'battle of the books' and why did the Institute lock away one archive item from the public fearing it may cause revolution? Bishopsgate Institute has been offering free public access to its Library since 1895. This workshop provides an opportunity to find out more about the Library's unique and fascinating history, and its collections relating to the history of London, the labour movement, radicalism, free-thought, humanism, co-operation and pioneering historian Raphael Samuel.

The workshop will be led by Stefan Dickers, Library Special Collections Manager, and Raphael Samuel Centre's Matt Cook

Saturday 29th May 2010, 2.00 - 5.00  
Bishopsgate Institute

230 Bishopsgate, London  
EC2M 4QH

WORKSHOP/OPEN DAY 3  
*The Refugee Archive at UEL's Refugee Research Centre*

As part of Refugee Week, you are invited to investigate the Refugee Archive, a collection of over 35,000 items relating to migration and refugees - the only such collection in London. The Open Day will bring alive the histories and contemporary experiences of refugees who have made Britain - and especially East London - their place of refuge. The day is convened by UEL's Phil Marfleet

Saturday 19th June 2010, 11.00 - 4.00  
Refugee Archive,  
Docklands Campus, University of East London

### **Narrative Events**

Letters in History / Histories in Letters  
CNR seminar in the SHSS research series  
Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 2-5pm, Room EB 1.01

*Sue Middleton, University of Waikato New Zealand*  
***The Seven Servants of Ham: Labourers' letters from Wellington in the New Zealand Journal, 1840-45.***

#### ABSTRACT

This paper interrogates letters written and sent from Wellington in the early 1840s by members of a group of 'emigrants of the labouring classes'. Written as private letters 'Home', they were published in the *New Zealand Journal*, a London-based newspaper allied with the New Zealand Company. I introduce the letter-writers, the estate where they worked in Surrey, and, by means of a case study, broad themes in their letters. The theories and projects of 'systematic colonisation' are reviewed to examine how, as sponsored emigrants, these labourers' thoughts, relationships, and embodied activities became enmeshed in the Company's projects. Policies, practices, alliances and allegiances of the *New Zealand Journal* and its editors are outlined as a basis for reading the letters. Penned by semi-literate labourers as personal communications, when located in the context of the *New Zealand Journal*, the letters transformed into textual stagings of scientific, political, commercial, and ethnological discourses of

their time, but expressed in the everyday language of people of humble origins, but 'desirable qualities,' in the English social order. An 'original' of one of these letters enables detection of the nature and extent of editorial intervention in the published texts. Through writing the labourers sustained former English identities while forging and projecting new personae as enterprising, socially mobile, adaptable colonial subjects.

Sue Middleton is a professor in the School of Education, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. Combining documentary analysis with life-history narrative methods, her research projects have focused on educational and wider social theories as 'lived' in everyday educational settings. Books include *Disciplining Sexuality: Foucault, Life-histories and pedagogy*; *Teachers Talk Teaching 1915-1995* (with Helen May); *Educating Researchers: New Zealand Education PhDs 1948-1998* (monograph); and the recent edited collection *The kiss and the ghost: Sylvia Ashton-Warner and New Zealand* (with Alison Jones). Her interest in emigrants' letters began with the discovery that her mother's forebears, landless labourers in Ham, Surrey, had been amongst the first rural poor to be sponsored to Wellington under the New Zealand Company's colonisation scheme and that their letters home were amongst those published in London in the *New Zealand Journal* for propaganda purposes. This project tells the story of this publication.

Dr Maria Tamboukou, Centre for Narrative Research, UEL  
***Feminist Genealogies and Epistolary Narratives***

#### ABSTRACT

In this paper, I am exploring questions around the use of epistolary narratives in writing genealogies. In doing this, I consider the question about whether letters can be considered as narratives. Letters as documents of life in narrative research raise a quite complex spectrum of questions around representation, context, truth, power, desire, identity, subjectivity, memory and ethics. Although these questions are now well identified and richly explored in the field of auto/biographical studies, epistolary narratives demand ways of analysis that are particularly oriented to the specificities of their ontological and epistemological nature. It is I suggest, by working within specific contexts that methodological problems in analyzing epistolary narratives can best be addressed and it is the specific problems encountered in my work with Gwen John's letters in the context of writing a feminist genealogy of the female self in art that the paper discusses.

Dr Maria Tamboukou is Reader in Sociology and Co-director of the Centre of Narrative Research, University of East 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 the author of *Women, Education, the Self: a Foucauldian Perspective* (Palgrave, 2003) and co-editor with Stephen J. Ball of *Dangerous encounters: genealogy and ethnography* (Peter Lang, 2003) and with Molly Andrews and Corinne Squire of *Doing Narrative Research* (London, Sage, 2008). Her current research focuses on fin-de-siècle women artists' letters and paintings, exploring power/desire connections in the interface of visual and textual narratives.

### **A CNR Research afternoon**

**Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 2-4pm, Room BS 3.22**

*Glafki Gkotsi, Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

#### ***Histories in the Feminine and National Discourse: the Body, the Voice, the Narrative in Eva Stefani's Acropolis***

*Discussant: Maria Tamboukou*

#### **Abstract**

The presentation will explore the relation between feminine subjectivity and national discourse in Eva Stefani's video work *Acropolis* (2001). Following an analysis that combines Bakhtin's theories on the text, the language, and the voice with feminist conceptions of the female self, either from a psychoanalytic point of view as for instance in the case of Kaja Silverman, or from a philosophical perspective as in the works of Rosi Braidotti, I attempt to see the variety of connections made throughout the film between individual and collective history in Greece's particular spatial and temporal location. What I will suggest is that Stefani's work may be considered a subversive feminist project, since it intervenes effectively in the deeply embedded constructs of national identity and narrative, by juxtaposing the abstract ideal figure of the nation with the specific material bodies of pornography or motherhood, the public with the private, the integrated historical account with the disjointed personal memory, and the heroic with the everyday. The video's female voices and bodies, cut and fragmentary, serve to the deconstruction of fantasies of a transcendental, unitary subject, which becomes dispossessed and destabilized by sexual difference, sexuality, age, and class.

#### **Bio**

Glafki Gotsi has a PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. She has taught Art History at several university departments in Greece. She is currently employed at the Hellenic Open University, the University of Thessaly and the University of Western Macedonia. She has published on women and art in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Greece. She has also written about modern versions of the artist and the self in relation to gender and class. Her article "Towards the formation of a professional identity: women artists in Greece at the beginning of the twentieth century" appeared in



Women's History Review in 2005. She has contributed to the volume *Women's Contributions to Visual Culture, 1918- 1939* (ed. Karen Brown), Ashgate 2008 (title of her chapter "'Feminist art', 'female art', 'sexless art' in a modernist context: women's collective exhibitions in Greece, 1925-1937").

*Political Narratives of Change and Continuity*  
CNR seminar in the SHSS research series  
Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 2-5pm, Room EB 3.19

Julie McLeod, University of Melbourne and Rachel Thomson, Open University  
Researching Change and Continuity: Theoretical Moments and Methodological Motifs

Within the social sciences there is a growing interest in the temporalities and processual features of social life. This is partly informed by the view that we are living through times of rapid and significant social change, in which new technologies and increasingly globalised economic social processes are remaking the relationship between individuals and the social. Yet although change is the signature of much contemporary social theory, the empirical evidence to support this case is more elusive. The development of a range of dynamic approaches to qualitative research makes it possible to understand actors and phenomena as part of these temporalities. In this seminar we will draw on our new book *Researching Social Change: Qualitative Approaches* (Sage 2009) to explore the current interest in researching personal lives from a dynamic perspective, touching on a number of methodological traditions including memory work, oral history, longitudinal approaches, ethnography, intergenerational and revisiting studies.

**Julie McLeod** is Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. Her research interests include youth and gender studies, identity and inequality in education, and history of education. Recent publications include: *Making Modern Lives: Subjectivity, Schooling and Social Change* (with L. Yates, 2006); *Learning from the Margins: Young Women, Social Exclusion and Education* (ed with A. Allard: 2007); and *Troubling Gender in Education* (ed with J. Dillabough and M. Mills, 2009).

**Rachel Thomson** is Professor of Social Research in the Faculty of Health and Social Care at the Open University. Her research interests focus on biographical approaches to youth, gender and family. Recent publications include *Unfolding Lives: Youth, Gender and Change* (2009); *Inventing Adulthood: A Biographical Approach to Youth Transitions* (with S. Henderson, J. Holland and S. Sharpe 2007) and *The Making of Modern Motherhood* (forthcoming M.J. Kehily, L. Hadfield and S. Sharpe).

