

## CNR Newsletter 21, April 2012

Welcome to the CNR spring 2012 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, ISSUE 21: October 15, 2012.

Send to: Corinne Squire [c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk)

### Newsletter sections:

- I. CNR Seminar series and conferences
- II. Recent publications by and news from CNR members, advisors and associates
- III. Upcoming narrative events
- IV. CNR graduate programmes for 2012-3
- V. Reports of recent events

## I.CNR Seminar series and conferences

### Pathways to Narrative Research: Three Inaugural Lectures

University of East London, Docklands Campus, WB G.02

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

4-6 pm

Welcome: Fiona Fairweather, Dean of the School of Law and Social Sciences

Introduction: Professor Mike Rustin

Inaugural Lectures:

Professor Molly Andrews 'Shifting Perspectives and the provisional past'

Professor Maria Tamboukou 'Writing Feminist Histories of the Present'

Professor Corinne Squire 'Narrative, context and future''

Closing comments: Dr. Cigdem Esin

## **NOVELLA Events April and May 2012.**

NOVELLA (Narratives of Varied Everyday Lives and Linked Approaches) is a Phase III ESRC funded National Centre for Research Methods node concerned with the everyday habitual practices of families. These are frequently taken for granted, but orientation to the social world and what people do are (at least partly) negotiated within families. NOVELLA aims to look at new ways of analysing narrative and combining narrative analysis with other qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse 'disconnects' between people's narratives of their family lives and their everyday practices.

### **22 May 2012 'You've been framed?' A Special TCRU/NOVELLA Seminar**

**1 – 2.30pm** The Inventing Adulthood study is a qualitative longitudinal project that followed a group of 100 young people growing up in 5 locations in the UK over a period of 10 years through the transition to adulthood. In 2005/6 some of the young people involved in the study were invited to become involved in a film project for the Open University, developed as part of a new course Youth: perspectives and practices (KE308). The film was a collaboration between researchers, film-makers and educators and faced the challenge of 'animating' a qualitative longitudinal study – including asking young people to listen to and respond to extracts of interview data collected with them over a period of years.

*This event is free to attend but places are limited so early booking is recommended.*

### **28 May 2012 NCRM NOVELLA - The Deep and Wide World of Autobiographical Memory: Hindsight and Beyond (Lecture)**

**2 - 3.30pm** Much of the available literature on autobiographical memory focuses on bias and distortion: because we do not, and cannot, re-present the past "as it was" and because our picture of the past is inevitably filtered through the eyes of the present, replete with its sundry wishes and needs, the stories we tell about our lives (this view maintains) are bound to be fictions, even lies. Much of this literature also sees autobiographical memory as a largely intra-individual, cognitive affair, issuing from the brain's complex machinery. Both of these assumptions bear some validity and warrant our attention. In this presentation, however, Professor Mark Freeman will try to shift this dominant emphasis by highlighting the extraordinary "depth" and "width" of autobiographical memory, focusing especially on the phenomenon of hindsight.

*This event is free to attend.*

**29 May 2012**      **Archiving your data: planning and managing the process. - A TCRU/NOVELLA special seminar**

**1 - 2.30pm**      Dr Libby Bishop will be delivering a seminar on 29 May 2012 entitled 'Archiving your data: planning and managing the process'.

Dr Bishop is a Senior Officer at the UK Data Archive and supports data depositors in areas of data sharing and management as well as ethical use of data. She also assists the research community by developing teaching resources, promoting thematic collections and conducting workshops on secondary analysis. Her key activities include advising on informed consent for archiving and consulting with large ESRC programmes and centres.

*This event is free to attend.*

For further information about the NOVELLA project and all our events please visit <http://www.ioe.ac.uk/research/58431.html> or contact Rowena Lamb on 020 7612 6921 / [novella@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:novella@ioe.ac.uk).

## **II. Recent publications by and news from CNR members, advisors and associates**

### **Feminist Review 100 Issues Celebration**

An Evening Of Live Music, Performance And Spoken Word To Celebrate Issue 100 And The Work Of Avtar Brah

Friday 27 APRIL 2012

8PM - 1AM

The Islington Metal Works, London All

Welcome FREE

RSVP: <http://fr100party.eventbrite.co.uk> <<http://fr100party.eventbrite.co.uk/>>

Contact: [fr100party@gmail.com](mailto:fr100party@gmail.com)

Performers inc. Poet Malika Booker, Singer Mohinder Kaur Bhamra, DJ Ritu, DJ Nikki Lucas, Lealea Jones & Beeja for dance.

To READ ISSUE 100: Recalling the Scent of Memory (Free) Edited by Irene Gedalof & Nirmal Puwar <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/fr/journal/v100/n1/index.html>

Contents

The scent of memory: strangers, our own and others - Avtar Brah  
Avtar Brah's cartographies: moment, method, meaning - Stuart Hall  
Activism, imagination and writing: Avtar Brah reflects on her life and work with Les Back

Racialisation, relationality and riots: intersections and interpellations

Aisha Phoenix and Ann Phoenix

Interruption, reproduction and genealogies of 'staying put' in diaspora space

Irene Gedalof

The sense of memory - Suki Ali

Working-class whiteness from within and without: an auto-ethnographic response to

Avtar Brah's 'the scent of memory' - Lyn Thomas

Mediations on making Aaj Kaal - Nirmal Puwar

Open Space the sound of memory: interview with singer,

Mohinder Kaur Bhamra Navtej Purewal

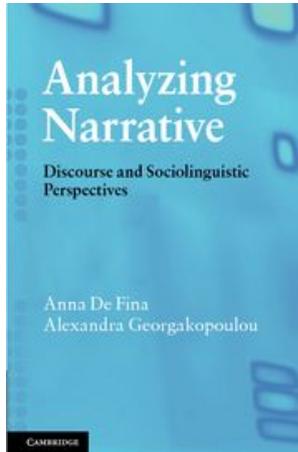
An autochthonic scent of memory? - Nira Yuval-Davis