Karen Hunt, University of Keele

Narrating the Lives of a Political Woman: Dora Montefiore (1851-1933)

Molly Andrews, UeL

Aretha, Me and Two Million Others: Revitalising the American National Narrative

Using Barack Obama's election to the US presidency as a case study, this paper demonstrates the critical role of political narratives in realising social change. National narratives are never static; rather the stories which come to define the nation are reconstructed over time; each generation must reinvent for itself its own national narrative. In this way, the past is never past, but is reconstructed to meet the needs of the present day. By drawing heavily on historical narratives of the founding fathers, Abraham Lincoln, and leaders in the civil rights movement, and interweaving these narratives with his own biography and the personal stories of Americans across the land, Barack Obama has breathed new life into the founding principle of the country: *E pluribus unum*, "out of many, one." The paper explores the way in which collective memory and politics come together in the making and remaking of national narratives, and discusses the function of political narratives more generally.

Molly Andrews is co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research, a Reader in Sociology, and author of *Shaping history: Narratives of Political Change* (Cambridge University Press 2007).

The R.A.W. network invites to Open Lectures

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

Forms of Writing Emotions and Memories: Dilemmas and Emancipatory Practices

Emotions and memories are intertwined in complex ways and constitute forms of embodied and situated knowledge. Writing emotions and memories is potentially empowering as a form of life writing and also a tool for reflexivity in research. Experienced by individuals or groups, framed by specific historical and geographical spaces and events the documentation of emotions and memories form identity and belonging. R.A.W. Event III seeks to explore the shape of emotion and memory through various forms of writing methodologies. In particular it takes interest in dilemmas and challenges of privilege and inequalities, and forms that nourishes a potential for emancipatory practices.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, 10.15-13.00, Campus Östersund, House G, Lecture Hall G 1352

10.15-10.25 Welcome to R.A.W. Event III!

Mona Livholts, Associate Professor of Social Work, Research Fellow of Social Work with an orientation towards gender and Coordinator of the R.A.W. network, Mid Sweden University.

10.25-10.30 "Stuck I"

Reedi Koobak, PhD Student, Centre for Gender Studies, Linköping University, Sweden.

10.30-11.10 The Paradox of Interrogating Privileged Subjectivities: Tensions and Dilemmas in Writing Reflexive Personal Accounts of Privilege

Bob Pease, Chair of Social Work at Deakin University, Geelong, Australia.

11.10-11.25 Coffee and Tea

11.25- 11.30 "Stuck II"

Redi Koobak\*

11.30-12.10 Belonging and longing. Sara Lidman and the dissident writing of the village-in-the-world

Annelie Bränström Öhman, Associate Professor in Literary Studies at the Department of Culture & Media Studies, and Umeå Centre for Gender Studies at Umeå university, Sweden.

12.10-12.15 "Stuck III"

Redi Koobak\*

12.15 – 12.50 The R.A.W. Dialogue Chair: Mona Livholts meets Sissel Lie in a conversation about the writing body, dreams and untimely change

Mona Livholts\* and Sissel Lie, Author, Playwright and Professor at the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Trondheim, Norway.

12.50-13.00 The R.A.W. Network 2010-2011

Mona Livholts\*

For those of you who do not have the possibility to attend but wish to take part of presentations of guest speakers, abstracts for the open lectures and the seminar at RAW III, please visit the updated home page <http://www.miun.se/RAW/The-RAW-Event/RAW-Event-III/>.

Don't forget that everyone are welcome to visit the open lectures 22nd October and please spread information about the network to people you know that you

think may be interested to join. New members are welcome to sign up at:  
<http://www.miun.se/RAW/Members/>

### You Are Here!

#### Visual Autobiographies of Living in East London

The artist Chila Burman, Leverhulme Artist in Residence at the University of East London, and psychologist Dr Corinne Squire. At the University of East London, are collaborating on some research on the visual life stories of people in East London. We will be hosting self-portrait workshops in a variety of East London locations, and asking participants to do short interviews about how they made the portraits, during autumn 2009.

Each art workshop will last two or three hours-you can spend longer on the project if you want. The interviews will be around 30 minutes. The images will be exhibited, and will be archived on the web in early 2010.

The workshops are free and will be held at:

The Kobi Nazrul Centre, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 5-9pm.

30 Hanbury Street, E1 6QR

02073751320

Keen Students School, 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 11 to 5pm

Kss Building

61 Valance Road

Whitechapel

E1 5AB

0207 3775151

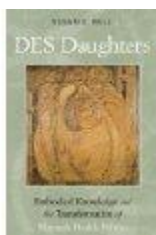
For further details, please e-mail Chila ([chila.burman@sky.com](mailto:chila.burman@sky.com))

<http://www.chila-kumari-burman.co.uk>

### ***Publications (by members, advisors, and e-list subscribers)***

#### *DES Daughters*

#### *Embodied Knowledge and the Transformation of Women's Health Politics*



Susan E. Bell

Temple University Press

"In this wise and well-researched book, Susan Bell uses a narrative analytic strategy to both present and make sense of the 'embodied social movement' that arose among 'DES Daughters'-women (and later some men) whose mothers had been given a 'wonder drug' to prevent miscarriage in the 1940s, 1950, and 1960s that only from the 1970s forward was understood to produce devastating reproductive-tract results. Bell shows us how their experiences changed, as did the women's movement, health care activism, and scientific and biomedical practices. The result enables us to understand not only what women have to say about taking action to preserve and protect their own lives and the lives of others but also how both U.S. health movements and those who want to understand them evolve over time"

-Rayna Rapp, Professor of Anthropology, New York University, and author of *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America*

From the 1940s to the 1970s, millions of women were exposed prenatally to the synthetic estrogen DES, a "wonder drug" intended to prevent miscarriages. However, DES actually had damaging consequences for the women born from DES mothers. The "DES daughters" as they are known, were found to have a rare form of vaginal cancer or were infertile. They were also at risk for miscarriages, stillbirths, and ectopic pregnancies.

In *DES Daughters*, Susan Bell recounts the experiences of this generation of "victims." In moving, heartfelt narratives, she presents the voices of those women who developed cancer, those who were cancer-free but have concerns about becoming pregnant, and those who suffered other medical and/or reproductive difficulties.

Bell examines the hierarchy of knowledge and power of scientists, doctors, and daughters, tracing the emergence of a feminist health movement. The "embodied knowledge" of these DES daughters prompted them to become advocates and form a social movement that challenged reproductive medical knowledge specifically, but also the politics of women's health in general. Bell's important book chronicles the history and future of these grassroots activists born out of illness, suffering, and uncertainty.

*DES Daughters* is a pleasure to read. In addition to Bell's sensitivity and intelligence, she brings the reader close to the people she writes about—we get to know the women in the book and their stories come across very lively and sympathetically."

-Phil Brown, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies, Brown University

Alison Jones and Sue Middleton (Eds)

*The kiss and the ghost: Sylvia Ashton-Warner and New Zealand.*



Rotterdam and Taipei: Sense, 2009.

ISBN 978-90-8790-785-3

ISBN 978-90-8790-784-6

March 2009, 144 pages

Sylvia Ashton-Warner, novelist and educationist, was extraordinarily famous in the 1960s. She maintained that young children best learn to read and write when they produce their own vocabulary, especially sex words like Okiss<sup>1</sup>, and fear words like Oghost<sup>1</sup>. Educators lauded her. Her autobiographical novels about teaching in remote schools, and being culturally abandoned in a remote country, New Zealand, attained enormous international popularity in both literary and educational circles. But she had an intensely ambivalent relationship with the land of her birth. Despite receiving many accolades in New Zealand, she claimed to have been rejected and persecuted by her homeland. In her darkest moments, she railed against New Zealand and New Zealanders, even stating in one television interview: 'I'm not a New Zealander!'<sup>2</sup> This is the first book to make Sylvia Ashton-Warner's passionately difficult relationship with New Zealand its central focus. Its contributors argue that, rather than stultifying her, the country she decried produced Sylvia and her work. In addition, infant schooling in New Zealand in the post-war years was relatively radical and progressive, and education officials seemed to welcome Sylvia's ideas about literacy. The edited collection includes chapters by Maori teachers and others who worked with Sylvia, as well as recollections of her son, Elliot Henderson. It reprints her Teaching Scheme that was originally published in New Zealand in the 1950s. And it celebrates her novels as brilliant and angry evocations of life in the wildness of New Zealand.

### *Sex, Technology and Public Health*

Mark Davis, Palgrave 2008.

#### **Review**

'*Sex, Technology and Public Health* is an interdisciplinary text, which will appeal to anyone working within health care, media studies, sociology or politics. One of the book's best qualities is its readability on a number of levels, feeding both the research interests of experts in this field, while remaining accessible to new

readers interested in examining these very current social topics...This is essential reading for anyone interested in such forms of communication.' - *The Kelvingrove Review*

### **Product Description**

This book explores the connections between sexual practice, the internet, bio-technologies, and public health. Online dating and social networking websites have been linked with new possibilities for intimacy and sexual relating. Viagra and other forms of sexuopharmacy are said to be altering the experience of sexual practice and pleasure. There are public health concerns that these uses of technology are associated with the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. At the same time, public health is exploiting such technologies for its own purposes. With reference to research concerning the implications of the internet and bio-technologies for sexually transmitted infections and HIV and the concept of sexual citizenship, this book contributes to a critical public health for the intersections of sexual practice and technology.

### *Researching Social Change: Qualitative Approaches*

*Julie McLeod, Rachel Thomson*

*Sage Publications*

### Review

"This will prove a most valuable volume for researchers for whom problems of memory, generation, time and change are at issue. Lush with illustrative material, the book gives exciting new ways to think." (Ken Plummer )

### Product Description

Questions about change in social and personal life are a feature of many accounts of the contemporary world. While theories of social change abound, discussions about how to research it are much less common. This book provides a timely guide to qualitative methodologies that investigate processes of personal, generational and historical change.

The authors showcase a range of methods that explore temporality and the dynamic relations between past, present and future. Through case studies, they review six methodological traditions: memory work, oral/life history, qualitative longitudinal research, ethnography, inter-generational and follow-up studies. It illustrates how these research approaches are translated into research projects and considers the practical as well as the theoretical and ethical challenges they pose. Research methods are also the product of times and places, and this book keeps to the fore the cultural and historical context in which these methods developed, the theoretical traditions on which they draw, and the empirical questions they address.

### *Using Biographical Methods in Social Research,*

Barbara Merrill, University of Warwick  
Linden West, Canterbury Christ Church University  
Sage

Using Biographical Methods in Social Research provides an informative, comprehensive, accessible and practical guide to the nature and use of biographical methods, combining a consideration of theoretical issues with practical guidance as well as reflections on the personal experience of doing research.

Barbara Merrill and Linden West consider important questions about who and what research is for and what makes it valid, alongside the practical business of interviewing, transcribing, analyzing and writing up of biographical data. The authors draw on their sociological and psychological orientations to provide a truly interdisciplinary approach to the subject, and provide numerous examples of biographical research across the social sciences.

This book will equip students with all the skills necessary to undertake biographical research as well as to fully understand what they are doing and the assumptions they make about the nature of truth, knowledge, story telling and being human. It will be useful for students and researchers using biographical methods in a range of disciplines, including sociology, social policy, social psychology, health care and education.

#### Contents

Introduction: Setting the Scene / Biographical Methods, an Introductory History / Mapping the Uses of Biographical Research / Identifying Some Theoretical Issues / Illustrating Good Practice: Case Studies/ Getting Started in Research / Interviewing and Recording Experience / Making Sense of Biography: Analysis / Representing Stories: Writing Up / Is Biographical Research Valid and Ethical? / On Being a Biographical Researcher

*Journal of Literary Studies*

*Special Issue: The Power of Autobiography in Southern Africa*

Volume 25, Issue 1, 2009

Editors: Andries Oliphant, University of South Africa, and Rory Ryan,  
University of Johannesburg, South Africa

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Sam Raditlhalo

Challenging Aids Denialism - Khabzela: Life and Times of a South African

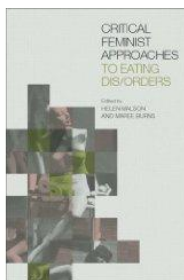
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of My Life Maurice  
Taonezvi Vambe

The Authority of Presence: Reading Judith Todd's Through the Darkness as  
Diary Anthony Chennells; Phillip Round; Bryan Waterman

### Critical Feminist Approaches to Eating Dis/Orders



*Edited by*

*Helen Malson, Centre for Appearance Research, UK, and  
Maree Burns, Eating Difficulties Education Network, New Zealand*

*"This is the book so many have been anxiously awaiting. Bringing together the perspectives of clinicians, theorists, activists, and those suffering, this book expands our thinking about what forces help to create and sustain eating disorders and stimulates a critically informed and comprehensive understanding of eating and body image disorders and of the contemporary woman's bodily experience. It is a ground-breaking and much-needed resource for those wanting to understand, treat,*

and prevent eating disorders." - Margo **Maine, Clinical Psychologist, Author and Cofounder of the Maine & Weinstein Speciality Group [www.psypress.com](http://www.psypress.com)**

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### *Contesting Stories of Childhood Sexual Abuse*

Jo Woodiwiss

Palgrave Macmillan, 2009

Located within a burgeoning therapeutic/self-help culture, and based on new empirical data, this book looks at narrative frameworks, contemporary stories, and therapeutic discourses. It explores how and why women make use of a narrative framework of childhood sexual abuse, often with no memories of having been sexually abused, in order to reconstruct their life stories and sense of self.

“This is a challenging book written from a feminist perspective. *Contesting Stories* is really about ‘the self’ and how therapeutic discourses shape and limit the ways in which we make sense of our lives – particularly in the context of abuse... a thought provoking book which must surely be widely read for the challenges to conventional thinking that it embodies.” Carol Smart, Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester

“*Contesting Stories of Childhood Sexual Abuse* argues that the tellers of ‘stories’ about such abuse are as much, or even more so, the victims of the limited and limiting stories of therapy, harm and recovery in circulation in contemporary culture... a significant and indeed provocative contribution to this intense debate.” Jeff Hearn, Universities of Huddersfield, UK and Linkoping, Sweden

“This important book illuminates the ways in which the homogenous discourses of false memory syndrome and child sexual abuse represent adult women as victims while simultaneously demanding that they engage in active reconstruction of the self... this book offers vivid examples of the active, creative and agentic woman in therapy, as she mobilises many apparently fixed notions to suit her own chosen biography.” Dr Gail Hawkes, School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Science, University of New England, Australia

***Jo Woodiwiss is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology (University of Huddersfield, UK), a feminist activist, and has worked in the field of sexual violence and abuse for over a decade. She has published widely on childhood sexual abuse in relation to women’s narratives, adult victims, and recovered memories.***

### *Narratives of Identity and Place*

Stephanie Taylor

Psychology Press, Routledge November, 2009.

This new book uses a narrative-discursive approach to investigate the importance of place for identity in contemporary Western societies, especially the identities of women. It is now common for people to change where they live, breaking traditional connections to birthplaces, home towns and countries. However, places of residence remain significant for our identity claims and stories of who we are. I explore this paradox through an analysis of women's talk, looking at the persistence of tradition and also new forms of identity work around place. I show how a speaker's multiple interpretations of where she lives remain central to the life narrative which she can construct for herself, retrospectively and prospectively, and to her fragile and idealized definition of 'home' as the place in which she may position herself positively.

"This book is very carefully written and is definitely reader-friendly. Although it deals with complex and contested theories around identity it does so with rigour and clarity, and could become part of an essential bibliography for courses in psychology, gender studies, narrative studies or critical and human geography." - Maria Tamboukou, Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London UK

"This is a well-written and engaging book. Lively and succinct, it is a reference point in the study of place and identity for students in psychology and academic researchers." – Ian Burkitt, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford UK

### *Metamorphosis and Place*

Joshua Parker, Lucie Tunkrova and Mohamed Bakari (eds)  
Cambridge Scholars Press (October 2009)

#### Book description:

Few places are ever uniquely our own. We share them. To project one's cultural (or disciplinary) markers onto a landscape which is already hardly blank, but full of others' own meanings—to know that the geographic points stabilizing one's own identity serve, on their reverse side, to support an entirely different set of meanings—is an act Michel de Certeau calls a tactic. This book explores a wide spectrum of questions. While personal, regional, and national narratives may be constructed in terms of place, what happens to a place as personal or societal values and narratives change? These questions can be asked of almost any discipline, whether one is taking a photograph or painting a picture, mapping a literary topography, tracing linguistic change in a certain geographic region or language's importance to our conception of a political territory, building a house, mosque, or church on a physical plot of land, constructing them from words on a page, or with computer software. The collection brings together a group of scholars from a range of disciplines (literary and cultural studies, history, political science, architecture, anthropology, art, photography and art history, communication, sociology, lexicography, comparative literature, linguistics,

tourism management, psychiatry and theoretical psychoanalysis), each shedding light on how place is both a transforming subject and a transformed object.