Blossom time - Catherine O'Flynn

In exile - Laleh Khalili

Acrid text: memory and auto/biography of the 'new human' Joan Anim-Addo

Afterword: some fragments by way of an afterword Avtar Brah



### **Analyzing Narrative: Discourse and Sociolinguistic Perspectives**

Anna De Fina, Georgetown University, Washington DC

Alexandra Georgakopoulou, King's College London

Cambridge University Press ISBN:9780521715133

The socially minded linguistic study of storytelling in everyday life has been rapidly expanding. This book provides a critical engagement with this dynamic field of narrative

studies, addressing long-standing questions such as definitions of narrative and views of narrative structure but also more recent preoccupations such as narrative discourse and identities, narrative language, power and ideologies. It also offers an overview of a wide range of methodologies, analytical modes and perspectives on narrative from conversation analysis to critical discourse analysis, to linguistic anthropology and ethnography of communication. The discussion engages with studies of narrative in multiple situational and cultural settings, from informal-intimate to institutional. It also demonstrates how recent trends in narrative analysis, such as small stories research, positioning analysis and sociocultural orientations, have contributed to a new paradigm that approaches narratives not simply as texts,

#### Features

- The first general overview of narrative analysis from a sociolinguistic perspective
- Has an interdisciplinary appeal for those who are approaching narrative studies not just from the standpoint of linguistics, but from anthropology, sociology, psychology and communication studies
- Offers a critical overview of different theoretical and methodological perspectives on narrative, including conversation analysis and linguistic anthropology



#### **Signs of Hope: Deafhearing Family Life**

Donna West (2012)

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

*Signs of Hope* tells the story of a narrative inquiry with three deafhearing families. For many of us, deafness represents loss and silence. For others, being deaf is a genetic quirk; an opportunity for learning, spiritual adventure and reward. For yet others, it is the most natural thing in the world; a connection to a genealogical layer of signing ancestors and the continuation of a culture. Amid the noise of mainstream, medical and educational discourses of deafness, here are family voices demanding to be heard—whether spoken or signed—that challenge audiological and surgical intervention, that call for scrutiny and critique of ‘inclusive’ deaf-related pedagogical practices, that rail against marginalisation of members of minority cultures. Over four

years, I recorded the stories of three families who wish to counter and resist what they see as damaging misconceptions and discriminatory constructions of deafness and deafhearing family life. Here, spaces are created that respect and acknowledge human beings—adults, children, deaf, hearing—as storytellers. The poetic and performative narratives at the heart of this book reveal not only the ways in which hurtful definitions of, and discrimination towards, deaf people and signing deafhearing families can be destabilised, but also the ways in which celebration of deaf culture and sign language are affirming and vital for healthy family life. *Signs of Hope* is recommended for anyone with an interest in sign language, family life, disability, deaf education and deaf wellness. It will also be of interest to professionals and practitioners working with deaf children, deaf parents and deafhearing families and to students and scholars within social sciences, humanities, arts, social medicine, audiology, paediatrics, psychology, childhood studies, social policy, social work and education.

#### About the Author

Donna West is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bristol's Graduate School of Education. She first trained as an Art teacher before becoming a qualified teacher of deaf children. In 2001, she studied for her MSc in Deaf Studies and then worked at the Centre for Deaf Studies (also at Bristol) as a lecturer in Qualitative Research Methods before gaining her PhD from the Graduate School of Education in 2009.

<<http://deafhearingfamilylife.wordpress.com>

**Launch of the Olive Schreiner Letters Online –**  
now available at <http://www.oliveschreiner.org>

Olive Schreiner (1855-1920) is one of the world's great feminist writers and social theorists, with her novels including *The Story of an African Farm* and her political treatises including *Woman and Labour* among many other writings. She also wrote c4800+ exceptionally important letters between 1871 and 1920, a period of momentous changes in the world which her letters are concerned with, and which also brought changes regarding letter-writing and literary practices too. Schreiner's letters - all of them, in full, detailed and easy to read transcriptions - are available world-wide in a fully-searchable electronic edition published in January 2012. The Olive Schreiner Letters Online is hosted at [www.oliveschreiner.org](http://www.oliveschreiner.org) and provides a new, detailed, and unique electronic resource for social science, literary, historical, cultural geography, narrative, feminist, women's & gender studies, and African studies research. The Schreiner Letters Online provides a rich source of fully-searchable research materials and can be used for a variety of research and teaching purposes -including for teaching about methodology itself. The entirety of Schreiner's extant letters are available in a fully searchable form, using both free-text and Boolean search facilities. They provide a key resource for secondary analysis for researchers and students across the social sciences,

humanities and arts and beyond the academy. Its transcriptions of Schreiner letters are full and detailed - these include every insertion and deletion as well as the main text. Also the Schreiner Letters Online provides a raft of sophisticated user research information, including detailed letter Notations concerned with Schreiner's writing, topic collections of key letters on major themes of concern to Schreiner, guides to the archival locations of all her letters, and an 'Essential Schreiner' compendium of must read letters. This informational source makes available a wide range of important background information which can be drawn on and help provide depth to secondary analysis of the letters themselves. The Schreiner Letters Online has been designed with the aim of encouraging and supporting secondary analysis in mind. Schreiner's letters are exceptionally interesting because containing her unfolding thinking about her writing and publishing activities, and also her developing analysis and social theorising regarding important topics that preoccupied her, including: metropolitan feminism and socialism, prostitution and its analysis, imperialism and the 'scramble for Africa', war & peace, changing understandings of 'race' and capital, intersectional theorising around women, gender and 'race', the South African War (1899-1902) & its concentration camps & women's relief organisations, governance & federation, international women's franchise campaigns, labour issues, international feminist networks, the Great War, diplomacy & pacifism, and much more as well. The Project is funded by the UK's ESRC (RES-062-23-1286) and the letters are published by the renowned electronic research resources publisher HRIOOnline. Further information about the Project is available at: <http://www.oliveschreinerletters.ed.ac.uk> from where many Project publications and also Schreiner's own are available to download; there is also an informational PDF leaflet attached.

### **Palgrave Studies in Oral History: Two New Volumes**

The Palgrave Studies in Oral History series welcomes two new publications to its list. Oral History and Photography, edited by Alexander Freund and Alistair Thomson, is a collection of essays that explores the "photographic turn" in oral history, and reflects on how oral historians can best use photographs in interviewing practice and best understand them in the interpretation of oral histories. The essays in Place, Writing, and Voice in Oral History, edited by Shelley Trower, demonstrate oral history's unique role in understanding locality and consider the importance of paying attention to the specifics of place in the context of global issues such as environmental concerns and communication technologies. They also consider how oral history interviews themselves--the sounds of voices--are recorded and listened to in particular places: on walks, in theaters, at home, and online. Further information about both books and the others in the series can be found at <http://us.macmillan.com/series/palgravestudiesinoralhistory> .