*The Yearbook 2008*

*British Sociological Association Auto/Biography Study Group*

*Centre for Biography & Education*

The Auto/Biography study group is pleased to announce the publication of its second annual Yearbook. The *Yearbook 2008* is a high quality, stitched paperback of 85,000 words containing some of the best articles in the area of Auto/Biography produced during 2008. The Yearbook is edited by Professor Andrew C Sparkes of Exeter University and contains twelve new, original articles including:

Visual silences, nomadic narratives

by *Maria Tamboukou*

The gentle art of name-dropping: acquaintanceship and the auto/biographical self

by *David H.J. Morgan*

White ladies: the dressing of elite amateur players at Wimbledon

by *Janine van Someren*

“Someone else’s child”: A personal view of adoption

by *Josie Abbott*

Mosaics of memory: Ellipses and gaps in life narratives of torture.

by *Consuelo Rivera-Fuentes*

The cost of the *Auto/Biography Yearbook 2008* is £25 (plus £5.00 p+p for UK, Eire and the Channel Islands orders, and plus £10 p+p for all Overseas Orders). To Obtain Copies of the *Auto/Biography Yearbook 2008* send a cheque (sterling) payable to the *British Sociological Association* to:

Michael Erben, Auto/Biography, 21 Dorchester Court, Ferry Pool Road, OXFORD OX2 7DT, UK (michaelerben@gmail.com)

*Call for papers (conferences and journal special issues)*

**NARRATIVE MATTERS 2010**

**EXPLORING THE NARRATIVE LANDSCAPE:  
ISSUES, INVESTIGATIONS, AND INTERVENTIONS**

*Fifth Biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Narrative Research, Perspectives, and Approaches Across the Humanities and Social Sciences*

May 20-22, 2010, Delta Hotel, Fredericton, NB, Canada

On behalf of my colleagues with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Narrative (CIRN), at St. Thomas University, it is my pleasure to send you the Call for Papers for "Narrative Matters 2010", the fifth in a biennial series of conferences on narrative approaches and perspectives across the human sciences.

The title of the 2010 conference is "Exploring the Narrative Landscape: Issues, Investigations, and Interventions." Keynote speakers include three well known scholars in narrative and related areas: Dr. Ruthellen Josselson, Dr. Kenneth Gergen, and Dr. Mary Gergen.

The conference is being organized by CIRN and will be held from May 20-22, 2010, at the Delta Hotel, Fredericton, NB, Canada - the same venue, in fact, where Narrative Matters 2002 and 2004 were held.

In recent years, the influence of the narrative turn has been felt in diverse fields. In literature, psychology, education, journalism, health care, history, social work, theology, the arts, and many other areas, scholars and practitioners have been actively exploring the storied complexity of human experience. This conference considers the question of where the narrative turn has taken us, and where it is leading us from here: what challenges and possibilities can narrativists anticipate in their various disciplines, and what directions are their inquiries and activities taking? We welcome proposals for individual papers (20 minutes plus ten minutes for questions and answer), panels (90 minutes), and posters. Please submit the following (as an email attachment in Microsoft Word) to [narrativeconference@stu.ca](mailto:narrativeconference@stu.ca) by November 2, 2009:

- the title of your paper and a 200-word abstract
- your name(s) and institutional affiliation(s), including department(s) when applicable
- a brief biographical statement for each participant (100 words)
- the format of your presentation (paper, panel, or poster)
- your equipment needs
- your contact information: mailing address, email address, phone and fax numbers.

Please note: The deadline for submission of proposals is November 2, 2009

Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)

July 7th – 10th 2010

## San Francisco

### "Making our World Anew: Political Psychology in an Age of Global Challenges."

*Conference Program Chair:*

*Stephen Reicher*

*University of St. Andrews*

*ISPP 2009-10 President: Sam McFarland, Western Kentucky University*

Join us for the 2010 ISPP annual scientific meeting in San Francisco! The theme of the conference is "Making our World Anew: Political Psychology in an Age of Global Challenges."

This is a challenging theme. It asks us to interrogate our discipline on a number of levels. Do we have the insights to deal with the various phenomena that assail us from the effects of the global economic downturn, through the impact of mass migrations and cultural encounters, new and inter-connected forms of tension and conflict, to the challenges of creating environmentally sustainable communities? Do our concepts, largely developed in the US and Western Europe, allow us to understand these phenomena across the globe? Can we transform ourselves—Political Psychology—into a truly global community that is able to address phenomena on a global scale. Our ambition is to see the conference as a stepping stone towards such a community.

To address this year's theme, the Program Chair aims to create a culture of informed discussion and exchange of ideas between people from different countries, people from different disciplines and between academics and practitioners. We are particularly keen to make this a truly diverse conference, to include people from many disciplines, to showcase young scholars and more established scholars, and, most particularly, to welcome people from areas where, traditionally, Political Psychology has been under-represented.

San Francisco is renowned as a vibrant and diverse city, both culturally and intellectually. It therefore provides an ideal setting for us to work together, think together and socialize together. We want the conference to be invigorating and we want to make the conference fun. So do come and join us, meet old friends, make new ones, challenge old ideas, gain new insights—have a great week in one of the world's great cities!

#### Format

*Paper and Panel proposals:* Each panel normally includes up to 4 papers addressing a common substantive topic, a chair, and up to two discussants. In exceptional circumstances, we will accept panels of 8 papers. This should be negotiated in advance with the Program Chair. We accept individual paper submissions, which subsequently will be grouped into panels with similar papers, and will be assigned

a chair and discussants. We also accept proposals for complete panels that include all papers and identify the discussant and chair, which can be submitted by the panel chair as a complete session.

*Posters:* Poster sessions are designed to present research projects in all their phases. Posters can include information on data, results, conclusion, applications, or implementation of instruments and techniques. The aim of poster sessions is to be interactive and to provide exchange and discussion of ideas between the poster's author and the people viewing the posters. We accept individual poster proposals, which should be submitted to the appropriate section chairs.

#### *Discussants and Chairs*

Because every panel will have a chair and a discussant in order to stimulate discussion and valuable feedback, all presenters at the conference will most likely be assigned the role of a discussant or a chair at a panel on which they are not presenting a paper. If you would like to serve in this role for a specific area of study that fits your interests and expertise, you can submit a request through the online submission system.

*Roundtables:* Roundtables involve two or more presenters who articulate their views on a particular topic. This can be a research area, a particular book, a method, or some other topic. We accept only proposals for whole roundtables, including the participants and a chair, which can be submitted by the roundtable chair. We do not accept individual proposals to join a roundtable.

*Workshops:* Workshops serve to instruct or give the audience practice in methods for political psychological research or might focus on practical program training relevant to political psychology. Workshops not charging additional fees will be given the same time slot as the other formats. Those wishing to require a fee for materials and/or needing a longer time slot to conduct a workshop should contact the program chair. We accept proposals for workshops, which can be submitted by the workshop chair. We do not accept individual proposals to join a workshop.

There will also be 60-minute keynote addresses as well as 60-minute keynote discussions where two or more people will debate an issue of importance. These will be solicited for the program by invitation only.

#### Sections

Individual papers and posters, as well as entire panels, roundtables, and workshops can be submitted to a maximum of two of the 10 sections listed below, with one designated as the presenter's first choice and the other designated as second. Each section is marked with keywords associated with its most relevant topics, to assist participants in identifying the sections that best match their research interests.

	2010 – San Francisco	Key Words
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	Sections	
1	Globalization and international relations	Globalization, transitional politics, global and local economy, societal and environmental change, international negotiation
2	Migration and acculturation	Migration, refugees and asylum seekers, cultural encounters and cultural understanding, acculturation, contact, racism
3	Regional studies	In this section, we particularly encourage panels and papers from countries and regions which, historically, have not had a strong tradition of political psychology
4	Political culture, identity and language	Political and national identities, political discourse, cultural memory and identity, political narratives
5	Electoral behaviour, political communication and public opinion	Voting, political campaigns, political debates, mass media, internet, framing, priming, persuasion, advertising, propaganda, deliberation.
6	Social inequality and social change	Tyranny, poverty, social justice, democracy, civic engagement, political alienation, social movements, collective action
7	Political Decision Making	cognition, affect, motivation, information processing, heuristics, biases, impression formation, political learning
8	Crisis and conflict	Political crises, natural disasters, conflict, violence, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war, peace.
9	Intergroup and intragroup relations	Stereotyping, prejudice, belonging, othering, solidarity, cohesion, social dominance, legitimacy, permeability.
10	New perspectives, new developments	New areas of study and application, methodological developments, theoretical developments, critiques and controversies

The International Society of Political Psychology and the Chair for the 2010 conference emphasize methodological and theoretical plurality in all participations and welcome all approaches and all topics.

#### Proposal Submission

Submission of proposals opens in October 2009. To submit your proposal, visit the ISPP Annual Meeting website at: <http://ispp.org/meet.html> where you will be able to submit your proposal electronically. The deadline for submissions of proposals is February 5, 2010.