Inquiries about proposals to the series should be addressed to the general editors, Linda Shopes at [LShopes@aol.com](mailto:LShopes@aol.com)<<mailto:LShopes@aol.com>> and Bruce Stave at [Bruce.Stave@UConn.edu](mailto:Bruce.Stave@UConn.edu)<<mailto:Bruce.Stave@UConn.edu>> .

## **Social Lives with Other Animals: Tales of Sex, Death and Love (Palgrave, 2011).**

Erika Cudworth

The conventional trilogy of social domination, of class, 'race' and gender has been challenged by new concerns around other distinctions – of place and location, age and generation, sexuality and forms of embodied difference. Despite these important developments, sociology has mostly stopped short at the difference of species. Erika Cudworth draws on various traditions of critical theorizing in sociology and animal studies in arguing that the social is not exclusively human and that species should be understood as a complex system of social domination which is co-constituted with intra-human social dominations. This understanding of species as a social system of relations is exemplified through three case studies: the eating of animals as food, the rearing of animals in industrial agriculture and the keeping of animals as companions. These sites reveal ways in which relations of species domination shape the lives both of humans, and of domesticated animals. *Social Lives with Other Animals* is a critical sociology of species which takes us beyond theories of speciesism or anthropocentricity and presents a necessary challenge to the power relations in the social formations of species.

### Review

'This is a fascinating exploration of how relations between human and other animals are structured by power and the extreme consequences of human domination for non-human animals, particularly those which are domesticated and farmed as potential foodstuffs. The author insists on the importance of a sociological analysis of human-other animal relations, engaging both theoretically and empirically with an impressive array of evidence... The book makes an invaluable contribution to understanding and changing the way humans and other animals live together on this small planet.' - Nickie Charles, Professor and Director of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, University of Warwick, UK

### **How many qualitative interviews is enough?**

Sarah Elsie Baker (Middlesex University) and Rosalind Edwards (NCRM, University of Southampton)

Download: <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/2273/>

Students conducting a piece of qualitative research frequently ask 'how many interviews is enough?' Early career researchers and established academics also consider this question when designing research projects. In this NCRM Methods Review paper Sarah Elsie Baker (Middlesex University) and Rosalind Edwards (NCRM, University of Southampton) gather and review responses to the question of 'how many' from 14 renowned social scientists and 5 early career researchers. The riposte to the question of 'how many' from most contributors is 'it depends'. In considering what 'it depends upon' however, the responses offer guidance on the epistemological, methodological and practical issues to take into account when conducting research projects. This includes advice about assessing research aims and objectives, validity within epistemic communities and available time and resources.

## **Routledge Education Author of the Month October 2011: Ivor Goodson**

Ivor Goodson has worked in universities in England, Canada and the USA and visiting positions in many countries, notably at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, Sciences Po - L'Institut d'études politiques (IEP) de Paris and Stanford University in the USA. Ivor is currently Professor of Learning Theory at the Education Research Centre, the University of Brighton, UK. Professor Goodson has spent the last 30 years researching, thinking and writing about some of the key and enduring issues in education and has contributed over 50 books and 600 articles to the field. Life-History and narrative research specialisations represent a particular area of competence as does his research on teacher's lives and careers and teacher professionalism.

## **Diegesis, the new e-journal (Starting in October 2012)**

Interdisziplinäres E-Journal für Erzählforschung / E-Journal for Narrative Research across the Disciplines, which is funded by the German Research Funding Organisation (DFG), is going to be released as an open access publication twice a year. The first issue is going to be dealing with the topic "Narratology in the 21st Century. An Interdisciplinary Review," whereas the second issue is going to be concerned with the subject "Narration and Medium". For both issues we are still in need of reviews of recent publications in the study field of narrative theory of the last three to four years. These reviews can be interdisciplinary and do not have to come exclusively from philological areas. We additionally attach a call for papers for the second issue to this cover letter. An anonymised peer-review procedure assures the quality of all articles appearing in DIEGESIS. The international peer reviewers who congregate in an advisory panel represent a large spectrum of more than twenty subjects. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to authors who might be interested in writing a review or an article. Proposals (with regard to reviews in terms of simply naming the title of the publication; with regard to articles in terms of a short abstract of not more than 800 characters and in both cases with brief information on the academic curriculum vitae) can be sent to the editorial team, that is to Dr. Matthias Aumüller (aumueller@uni-wuppertal.de) and Dr. Filippo Smerilli (smerilli@uni-wuppertal.de). The journal is published at the University of Wuppertal and in cooperation with the local Centre of Narrative Research (CNR) ([www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de](http://www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de) <<http://www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de/>> ) by the professors Matei Chihaiia (Romance studies), Matías Martínez (German studies), Michael Scheffel (general literary studies) and Roy Sommer (English and American studies). With kind regards from Wuppertal, Matthias Aumüller and Filippo Smerilli

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## Teaching Contested Narratives

Identity, Memory and Reconciliation in Peace Education and Beyond (December 2011)

Zvi Bekerman Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Michalinos Zembylas Open University of Cyprus

Hardback (ISBN-13: 9780521766890)

<http://www.cambridge.org/asia/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521766893>

In troubled societies narratives about the past tend to be partial and explain a conflict from narrow perspectives that justify the national self and condemn, exclude and devalue the 'enemy' and their narrative. Through a detailed analysis, *Teaching Contested Narratives* reveals the works of identity, historical narratives and memory as these are enacted in classroom dialogues, canonical texts and school ceremonies. Presenting ethnographic data from local contexts in Cyprus and Israel, and demonstrating the relevance to educational settings in countries which suffer from conflicts all over the world, the authors explore the challenges of teaching narratives about the past in such societies, discuss how historical trauma and suffering are dealt with in the context of teaching, and highlight the potential of pedagogical interventions for reconciliation. The book shows how the notions of identity, memory and reconciliation can perpetuate or challenge attachments to essentialized ideas about peace and conflict. . Offers social and anthropological perspectives into the theoretical underpinnings and practical implications of peace education in troubled societies . Reveals how the notions of identity, memory and reconciliation are entangled and perpetuate or challenge attachments to essentialized ideas about peace and conflict . Renders data from local contexts in Cyprus and Israel showing them to be relevant to educational settings in countries which suffer from strong conflicts - in America, Europe, Africa and so on

### Contents

Part I. Introduction and Theoretical Underpinnings:

Introduction; 2. Problematizing peace education romanticism; 3. On conflict, identity and more

Part II. Living and Teaching Contested Narratives: 4. Victims and perpetrators: how teachers live with contested narratives; 5. (Im)possible openings; 6. The everyday challenges of teaching children from conflicting groups; 7. The emotional complexities of teaching contested narratives;

Part III. Mourning, Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Problems and Possible Solutions: 8. The nationalization of mourning in troubled societies; 9. The work of mourning in schools: ambivalent emotions and the risks of seeking mutual respect and understanding; 10. Forgiveness as a possible path towards reconciliation;

Part IV. Conclusions: Implications for Peace Education: 11. Becoming critical design experts in schools; 12. Memory and forgetting: a pedagogy of dangerous memories; 13. De-essentializing identity; 14. Designing different paths for reconciliation pedagogies.

Jane Osgood, *Narratives from the Nursery: negotiating professional identities in Early Childhood* <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415556217/>

"This accessible and timely book builds upon and contributes to ongoing debates surrounding professionalism in the early years workforce. In a sector where policy is rapidly changing, Jayne Osgood challenges existing assumptions concerning professional identities and questions what broader lessons might be learnt about 'race', ethnicity, social class and gender in early years research and practice.

This engaging text:

- Offers a thematic overview to the concept of professionalism in an increasingly critical area of study;
- Includes unique autobiographical contributions alongside new and compelling empirical evidence;
- Stimulates wider debates within a clear theoretical framework;
- Provides an in-depth examination of the individual views of early years practitioners.

Addressing new debates and policies from a focussed academic perspective, *Narratives from the Nursery* provides inspirational and enlightening reading for practitioners, researchers, policy makers and students"

### **Montreal Life Stories oral history project**

As part of the work of the Montreal Life Stories oral history project ([www.lifestoriesmontreal.ca](http://www.lifestoriesmontreal.ca) <<http://www.lifestoriesmontreal.ca/>>), the journal *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*, has released Part I (Fall 2011) of its expanded two part issue on oral history and performance. Part II (December 2011) will be available in early January.

There is a great deal of interest to oral historians interested in the intersections with the performing arts. A number of contributors come out of our 7 year project in Montreal.

To order copies of this two part special issue, you can visit [www.teesriduniya.com/issues.html](http://www.teesriduniya.com/issues.html)

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS 9.1 (PART 1)

"Why Oral History and Performance?" Editorial by Edward Little. "Going South with Highway 63" Georgina Beaty, Layne Coleman, Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman, Greg Gale, and Jonathan Seinen-actors and creators of "Highway 63-" on the personal connections forged with the places and people they represent in their collective creation.

"Bolsheviki" David Fennario shares an excerpt from his new solo, anti-war play, which

draws on an interview he recorded thirty years ago with a First-World-War veteran politicized by his exposure to trench warfare. Dispatch: "Reality as Poetic Narrative" Annabel Soutar on the collapse of the Concorde overpass, "reality as poetic narrative," and Porte Parole's approach to creating documentary theatre in Montreal. "Soldier Up to Safer Ground: An intra-cultural conversation" Jim Forsythe on verbatim theatre in his new play, featuring interviews with military families from CFB Brandon who have served in Afghanistan, and Afghani Canadians living in Montreal. "A Challenge to Despair: The Gaza Mono-Logues in New York City" Isabelle Zufferey Boulton on the potential of verbatim testimony from youths to act as a dynamic catalyst for social change and political action. "Headlines Theatre's Us and Them (the inquiry): A Return to Basics" Seth Soulstein on David Diamond's innovative combination of Forum Theatre, systems theory, and participatory story-gathering events to create Theatre for Living. Dispatch: "Headlines (Canada), Ashtar (Palestine), and The Gaza Monologues" "Coming into Presence: Discovering the Ethics and Aesthetics of Performing Oral Histories within the Montreal Life Stories Project" Nisha Sajnani of the Living Histories Ensemble on the risks and rewards of using improvisation and Playback Theatre to work "live" with personal stories from both interviewers and interviewees in the Montreal Life Stories Project. Dispatch: "Ssh! Listen ." Caroline Künzle on \*It Is Only Sound That Remains\*-Shahrazad Arshadi's deeply personal exploration of "sound theatre" created from the personal audio recordings, journal entries, and letters of executed Montreal photojournalist Ziba Kazemi. "Lamentations: A Gestural Theatre in the Realm of Shadows" Sandeep Bhagwati on his collectively created exploration in gestural theatre-an approach that "turns off the sound" in order to identify and work with "gestural accent" in videotaped oral history interviews.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS ISSUE 9.2 (PART II) -

Laura Freitag interviewing Yael Farber about her \*Theatre of Witness\* in South Africa, and her incorporation of documentary material and testimony into classical plays. Lina de Guevara on Puente Theatre's approach to creating participatory, interview-based theatre in Victoria's immigrant communities. Michael Kilburn on the interventionist intent behind Shaw Pong Liu's inclusion of verbatim testimony from contemporary combat veterans in her adaptation of Stravinsky's \*A Soldier's Tale\*. David Fennario with a poem about women munitions workers in Verdun. Don Bouzek (Ground Zero Productions), Catherine Cole, and Maria Dunn on their interdisciplinary approach to "cultural roadbuilding" in 'Edmonton's labour movement through exhibitions, story-gathering, interventionist documentary theatre, and "Video Ballads." Gary Kirkham on Kitchener-Waterloo's The MT Space theatre's approach to collective creation and oral history in a play about responses to terrorism. Rachael Van Fossen and Hourig Attarian in reflexive dialogue about "testimony as process" in their research-creation performance project based on oral histories of the Armenian Genocide. Jenny Montgomery on how her unexpected recent personal experience of immigration overtook her verbatim play about immigration and home in Quebec Steve High on the potential of oral history and performance in the classroom.

Narrative Works: Issues, Investigations, & Interventions has now been published. The issue is available at [http://w3.stu.ca/stu/sites/cirn/current\\_issue.aspx](http://w3.stu.ca/stu/sites/cirn/current_issue.aspx).