Please note that all presenters, panel chairs, and discussants will need to register and pay for conference attendance. Also, if your paper submission is accepted, you will be expected to electronically upload a copy of your research paper online by June 23<sup>rd</sup> for panel chairs, discussants, and public archives. You are also expected to distribute it by email to all members of your panel (other presenters, chair, and discussant) by the same date. Finally, if your submission is accepted, you may be assigned a presentation time on any of the days of the conference.

We look forward to your participation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ispp.conference@yahoo.com](mailto:ispp.conference@yahoo.com)

### Oral History in Art, Craft and Design

Friday 2 - Saturday 3 July 2010

2010 Oral History Society Annual Conference

In association with the V&A and National Life Stories at the British Library

Oral history has become a significant methodology for understanding the contexts of art and design practices. This international conference will bring together the global community of those working with oral history in the fields of architecture, art, craft and design (incorporating fashion, product design, photography, and new media).

Increasing numbers of community projects are now exploring their histories through testimony-based art, craft and design activities. And with the growing use of web-based communication, designers, artists, historians and other arts-based researchers are also engaging with the problem of creating appropriate environments in which oral histories can be stored and disseminated to different audiences and users. The relationship between content and form is one that researchers in art and design are particularly well-placed to explore. Rather than privileging the authorial voice in the arts, the conference seeks to examine the meaning and function of oral history in creative practice. The conference will, therefore, focus on three major themes: **History, Practice, and Interpretation.**

**History:** The contribution of oral history to the documentation and preservation of creative practices; the creation of creative identities through oral history narratives; the interconnections between the individual practitioner and their wider cultural context; the narratives of creativity; the construction of alternative histories; memories of lost practices.

**Practice:** Creative practice using oral history and memory work; designers as mediators in oral history projects/works; ethical considerations in using individual memories for art/design work; the use of images as memory prompts; arts-based community oral history projects; oral history as visual narrative.

**Interpretation:** Oral history as producer of meaning; oral history and testimony in the museum and gallery; narrative research in the arts and oral history; oral history and arts education; the problem of oral history as biography; the border between orality, aurality, and visuality.

Proposals are invited of 200-250 words that address one of the three major themes of the conference for talks or presentations of 20 minutes, or panels of one hour. Proposals should clearly state how oral history has informed the project/work/research described, and how it will be used in the presentation. Please send to Belinda Waterman, [Record] [Create] conference administrator, email [belinda@essex.ac.uk](mailto:belinda@essex.ac.uk) by the 30 of November 2009.

Partners:

Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London  
National Life Stories at The British Library Sound Archive  
University of the West of England, Bristol

Bishops Court quilt, Unknown, 1690-1700. Museum no. T.201-1984 Call for Papers:  
Quilts 1700-2010

Hidden Histories, Untold Stories

Friday 11 - Saturday 12 June 2010

In conjunction with the exhibition Quilts 1700-2010 at the V&A

This two-day interdisciplinary conference will bring together cultural, social and textile historians, artists and practitioners to discuss three hundred years of British quilt making and will include an exploration of new, unpublished research that places quilts and quilt making within a wider aesthetic, social and historical context. The conference will focus on four major themes: The Domestic Landscape, Private Thoughts, Regional/National Identity, and Making a Living .

- **The Domestic Landscape**

This theme covers issues related to the history of the family and the domestic interior - with particular emphasis on the bedroom. The early eighteenth century witnessed an explosion of patchwork and quilting in some of the wealthiest homes in the UK. In the nineteenth century, artists used images of quilt production to represent ideals of middle class femininity and virtue. Worn and much darned patchwork was also utilised as a tool to illustrate scenes of abject poverty. In both cases production and consumption are presented as inherently feminine. Papers that explore the domestic landscape in relation to any historical period, region, from any disciplinary perspective are welcome.

- **Private Thoughts, Public Debates**

As multi layered objects, quilts frequently illustrate the makers' complex engagement with the wider world, from key political and social events such as military victories and coronations to commemorating national heroes and personalities. This engagement is often juxtaposed with intensely personal narratives of domestic and everyday life. This section explores everyday objects as mirrors into the world of the maker and questions how we interpret quilts as 'objects of emotion'. Papers focusing on

original archival research with reference to regional sources preferred.

- **Regional/National Identity**

The politicisation of the individual and the collective has been represented through stitch, for example in the chartist and trade union movement and the suffragette and women's peace movement. More recently increasing numbers of community projects engage in the process of quilt making to explore both individual and collective identities. How quilts have become central to the communication of concepts of identity in the context of class, gender and themes of local and national.

- **Making a Living**

The production of domestic objects for commercial sale has had a controversial history. Governmental and independent agencies have been at the forefront of providing opportunities for domestic 'piece work' at both a national and local level. The global quilt making industry is worth billions of US dollars, wealthy collectors command the best venues at internationally recognised galleries. How do artists and practitioners find recognition in a field which is dominated by the values of the commercial art world? Are 'traditional skills' exploited or has the 'credit crunch' offered opportunities to re-discover value in home production?

Proposals are invited of 200-250 words that address one of the four major themes of the conference for presentations of 20 minutes or panels of one hour. We would particularly welcome proposals from postgraduate students. Please send abstracts to Sue Prichard (s.prichard@vam.ac.uk). Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 1 November 2009. Selected papers will be included in a special edition of the V&A On Line Journal jointly edited by Angela McShane and Sue Prichard.

## **First announcement and call for papers**

### **ESREA – European Society for Research on the Education of Adults**

#### **Life History and Biographical Research Network**

**Linnaeus University**

**Växjö and Kalmar 4-7 March 2010**

#### **Representing Lives and Learning**

##### **The science and poetics of our work**

The next ESREA Life History and Biography Network, is organised by the Linnaeus University in Sweden (Växjö and Kalmar) ([www.lnu.se](http://www.lnu.se)) in cooperation with the Emigrant Museum in Växjö ([www.utvandarnashus.se](http://www.utvandarnashus.se)).

The conference will be held in the House of Emigrants and in the University buildings in Växjö as well as in Kalmar and take place from the evening of Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. Accommodation will mainly be in Växjö, and we will arrange a special evening meal at a glass foundry in the “Kingdom of Crystal” between Växjö and Kalmar.

The theme of this conference can be regarded as an answer to several ongoing discussions in the field and we welcome papers that draw on life history, biographical and auto/biographical research in the themes listed below, but we also welcome papers on other topics!

Lynn Froggett, in Milano suggested that we had a prime aesthetic responsibility to represent lives fully, in all their rich complexity, and in creative, compelling ways. And that this represented more than constructing our work as a science.

Pär Lagerkvist - the Nobel Prize winner, born in Vaxjo - provides us with some potential links here: poetry as well as science can be a form of obsession, he insisted. They both seek to lift personkind out of itself and to seek to answer some eternal questions. Pär Lagerkvist was a visionary who sought to throw light on the problems of humanity in our time, threatened as it by barbarity and barrenness. The human mind - maybe in certain scientific guises - can be like a car, black and empty, roaring along in the dark through unknown towns to an unknown goal. But Lagerkvist chronicled the delicate flute of tenderness, love and trust in lives, that can make a real, transformative difference. There are relational and spiritual qualities in the human struggle that point us towards what he saw to be eternal verities.

**Within his writing is a strong sense of the poetic, the transcendental and the humanistic. And we want to play with these themes in our conference:**

- What is our purpose in representing lives? Is it for some instrumental or greater good? How is this to be done and on what and whose terms?

- Is there, or should there be, a poetry in our work and writing, alongside the science? Is there an aesthetic/poetic as well as moral responsibility to represent the spirit by which lives may have been lived, in all their complexity, and a need we to beware of reductionism?

- What is the nature of our science?

**Abstracts (and proposals for workshops and or poster sessions) are called for to be submitted before December 4<sup>th</sup> - electronically on no more that one side of A4 - with names, affiliations and contact details on a separate sheet. For the abstracts English is obligatory.**

**Please mail to: [esrea2010@vxu.se](mailto:esrea2010@vxu.se)**

**This will give us the possibility to get back to you before Christmas!**

**Working languages:** English and French.

**Please note that ESREA will be offering 2 bursaries (250 € each) for doctorate students.**

**Further information about the conference will come in October, but for questions and expressions of interest in the meantime, please contact us:**

Professor Gunilla Härnsten  
Växjö universitet – Linnéuniversitetet (Linnaeus University)  
[gunilla.harnsten@vxu.se](mailto:gunilla.harnsten@vxu.se)

Dr Linden West, Reader in Education (convenor of the network)  
Canterbury Christ Church University Collage  
[linden.west@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:linden.west@canterbury.ac.uk)

Dr Laura Formenti (co-convenor of the network)  
Università di Milano Bicocca  
[laura.formenti@unimib.it](mailto:laura.formenti@unimib.it)

Also please visit [www.esrea.org](http://www.esrea.org)

**Gender, Work and Organization**  
**6th international interdisciplinary conference**  
**University of Keele**  
**21st – 23rd June 2010**

**Call for abstracts**

**Politics as/at work: (Sexual) politics, practice and gendered power**

**Stream Convenors**

**Nickie Charles, Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, University of Warwick, UK**

**Suzanne Franzway, University of South Australia**

**Linda Krefting, Texas Tech University, USA**

**Carol Wolkowitz, Sociology Department, University of Warwick, UK**

Work and gender, both separately and together, are enmeshed in relations of power - and power is, of course, the stuff of politics. The focus on politics in the context of work and political activity as itself a form of work will allow the stream to explore the many dimensions of politics as it is practised – whether this be at the micro-level of daily workplace interactions or the macro-level debates of formal political institutions. The informal sexual politics of working life, trade union activity and women's workplace organising, for example, all involve politics. Conversely, the focus also allows us to conceptualise the doing of politics, whether at a formal or informal level, as a form of work, something which has not hitherto been given much scholarly attention. Those of us who are involved in politics, whether with a capital P or not, are also involved in gendered work. This stream will explore the political processes which characterise work and organisations and how they are gendered, as well as providing the opportunity to conceptualise the doing of politics and how, when we do politics, we also do gender and contest gendered power.

A focus on politics as/at work embraces a diverse range of topics, all of which are welcome in this stream. A fundamental aspect is sexual politics, as it is played out in daily interactions at work and as it feeds into the more formal political arenas of trade unions and LGBT caucuses and pressure groups. Informal sexual banter and sexual harassment reflect and reinforce gendered relations of power, but also give rise to forms of resistance that challenge and potentially transform these relations. Such resistance also takes organisational form and gives rise to the development of workplace policies to challenge and marginalise discrimination on the grounds of sexual diversity. Sexual politics also refers to the dynamic of power between women and men and the cultural association of power with masculinity. This not only leads to an association of power and authority with men, an association which has long been recognised, but also ensures that the political domain is gendered masculine and that women who enter it may be obliged to 'do' masculinity in order to be able to 'do' politics. Thus the work of

politics, as the work of senior managers, involves doing gender. Looking at the politics of work and politics at work also brings the intersections between sexual politics and other systems of power to the fore; papers discussing these interconnections will make an important contribution to this stream.

If the performance of power and resistance permeates everyday life, one important example is the politics of desirable dress, appearance and bodily performance. Dress codes are gendered, classed and 'raced' and the appearance of employees, is often critical to the jobs they can access and how they are perceived in them. Who has the power to dictate what people should wear at work and how they should look? How are these constraints resisted? And what pleasures are involved in conforming to these strictures? Can these processes of resistance and conformity be conceptualised in terms of power and politics?

Doing politics, particularly at the formal level of legislative assemblies, has not received a great deal of attention from sociologists, although more has been paid to the informal politics of social movements. At both levels, however, gender has not always been at the forefront of analysis. Furthermore, there are new insights to be gained from conceptualising the doing of politics as a form of paid or unpaid work. Politicians, for instance, and some pressure group workers, receive a salary for the work they do, they work in specific institutional settings, such as legislatures, political parties, and organisational headquarters and branches, and these institutions are characterised by gendered cultures in the same way as any other workplace. Conceptualising political activity as a form of work may therefore throw light on the way it is gendered and how, even within political institutions, work is taking place in the context of specific relations of employment and in particular conditions that might not be tolerated in any other place of work. Similarly, for many people activism in social movements might be seen as a form of voluntary work that is gendered and patterned by gendered relations of power and authority in the same way as are formal workplaces.

Although women are now to be found in positions of power, in political parties and political institutions, as well as workplaces more generally, it is still overwhelmingly men who occupy such positions. What is it that reproduces this situation? Why is it that boardrooms and high political office continue to be dominated by men? What is it about power that genders it masculine? How can women challenge the gendering of power and how are they doing so?

The investigation of new and more subtle forms of governance also crosses the usual boundaries between political science and sociology. The topic of resistance at work, both formal and informal, has a long history of scholarship associated with it. But what is happening to resistance today when there are new and more subtle forms of governance at play within institutions? How are these forms of governance gendered? Do they make it more difficult to practice politics at work and are they resulting in a weakening of the collective power of workers, whether women or men? These are questions that could be addressed by papers in this stream.

The stream will embrace a wide range of topics all of which relate to different aspects of politics as/at work. Thinking of politics as work breaches disciplinary boundaries and has the potential to provide a different perspective on both work and politics. It is this new, and gendered, perspective which we are seeking to encourage in the papers which will be included in this stream.

**Abstracts of approximately 500 words (ONE page, Word document, single spaced, excluding references) are invited by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 with decisions on acceptance to be made by stream leaders within one month.** All abstracts will be peer reviewed. New and young scholars with 'work in progress' papers are welcomed. In the case of co-authored papers, ONE person should be identified as the corresponding author. Note that due to restrictions of space, multiple submissions by the same author will not be timetabled. Abstracts should be emailed to [nickie.charles@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:nickie.charles@warwick.ac.uk)

Abstracts should include **FULL** contact details, including your name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address. *State the title of the stream to which you are submitting your abstract.*

British Sociological Association Auto/Biography Study Group  
Centre for Biography and Education

One-Day Conference  
15th December 2009  
The British Library, 96, Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

The title of the conference is *Dress and Undress*.  
As well as completed papers, *Work in Progress* is very much welcomed.

Following the success of the last one day conference on 'Keeping up appearances: dress and auto/biography' when 12 papers plus a costume drama were presented on topics ranging from: 'Killer Heels-the place of the stiletto in gender warfare' to 'Uniforms and uniformity: dress and identity in healthcare settings' the theme has been extended to: *Dress and Undress*'. Another exciting programme beckons ...

Please send title and a brief abstract by no later than 9th October to:

Gill Clarke  
Centre for Biography and Education  
School of Education  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
SOUTHAMPTON SO17 1BJ  
England



(email: [gmc@soton.ac.uk](mailto:gmc@soton.ac.uk))

The fee will be about £50.

Forthcoming attraction~

The annual Summer Residential Conference will be held at the University of Leicester, 8-10 July 2010, the conference theme is Legacies.

### The Archive and Everyday Life Conference May 7-8, 2010

McMaster University  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Confirmed Keynotes: Ann Cvetkovich (*An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*), Angela Grauerholz (*At Work and Play: A Web Experimentation*), Ben Highmore (*The Everyday Life Reader*; *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory*), Michael O'Driscoll (*The Event of the Archive*)

This conference will bring together academics, advocates, artists, and other cultural workers to examine the intersecting fields of archive and everyday life theory. From Simmel through Mass Observation to contemporary Cultural Studies theorists, the objective of everyday life theory has been, as Ben Highmore writes, to "rescue the everyday from conventional habits of the mind... to attempt to register the everyday in all its complexities and contradictions." Archive theory provides a means to explore these structures by "making the unfamiliar familiar," hence opening the possibility of generating "new forms of critical practice." The question of a politics of the archive is critical to the burgeoning field of archive theory. How do we begin to theorize the archive as a political apparatus? Can its effective democratization be measured by the participation of those who engage with both its constitution and its interpretation?

"Archive" is understood to cover a range of objects, from a museum's collection to a personal photograph album, from a repository of a writer's papers in a library to an artist's installation of found objects. Regardless of its content, the archive works to contain, organize, represent, render intelligible, and produce narratives. The archive has often worked to legitimate the rule of those in power and to produce a historical narrative that presents class structure and power relations as both common-sense and inevitable. This function of the archive as a machine that produces History--telling us what is significant, valued, and worth preserving, and what isn't&--is enabled through an understanding of the archive as neutral and objective (and too banal and boring to be political!). The archive has long occupied a privileged space in affirmative culture, and as a result, the archive has been revered from afar and aestheticized, but not understood as a potential object of critical practice.

Can a dialogue between archive theory and everyday life theory work to "take revenge" on the archive (Cvetkovich)? If the archive works to produce historical narratives, can we seize the archive and its attendant collective consciousness as a tool for resistance in countering dominant History with resistant narratives? While the archive has worked to preserve a transcendental, "affirmative" form of culture, bringing everyday life theory into conversation with archive theory opens up the possibility of directing critical attention to both the wonders and drudgeries of the everyday. Archiving the everyday—revealing class structures and oppression on the basis of race and gender, rendering working and living conditions under global capitalism visible, audible, and intelligible—redirects us from our busyness and distractedness, and focuses our attention on that which has not been understood to be deserving of archiving. The archive provides the time and space to think through ! a collection of objects organized around particular set of interests. If the archive could grant us a space in which to examine everyday life, rather than sweeping it under the carpet as a trivial banality, we could begin to understand our conditions and develop the desire to change them.