**Narrative works:**  
**Issues, Investigations & Interventions**

**Current Issue**

Volume 1, Issue 2, Fall 2011

**Editor's Introduction**

*A. Elizabeth McKim & William L. Randall*  
html pdf

**Invited Article**

Narrative Rhetoric in Expert Reports: A Case Study  
*Clive Baldwin*

**Articles**

The Angst of the Everyday: Using Narrative to Provoke an Affective Understanding of Adolescence  
*Katherine A. Bell*

The Bonds and Burdens of Family Life: Using Narrative Analysis to Understand Difficult Relationships  
*Mary Breheny & Christine Stephens*

Exploring Gender and Subjectivity in Narrative Research  
*Birgitte Malm*

**Outside the Box**

The Never-Ending, Ever-After Story: Narrative, Healing, and Wholeness  
*Sheree Fitch*

**Qualitative Research Online**

"Participatory Qualitative Research" (<http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/issue/view/39>), edited by Jarg Bergold & Stefan Thomas -- is available online (see <http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/issue/archive> for former issues).

In addition to articles relating to "Participatory Qualitative Research", FQS 13(1) provides a number of selected single contributions, as well as articles belonging to FQS

Conferences and FQS Reviews. A) FQS 13(1) B) Inside FQS C) Conferences and Workshops D) Links E) Open Access News Enjoy reading! Katja Mruck Ps: FQS is an open-access journal, so all articles are available free of charge (see [http://open-access.net/de\\_en/homepage/](http://open-access.net/de_en/homepage/) for additional information about open access). This newsletter is sent to 15,298 registered readers; registered readers can comment on each article online.

### III. Upcoming narrative events

#### **NARRATIVE MATTERS, American University of Paris**

May 28- June 2

At the Narrative Matters conference, CNR will be organizing five panels on Political Narratives:

#### ***Political narratives I: 'European moments', trauma and identity***

Catarina Kinnvall: "Trauma and the Politics of Fear: Europe at the Crossroads"

Marta Rabikowska: "Visual narratives of a post-Communist Estate: Transgression of memory and the ruins of community"

Neil Ferguson, "'My fence-sitting days are over': The role of critical moments in fuelling political activism in Northern Ireland"

Chair: Molly Andrews

Discussant: Richard Sparks

#### ***Political Narratives II: Challenging normative narratives***

Marion Smith, "Women's work: Undergoing pregnancy, the management of self, and encounters with care"

Ruth Ballardie, Tomboys' and 'Tarts': Performing childhood memories of female masculinities

Corinne Squire "Living on: HIV, neoliberalism and borderlines"

Chair: Shirin Rai

Discussant: Maria Tamboukou

### **Political Narratives III: Contested belongings and political identities**

Marion Smith and Richard Sparks, “‘And we scream back’: Schoolyard stories, communities of sentiment and the micro-politics of civility”

Joel Busher ‘I still support what the movement stands for but...’: On leaving the English Defence League’

Jacomijne Prins, “Collective identity in deliberation: Storytelling as a strategy to negotiate contested belongings among Moroccan adolescents”

Mastoureh Fathi, “Classed identities: Narratives of Iranian migrant women in Britain”

Chair: Corinne Squire

Discussant: Catarina Kinnvall

### **Political Narratives IV: Reflections on a Political Life**

Maria Tamboukou, “Love, Narratives, Politics: An Arendtian reading of Rosa Luxemburg’s Letters”

Ann Phoenix, “To take or not take it politically: Accounting for political engagement through the racialised family story”

Molly Andrews, “Political lives over time”

Chair: Marion Smith

Discussant: Neil Ferguson

### **Political Narratives V: Politicisation narratives and the the reworking(s) of memory**

Cigdem Esin, “Narratives of Re-politicising selves”

Ronan MacDubhghaill, “Digital narratives and the resources of contemporary European nationalists”

Shirin M. Rai, “Narratives of politics and leadership: Indian women MPs”

Chair: Molly Andrews

Discussant: Ann Phoenix

Corinne Squire and Molly Andrews will also be running a Preconference workshop on Narrative, agency, and social change

Narratives are not only the means by which individuals breathe public life into personal experience, they are a primary tool by which individuals recognise and affirm themselves as members of a group, thereby often acting as a catalyst for the raising of political consciousness. Narratives can thus play a vital role in de-individualising that which is personal; rendering experience into a narrative form can help individuals to become more actively engaged in shaping the conditions of their lives. The workshop will explore how stories' stylistic structures relate to social change: in particular, can certain forms of metaphor and other rhetorical tropes work to support social change? The workshop leaders will use examples from political speeches, community stories of living with HIV, and other forms of political talk, and will explore the relationship between micro and macro narratives of political change.

## **After the Crisis**

### **An Interdisciplinary Conference on Narratives of Traumatic Events**

Kristiansand, Norway, June 6-8, 2012

Disastrous events and traumatic experiences are unbearable in their horror and intensity, causing shock, stress and terror in the individuals affected by them. They may occur suddenly and unexpectedly, or be a consistent part of an individual's life; they can have natural causes or be carried out by human beings. People who are exposed to traumatic events have a profound need to make sense of them, and survivors and witnesses of traumatic situations as well as individuals providing assistance in them seek to express, explain and understand their experiences through words. Narratives therefore play an important part in therapy, public and professional discourse and works of art.

The problem of how to integrate traumatic experiences into individual as well as collective narratives constitutes a challenge to various fields of contemporary research and practice. For instance, the psychoanalytical concept of trauma has spread into other domains, such as history, sociology, literary criticism and cultural theory, where it serves as an interpretive pattern for the mental, social and cultural processes linked with the experience of violence and loss on a collective level.

The conference's aim is to focus on various kinds of trauma narratives, for instance stories told by clients in therapy, stories told by survivors or witnesses to the media, or stories told by professional authors in fiction and non-fictional texts. We welcome contributions that explore various dimensions of trauma narratives, such as form and function, gender inscriptions, sexuality and power, or effect and role of narratives in the construction of national and historical trauma concepts.

Keynote speakers: Molly Andrews (sociology), Mieke Bal (aesthetics), Cathy Caruth (literary criticism), Jakob Lothe (literary criticism), Inka Mülder-Bach (literary criticism), Trond Heir (psychiatry), Lars Weisæth (psychiatry)

Co-sponsored by:

University of Agder, The Department of Nordic and Media Studies

University of Bergen, The Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies

Stiftelsen Arkivet. Center for Historical Reflection and Peacebuilding

Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies

## **Narration and Narratives as an Interdisciplinary Field of Study**

**International conference at Örebro University, Sweden**

**Thursday 4th and Friday 5th of October 2012**

The aim of the conference is to explore the different challenges of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of narration and narratives. The conference is organized by the research group Narration, Life, and Meaning at Örebro University, mainly based in History and Literary Studies. The themes in focus of the project as well as for the conference are:

- Biographical writing
- Narrative method
- Fictional versus factual narratives

### **Call for papers**

Scholars from different disciplines are invited to present papers preferably relating to various aspects of one of the three themes above. The official language of the conference is English.

### ***Abstract submission***

Abstracts (maximum 250 words) should be submitted no later than **April 15, 2012**. Abstracts will be acknowledged and decisions on acceptance will be provided no later than **May 15, 2012**.

## Constructing narratives of continuity and change

An interdisciplinary conference at Canterbury Christ Church University Saturday 12 May 2012 | 8.45am – 5.45pm | £25 per delegate The Old Sessions House, Canterbury Campus

A one day conference to be held in Canterbury which will explore narratives of continuity and change in the context of a difficult and unpredictable world. Aimed at post graduate students, tutors and researchers, it will include presentations and workshops that embrace auto/biography and narrative research within education, and across a range of disciplines and professional sectors.

### Auto/biography and Narrative Research Theme Group

Canterbury Christ Church University is home to an extensive body of research in the broad field of auto/ biographical narrative studies and life history. There is a thematic group that brings together academics from different disciplines, with particular strengths in education, health and social care studies. The thematic group has provided a base for major funded research, which includes a recent EU Lifelong Learning financed study of non-traditional learners in universities, in 8 countries (RANLHE). There is also extensive work on narrative and careers counselling, as well as on life writing, life stories and community development. The group contains

a substantial cluster of doctoral students, who are using these methods to chronicle and theorise change processes in diverse contexts.

### Keynote speakers

Molly Andrews is Professor of Sociology, and Co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research ([www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/index.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/index.htm)) at the University of East London, England. Her research interests include the psychological basis of political commitment, psychological challenges posed by societies in transition to democracy, patriotism, conversations between generations, gender and aging, and counter-narratives.

Laura Formenti, PhD in Education, psychologist and psychotherapist, is Associate Professor at the Department of Human Sciences for Education, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca (Italy), where she teaches General Pedagogy and Family Counselling.

Professor Linden West is a Director of Research Development, Canterbury Christ Church University, Visiting Professor, Paris Nanterre and co-coordinator of a European Biographical Research Network. His books include *Using Biographical Methods in Social Research* (Sage), *Beyond Fragments, adults, motivation and higher education* (Taylor and Francis). He is presently co-editing a collection for Karnac on psychoanalysis and education.

### Themes of the conference

The conference themes are as follows:

- Narrative and auto/biography: self/other, immediacy/memory

- Whose story? What the researcher brings to the story told
- Reflexivity and its parameters: power and unconscious processes
- Narratives of adult learners in turbulent times
- Creating spaces for learning and knowing
- The role of narrative in managing change
- Connecting the big and the intimate pictures in a 'runaway world'
- Interdisciplinary and auto/biographical narrative research
- Beyond words: other ways of representing lives
- Stories of resistance and resilience.

For more information, please phone 01892 507500 or email [barry.maughan@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:barry.maughan@canterbury.ac.uk) Dr Hazel Reid, Auto/biography and narrative research theme coordinator: [hazel.reid@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:hazel.reid@canterbury.ac.uk)

### **"DISPLACED CHILDHOODS: Oral history and traumatic experience"**

Oral History Society Annual Conference: 2012 held in association with the Research Centre for Evacuee and War Child Studies, University of Reading Venue: University of Reading Date: July 13-14, 2012

The next Oral History Society annual conference, "Displaced Childhoods: Oral history and traumatic experience", will take place in the United Kingdom in Reading, Berkshire, on 13-14 July 2012. The conference aims to bring together oral history practitioners with others who explore the topic of disturbed, disrupted and traumatic childhoods within academic, community and therapeutic settings. Oral history has been increasingly utilised as a way of exploring and understanding the effects of war, evacuation and conflict on children, as well as former children; the treatment and welfare of children living in war zones and the wider disruption to family life. This conference aims to address both internal migration and the global movement of children from countries such as Spain, Germany, the former Yugoslavia and Iraq throughout the course of the Twentieth Century, and in particular the long-term psychological and emotional impact. Other themes the conference aims to address include the 'Forgotten Children', forcibly migrated to Australia/USA/Canada; childhood experience of natural and civil disasters; disrupted childhoods; long-term separation and segregation, including children's homes, hospitalisation, and the development of therapeutic environments for children and young people with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties.

### **JOURNAL OF POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**Call description for a special issue on:**

#### **Narratives of (In)Security: Nationhood, Culture, Religion, and Gender**

Narratives are the stories people construct to make sense of their reality. At a collective level, narratives provide cohesion to and transmit shared beliefs of common origins and identity. They are ontologically interrelated in a network of ideas embedded within a specific cultural and historical context. Some narratives become dominant in a specific context through processes of struggle over political meaning and selective appropriation

of certain elements, while other narratives get omitted because they are considered less appropriate. Experience-centered readings of narratives stress the significance of stories for expressing and building both personal and group identity and agency. In working upon available discourses and narratives, we routinely reproduce, critique, justify, or negate social relations through our utterances and writings. Thus, careful attention to narratives facilitates an understanding of how both the political mind and the political society come to be interwoven and mutually constitutive.

A special issue of *Political Psychology* will focus on the psychological dimensions of narratives and myths. In particular, contributions to the special issue should ask how identity and agency are constructed and acted upon in relation to narratives of societal and existential security and insecurity. Some of the most significant master narratives of security involve ideas about nationhood, culture, religion, and gender. As narratives, they serve as powerful linkages between past, present and the future as they are told, experienced and sometimes mythologized in conceptions of self and other. The editors especially welcome manuscripts that disclose how narratives of security are mutually related and how they form political identities and act as co-constructors of individuals' and groups' self-identity in relation to significant others. We encourage both theoretical and empirical contributions.

The co-editors of the special issue – Molly Andrews, Catarina Kinnvall and Kristen Monroe – ask that people submit their papers by May 31, 2012. All papers will be reviewed and returned within three months (by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012). All revise and resubmits should be returned by November 30, 2012 in order to appear in the June or October 2013 issue of *Political Psychology*.