How can we envision the archive as a site of ethics and/or politics? Does the archive simply represent a place to amass memory, or can it, following Benjamin, represent a site to make visible a history of the present, thus amassing fragments of the everyday, which can in turn be used to uproot the authority of the past to question the present? In short, what happens when we move beyond the archive as merely a collection and begin to theorize it as a site of constant renewal and struggle within which the past and present can come together? Furthermore, how then does the archive as an everyday practice allow us to understand or change our perception of temporality, memory, and this historical moment?

Areas of inquiry for submissions may include, but are not limited to, the following topics and questions:

- \* The archive both includes and excludes; it works to preserve while simultaneously doing violence. Are the acts of selection, collection, ordering, systematizing, and cataloguing inherently violent?
- \* The question of digitization: the internet as digital archive and the digitization of the physical archive. Digitizing the archive renders collections invisible and distant, yet increasingly searchable and quantifiable. Does the digitization of the archive reveal new ways of seeing persistent power structures? Or does it hide them?
- \* National and colonial archiving: questions of power and national identity.
- \* The utopian, radical potential of the archive as well as its dystopian possibilities.

- \* Indigenous modes of archiving.
- \* Visibility and pedagogy: while the archive often works to hide, conceal, and store away, it can also reveal and display that which otherwise remains invisible. Do barriers to access restrict this emancipatory function of the archive?
- \* Questions of collective memory and nostalgia (for Benjamin, a retreat to a place of comfort through nostalgia is not a political act).
- \* The archive as revisionist history.
- \* The archive as a form of surveillance.
- \* The role of reflexivity with respect to the manner in which the archive is constructed/produced/curated.
- \* Function of the narrative form for the archive: how does the way in which the archive reveals its own constructedness unravel the concept of the archive as "historical truth"?
- \* The future of the archive: preservation and collection look forwards as well as into the past. How should we understand the hermeneutic function of the archive and the struggle over its interpretation?
- \* The relationship between the archive and the archivist/archon.
- \* Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in the archive: who speaks and who is spoken for?
- \* The affective relationship between the archive and the body.

Following the conference, we intend to publish an edited collection of essays based on the papers presented at the conference to facilitate the circulation of ideas in this exciting field of inquiry.

"The Archive and Everyday Life" Conference will take place 7-8 May, 2010, sponsored by the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario (John Douglas Taylor Fund). The conference format will be diverse, including paper presentations, panels, round-table exchanges, artistic performances, and exhibitions. We encourage individual and collaborative paper and panel proposals from across the disciplines and from artists and community members.

Paper Submissions should include (1) contact information; (2) a 300-500 word abstract; and (3) a one page curriculum vitae or a brief bio.

Panel Proposals should include (1) a cover sheet with contact information for chair and each panelist; (2) a one-page rationale explaining the relevance of the panel to the theme of the conference; (3) a 300 word abstract for each proposed paper; and (4) a one page curriculum vitae for each presenter.

Please submit individual paper proposals or full panel proposals via e-mail attachment by October 15, 2009 to [tayconf@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tayconf@mcmaster.ca) with the subject line "Archive." Attachments should be in .doc or .rtf formats. Submissions should be one document (i.e. include all required information in one attached document).

Conference organizing committee:

Mary O'Connor, Jennifer Pybus, and Sarah Blacker

Website:

[http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~english/Taylor\\_2010/index.html](http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~english/Taylor_2010/index.html)

### Reading Women's Writing in and through Psychoanalysis; 11-15-09

Women Writers seeks scholarly essays for a Special Issue on any aspect of women's writing and its relation to psychoanalysis. Given the significance of the symbiotic relation between feminist theory and psychoanalysis, the issue editors are interested in considering the ways in which women's/feminist writing is implicated, to borrow a term from Shoshana Felman, in psychoanalysis while we conversely explore how psychoanalysis is elemental to an understanding of several issues that are central to an analysis of women's writing. We are, in other words, interested in essays that consider the way that women's writing has contributed to the development of psychoanalysis and are also interested in essays that explore women's writing from a psychoanalytic perspective. We also welcome essays that specifically theorize the relation between feminism and psychoanalysis.

We encourage submission of papers on a variety of topics. The following list suggests some possibilities and is in no way meant to be exhaustive:

The historical significance of women in psychoanalysis

Psychoanalytic critique of patriarchy

Luce Irigaray

Julia Kristeva

Psychoanalysis and Feminism

Freud's "what does a woman want?"

Dora and Anna O.

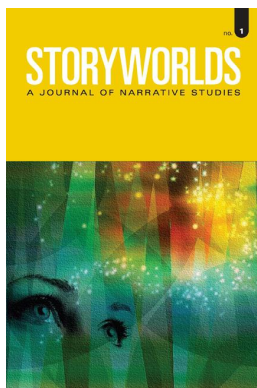
Lacan's "woman does not exist"

Trauma and Femininity  
Hysteria and Femininity  
Lacan's 20th Seminar on Feminine Sexuality  
Écriture Féminine  
Femininity as Masquerade (Joan Riviere)  
The Other Jouissance  
Feminine Desire  
Women's Autobiography and Psychoanalysis  
Ethnicity, Gender and Psychoanalysis  
Literary depictions of sexual difference  
Psychoanalytic analyses of women's writing

Completed essays should be submitted in MLA parenthetical style with Works Cited page, in MS Word (.doc or .rtf). Graphics or illustrations should be copyright free and/or copyright should be held by submitter. Please send completed submissions and curriculum vitae to both Ed Cameron ([log in to unmask]) and Linda Belau ([log in to unmask]) before November 15, 2009.

The special issue will be published in the January 2010 online, peer-reviewed journal Women Writers, available at <http://www.womenwriters.net> <<http://www.womenwriters.net/>> . The journal is in its eleventh year of continuous bi-annual publication.

## ***New Journal***



Storyworlds: A Journal of Narrative Studies  
Published by The University of Nebraska Press  
ISSN 1946-2204

Table of Contents for volume 1, published in June 2009

Click here for a flyer with more information about the journal, submission guidelines, ordering information, etc.

Click here for a form that can be used to request that your library subscribe to the journal.

Scope of the journal: Storyworlds is a new, interdisciplinary journal of narrative theory. It features research on storytelling practices across a variety of media, including face-to-face interaction, literary writing, film and television, virtual environments, historiography, opera, journalism, graphic novels, plays, and photography, studied from perspectives developed in such fields as narratology, discourse analysis, jurisprudence, philosophy, cognitive and social psychology, Artificial Intelligence, medicine, and the study of organizations.

Additional context: The term storyworld refers to the world evoked by a narrative, whether that narrative takes the form of a printed text, film, graphic novel, sign language, everyday conversation, or even a tale that is projected but is never actualized as a concrete artifact—for example, stories about ourselves that we contemplate telling to friends but then do not, or film scripts that a screenwriter has plans to create in the future. But how do modes of storytelling--narrative ways of worldmaking--differ from other representational practices used to construct or reconstruct worlds, in a broad sense? Put differently, what distinguishes narrative from other methods for using symbol systems to structure, comprehend, and communicate aspects of experience? What constraints and affordances do particular storytelling media bring to the process of building narrative worlds? What tools are needed to characterize, in all its richness and complexity, the experience of inhabiting a narrative world in a given medium or across different media? What are the conditions for and consequences of engaging with such worlds, and how does this engagement vary across different narrative practices, cultural settings, and interpretive communities? The purpose of Storyworlds is to provide a forum for sustained scholarly inquiry into these and related issues, whose investigation will require collaborative, interdisciplinary work by researchers from across the arts and sciences.

Editor David Herman	
Editorial Board H. Porter Abbott Jens Brockmeier Jonathan Culler Gregory Currie Catherine Emmott Peter Galison Richard J. Gerrig Andreea Deciu Ritivoi Marie-Laure Ryan Deborah Schiffrin	For submission information, download this flyer or contact  David Herman Department of English Ohio State University 164 W. 17th Avenue Columbus, OH 43210-1370 USA  herman.145[at]osu.edu <a href="http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/herman145/">http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/herman145/</a>

Roy Sommer Wendy Steiner	
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## ***CNR Post-graduate teaching***

### **Narrative Practice ISM302: Semester B module, 2010**

The aim of this module is to explore some of the wide contemporary range of applications of narrative research. The module provides an overview of some of the key frameworks within which narrative research is practiced, including :

- discourse analysis
- literary analysis
- life history research
- sociology
- Foucauldian analysis
- psychoanalysis and psychotherapy
- feminism

Topics addressed will include research on health issues, photography, mental health, youth culture, and political change. A range of guest lecturers will present their own approaches to narrative practice alongside a continuing discussion and evaluation of the benefits and problems associated with the different frameworks. Assessment involves a seminar presentation on a relevant paper (20%) and a small piece of narrative research, putting into practice the perspectives we have explored within the module (80%)

This 30-credit module is part of the Narrative Research MA and postgraduate Certificate and Diploma, and is an option on other HSS MAs, but can also be taken independently.

The course group will meet on Tuesday afternoons, 1-4pm, February-May, at the Docklands Campus of UEL.

To apply, email Carol Moore, [c.moore@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.moore@uel.ac.uk) and for further details on the module, contact Molly Andrews [m.andrews@uel.ac.uk](mailto:m.andrews@uel.ac.uk)

## ***News and reports from the field***

### ***Erasmus Visit to University of Linköping***

2008-2009 was the first year of the Erasmus exchange between the University of Linköping and the University of East London. In the autumn, Margareta Hydén and Lars-Christer Hydén spent several days in London, participating a number of

events, ranging from their contributions to the symposium on *The Limits of Narrative: Reflections on Embodiment*, as well as visiting, with their students and Cathy Riessman, the postgraduate class on Narrative Research. They made a second visit to London in the midst of an unusual snowstorm which closed down half the country (but which was mere snow flurries by Swedish standards). During this visit, there were extensive conversations about future collaborations, and two project ideas are being developed. In June, Molly Andrews and Cigdem Esin visited Linköping. That trip was a success for a number of reasons, not least because they were the recipients of the gracious hospitality of the Hydéns. They participated in a one-day conference on narrative at University of Linköping, which attracted a range of narrative scholars from around the country. Based on the discussions from that day, students doing post-graduate work in narrative in Sweden and in England have been in contact, with the hope of presenting a panel at a forthcoming conference.

### New Research in Creative and Critical Practice

Barbara Droth, who completed her MA in Film, Video and New Screen Media in the School of Humanities and Social Science at UeL, and is a face well-known at CNR, has been awarded a full AHRC scholarship to fund a three-year PhD in Creative and Critical Practice at the University of Sussex. The project is supervised by both the Media, Film & Music School (Lizzie Thynne) and the Life History Department (Dr. Margaretta Jolly).

#### The RESEARCH QUESTION:

Interrogating the artist's private and public self through documentary film practice: the visual narrative in the performance of life

This interdisciplinary research examines how documentary form can be used to critically explore the relationships between biography, performance and identity in a practice-based project. Documentary video practice is employed to explore the individual experience of biographical performance within a theoretical framework of knowledge of self: how different narrative forms may be combined/juxtaposed to recount the artist's life and evoke the subject's own self-invention, problematising the digital medium and the collaborative method.

The production of documentary videos on the lives and work of women performance artists will be used as a method to examine their use of language and narrative constructs - and hence examine the multiple authentic identities the visual medium is capable of capturing and constructing. The work interrogates the biographical genre through emphasising performative and fictional dimensions of life history, and by examining assumed binaries such as private/public, documentary/fiction, Self/other, subjectivity/re-presentation. The films and the process of their production will form research data that can be analysed, typified and classified to contribute to visual life history studies.



Euroqual Workshop: Archives and Life History Research, 21 - 23 September 2009, Madrid (excerpt from Solveigh Goett's 'The textile files' <http://thetextilefiles.blogspot.com/> )



A meeting of researchers from many countries with shared interests in and different takes on archives and life stories. Not at first sight a conference that had much to do with textiles, but of course, like all such gatherings, a networking event and like all human enterprise embedded in textiles and stories.

We shared experiences, research narratives and stories around dining tables always laid with white linen, and in the lecture theatre facing a row of solemn flags behind the speakers' table - a reminder to me of the privilege of having been invited, a certain formality maybe lending gravitas to the event that dissolved as the days went on and disappeared altogether once we retired after yet another splendid meal to the Duque de Alba bench with its own aristocratic tale outside La Residencia for la penultima. So many honored guests had stayed and talked at this beautiful place before us: Federico García Lorca, Salvador Dalí, Luis Buñuel, Albert Einstein, Paul Valéry, Marie Curie, Igor Stravinsky, Walter Gropius, Henri Bergson, Le Corbusier and Alexander Calder. Calder's wife Louisa, by the way, like him worked with bright colours but in threads, and wrote a book on crochet.

In the mornings which came always too early, after an invigorating shower the faint scent of vinegar lingering in the white bathroom towels mingled with the fresh fragrance of the Agua Colonia to clear my mind for another stimulating and challenging day ahead. We make our own sensory memories of time and place.

I took my hyperbolic crochet work into the lecture hall to think through my hands as I listened. There were other textile encounters in words and images - in Cristina

Sanchez's paper on public mourning, for example. I was very moved by an image Francisco Fernandiz showed: of two brightly coloured picnic chairs next to the excavation site of one of many mass graves holding the remains of those killed by the fascists during the Spanish Civil War. The chairs with their cheerful patterns, so ordinary and bright, carrying the heavy weight of the past in the people sitting in them and telling their memories of terrible events that happened long ago, but are neither forgotten nor forgiven.

[http://www.residencia.csic.es/pres/frame\\_hist.htm](http://www.residencia.csic.es/pres/frame_hist.htm)

### **Storytelling, Memories and Identity Construction - Mexico City, 1 - 5 July 2005**

(excerpt from Solveigh Goett's 'The textile files'

<http://thetextilefiles.blogspot.com/> )

for photos, program, abstracts etc, go to

<http://enkidumagazine.com/chics/esc.htm>

A conference that could only have happened in Mexico, academic rigour mingling, excitingly rather than seamlessly, with the magic of tales. In this sense it was perhaps the most narrative of all conferences on narrative, bringing together reality and imagination as it becomes fused and confused, sober fact, moving fiction, scholarly discourse, animated performance, serious words and poetic ones, evocative images and funny ones, rainbow coloured fabrics, theatrical costumes, scents and movements, arguments presented in many guises and still interpreted in coffee grains as the days turned into night. Thus the conference itself became a story, with its core cast of unforgettable characters, each with their own bundle of life stories and research narratives, a story with unexpected twists and turns and narrative gaps to be baffled by and to enjoy, each participant part of the field we were jointly - each in our own way - investigating: the power of stories.

### **Political Narratives Panels at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Dublin, July 2009.**

Molly Andrews (CNR), together with Kristen R. Monroe (UC Irvine) organised a series of 4 panels on political narratives at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual scientific meeting at the International Society of Political Psychology. The papers touched upon three main themes: recent theoretical and methodological developments; political conflict and violence; and political culture and identity.

In particular, the presentations focused on the development of compassion and empathy through narrative conceptualisations of the other (M. Andrews) and on the importance of narrative for the development of ethics for addressing the challenges put forward by globalisation (C. Kinnvall; P. Nesbitt-Larking; S.

Scuzzarello). Narratives, argued the authors, could be a means to de-construct antagonism between groups and people and to re-construct common shared goals and stories. Other authors dealt more closely with the construction of self-political identities in war-torn societies (P. Hammock) and in the context of multiculturalism (P. Nesbitt-Larking). On the theme “Political conflict and violence”, the papers explored psychological responses to prejudice and genocide, presenting examples from the holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda (J. Landwirth, S. Samules; G. Dona). Other papers explored different responses to violence. Some explored the possibilities to develop forgiveness be developed among the victims of acts of terrorism (K.R. Monroe and A. Martin), while others addressed the personal experiences of exiting a conflict situation, focusing in particular on former child soldiers (A. Veale) and humanitarian workers (R. Thomas).

The panels achieved their original goals: creating a stimulating environment which brought together scholars from American and European universities working on different aspects of narrative analysis. In particular, it provided a forum for younger researchers to present their work.

Sarah Scuzzarello, London

### ESRC Grant for Research in Cycling Cultures



Rachel Aldred has been awarded a two year ESRC First Grant to look at “Cycling cultures in a mass motorised society: a multi-method case study of four English urban areas”. The project will see Rachel and an employed researcher conducting qualitative research in Hackney, Hull, Cambridge and Bristol. Molly Andrews will be the research mentor.

The research builds on a pilot study in Cambridge involving narrative interviews with 25 people who cycle there. It is aimed at exploring experiences and perceptions of cycling in relatively high-cycling areas, using the perspectives of “everyday cyclists”. Methods will involve narrative and semi-structured interviewing, documentary and discourse analysis, and the collection of ethnographic data, including headcamera footage.