Potential contributors with questions should contact the co-editors:

Molly Andrews at [M.Andrews@UEL.AC.UK](mailto:M.Andrews@UEL.AC.UK)

Catarina Kinnvall at [Catarina.Kinnvall@svet.lu.se](mailto:Catarina.Kinnvall@svet.lu.se)

Kristen Monroe at [KRMonroe@UCI.Edu](mailto:KRMonroe@UCI.Edu).

**CALL FOR PAPERS 2013 International Conference on Narrative is now available.**

June 27-29, 2013  
Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester (UK)

*Plenary Speakers*

Catherine Belsey, Swansea University

Diane Negra, University College Dublin

Nicholas Royle, University of Sussex

*Contemporary Narrative Theory Session Speakers*

Torben Grodal, University of Copenhagen

Liesbeth Korthals Altes, University of Groningen

Jan Christoph Meister, University of Hamburg

Greta Olson, Justus-Leibig-University Giessen

Ruth Page, University of Leicester

Richard Walsh, University of York

*Conference Coordinators*

Paul Wake, Ginette Carpenter

*Call for Papers*

We welcome proposals for papers and panels on all aspects of narrative in any genre, period, discipline, language, and medium.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: Monday, January 14, 2013.

Proposals for Individual Papers

Please provide the title and a 300-word abstract of the paper you are proposing; your name, institutional affiliation, and email address; and a brief statement (no more than 100 words) about your work and your publications.

**Proposals for Panels**

Please provide a 700-word (maximum) description of the topic of the panel and of each panelist's contribution; the title of the panel and the titles of the individual papers; and for each participant the name, institutional affiliation, email address, and a brief statement (no more than 100 words) about the person's work and publications.

Please send proposals by email as a PDF, Word, or RTF document to:  
[narrative@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:narrative@mmu.ac.uk)

All participants must join the International Society for the Study of Narrative. For more information on the ISSN, please visit: <http://narrative.georgetown.edu/>

For more information about the conference, and to download this Call for papers as a PDF please visit our website:

<http://www2.hlss.mmu.ac.uk/conferences/international-conference-on-narrative/>

**'Personal Story & Public Appearance' Life Writing Workshop 28-29 September 2012,**  
Tilburg University, Netherlands  
Organiser: Programme Literature and Visual Art in the European Public Sphere,  
Department of Culture Studies, Tilburg University

In this two-day workshop on life writing we shall explore representations of the self and constructions of identity in contemporary autobiographical texts and cultural products ranging from literary autobiographies and visual art to performances and portrayals of the self in documentaries, interviews, films, and digital media. We invite scholars and researchers from the fields of literature, visual art, culture studies, history, ethnography, anthropology, and philosophy to explore representations of the self. The focus of this workshop is on the translation of personal experience to the represented or imagined story, publicly performed or otherwise made open to the view of all. Relevant questions are: How, and for what purpose, is the story effective? Who are the public/audience and what is their relationship to autobiographical products and their producers? Are audience members passive recipients or active negotiators, shapers, and creators of meaning and thus of the represented autobiographical identity? What expressive techniques are used to 'translate' and mediate personal experience? In what ways do different media combine to create new discourses of the self? We encourage submissions on topics such as: public confessions, the represented self in painting, film, and documentary, constructions of identity in digital story-telling, auto-ethnography. Workshop papers will be made available to all participants on a password-protected website prior to the event so that they can be read in advance. Papers should be between 4000-5000 words. In the workshop each participant will be allocated a 30-minute slot, consisting of a brief presentation by the speaker (5-10 minutes) followed by discussion of the paper. Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Dr Sanna Lehtonen, s.j.lehtonen@uvt.nl. Abstracts should be accompanied by a brief biographical statement (max 150 words). Deadline for abstracts: April 30, 2012 Deadline for submission of full papers: August 1, 2012 The submitters of abstracts will be notified of acceptance or refusal by the end of May 2012.

### **Writing Lives: an interdisciplinary symposium on the uses of biography**

Friday 25 May 2012

Jointly hosted by the Department of Film and Television Studies and the Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick

DEADLINE: Monday 23 April 2012

This symposium will explore the methodological, ethical and intellectual implications of using biographical material in scholarly practice. 'Biographical material' is defined broadly, including, for example, historical narratives of real people, biography as fiction

and non-fiction, film/television/digital adaptations of real lives, or research which incorporates aspects of the life stories of subjects, such as narrative inquiry, or oral history. It will offer a space to reflect on the practical challenges and rewards presented by using data about the lives of real people. It will also offer room for discussion and debate on the boundaries offered by biography: boundaries of history and narrative, boundaries of truth and fiction, boundaries of form and meaning. Contributions can take the form of EITHER a 20 minute paper, outlining research ideas which relate to the themes of the symposium OR a 10 minute presentation, which discusses the ethical, methodological or scholarly implications of using biographical data in your own research. Contributions are particularly welcome in the following areas: · biographical fiction/non-fiction · the 'biopic' in film or television · biography in/and digital culture · auto-biography · biography as history/narrative · Research methodologies related to biography

Please send an abstract (max 200 words), and a brief biographical (!) note to [hannah.andrews@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.andrews@warwick.ac.uk) <<mailto:hannah.andrews@warwick.ac.uk>> by MONDAY 23 APRIL 2012. Be sure to specify the type of contribution you wish to make. Applicants will be informed by Friday 27 April.

Dr Hannah Andrews University of Warwick e-Portfolio

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/csde/gsp/eportfolio/directory/pg/fsread/> Producer, Third Row Centre [www.thirdrowcentre.com](http://www.thirdrowcentre.com)

### **CRESC Annual Conference Promises: Crisis and Socio-Cultural Change The University of Manchester, UK Wednesday 5th-Friday 7th September 2012**

In the midst of global financial crisis and radical transformations in states, institutions, environments and social relations, it is vital to explore the role promises play in effecting socio-cultural change. We use the word 'promises' to encapsulate the range of plans, policies, projects, dreams and visions that both open and close the possibility of different kinds of socio-cultural futures (and pasts). Asking 'What promises are contained in the current moment of crisis? And 'What social futures should we plan for or anticipate?'

#### **Keynote Speakers**

- Barbara Adam (Social Sciences, Cardiff University)
- Robert Boyer (ENS, Paris)
- Aditya Chakraborty (The Guardian)
- Will Hutton (Hertford College, Oxford University)
- Paul Mason (BBC Newsnight)
- Elizabeth A. Povinelli (Anthropology, Columbia University)

In the midst of global financial crisis and radical transformations in states, institutions and social relations, it has become urgent to explore the role *promises* play in effecting socio-cultural change. As particular **plans, projects, policies, initiatives, dreams and visions**, promises both open and close the possibility of different kinds of socio-cultural futures (and pasts). What promises are contained in the current political and socio-cultural moment? This CRESC conference will explore how promises are made to work and fail in the following contexts and fields:

- *Capitalism*: in the midst of rolling crisis, what are the (broken) promises of financialised and globalised capitalism? What rewards do consumption and investment now promise?
- *Expertise*: what promises are embedded within fields of politics, media, law, bio-medicine, science and the environment? What is the emergent potential for new, progressive or transformative public knowledge?
- *Intimacies*: what promises are implicated in transformations of everyday intimacies and personal relationships? How are intimacies being re-configured through objects, networks, technologies and bodily practices?
- *Cultures*: what counts as a successful future in terms of cultural production, participation, engagement or inclusion? Which histories and whose values underpin forecasts of lifestyles, life chances and cultural futures?
- *Methods*: what new methods meet the challenge of understanding complex patterns of socio-cultural change? How are we to understand promises when confronted by different (non)coherencies, (dis)connections, proximities, localities and dispersals?

Please submit either a) proposal for individual papers or b) full panel proposal by Friday 20th April 2012

Proposal Forms can be downloaded from the CRESC website  
<http://www.cresc.ac.uk/events/cresc-annual-conference> and returned via  
[CRESC.AnnualConference@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:CRESC.AnnualConference@manchester.ac.uk)

For more information please contact Dr Mark Banks, CRESC 2012 [m.o.banks@open.ac.uk](mailto:m.o.banks@open.ac.uk)

### **PAMLA Standing Session on Autobiography.**

Seattle University, Oct 19-21, 2012. Deadline: Apr 22, 2012.

contact email: [tanya.heflin@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.heflin@gmail.com)

We are seeking exceptional papers on all aspects of autobiography, memoir, diary, and life-writing for the standing session on Autobiography at the 110th annual meeting of the PAMLA conference at Seattle University from October 19 to 21, 2012. Possible topics may include, but are not limited to, the following areas: autobiographic self-representation in new social media; multi-ethnic life-writing; autobiography in the graphic novel; discovery of archive diary; multi-genre forms of narrative life-writing; and the relationship between

autobiography and gender, sexual, ethnic, racial, and/or national identities. Please submit your proposal online before April 22 at <http://www.pamla.org/2012/proposals>.

For questions, please contact the Autobiography presiding officer at [tanya.heflin@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.heflin@gmail.com).

## **POWS Annual Conference 2012 11th - 13th July 2012 Cumberland Lodge, Windsor**

### Themes

- Women and Austerity
- Feminism and Media
- Feminism and Sport
- Feminism and Trans-Feminism

Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th July 2012, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor

Keynote speakers: Vikki Krane; Sharlene Hesse-Biber; Natacha Kennedy

For further information and details about registration see [http://pows.bps.org.uk/pows/conference/conference\\_home.cfm](http://pows.bps.org.uk/pows/conference/conference_home.cfm) <[http://pows.bps.org.uk/pows/conference/conference\\_home.cfm](http://pows.bps.org.uk/pows/conference/conference_home.cfm)> or call Ruth Raven at the BPS conference office on 0116 252 9555 or email [powsconference@bps.org.uk](mailto:powsconference@bps.org.uk)

### **Private and Public Memories**

Helsinki, 29-30 November 2012

Papers are invited for contributions to the fourth international symposium of the Finnish Oral History Network Private and Public Memories hosted by the Finnish Literature Society in collaboration with the Academy of Finland project Strangers from the East (2009-2012). Our intention is to stimulate discussion and bring together scholars from various fields interested in private and public memories. The invited speakers include Paula Hamilton (Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology Sydney), Daniela Koleva (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski), Kirsti Salmi-Niklander (University of Helsinki) and Vieda Skultans (University of Bristol). Memory is a way for people to give meaning to and transform their past. Memory is shared, transmitted and expressed in various and complicated ways and continuously reworked in relation to changing political and emotional needs. In addition to "private" we have chosen to use the term "public" in relation to "memories" to signal our understanding of the essentially social nature of remembering. Personal memory is not merely private and internal, but always draws on knowledge and information from the surrounding society. Public can be used with reference to the "memory of publics", in other words, the ways memory affects and is affected by various publics. Another way to view it, is the "publicness of memory", which examines the processes through which private

memories become public. Politics of memory are always at stake in this process. "Public memories" are shaped by complex power struggles. Who gets to say what about a given community? What kinds of practices are used to authorize some versions of a story and to silence other ones? The program will include keynote lectures, paper sessions and a closing panel. The working conference language will be English. Some special sessions will be organized, entitled "Oral-literary traditions in immigrant communities", "Oral history from above" and "Life-cycles and memory". Proposals may be submitted for individual papers or workshop sessions. Individual proposals may be addressed to specific sessions or in general. All proposals should include a title and a maximum 250 word abstract (per paper). The proposals must be written in English. Proposals for whole sessions should include all abstracts of the suggested papers. Please include with the proposal the following information: - name (with your surname in CAPITAL letters) - affiliation - postal address - e-mail address - telephone and fax numbers. Proposals will be evaluated according to their focus on the topic.

Please e-mail your proposal as an e-mail attachment by 25 May 2012 to [fohn@finlit.fi](mailto:fohn@finlit.fi). The acceptance or rejection of proposals will be announced by 15 June 2012. Registration by 30 August 2012.

Enquiries: [fohn@finlit.fi](mailto:fohn@finlit.fi) Ulla-Maija Peltonen Chair, FOHN Finnish Literature Society P.O. Box 259 FIN-00171 Helsinki Ulla Savolainen Course Secretary, FOHN Folklore Studies/ Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies P.O. Box 4

### **Towards a Common Past? Conflicting Memories in Contemporary Europe Since the 1980s**

Nordic Network in Memory Studies, Lund University in Lund, Sweden 14-16 May 2012

Memory Studies have developed intensively as a creative, interdisciplinary and well-established field of research. Yet the field remains fragmented: national research environments tend to focus on representations of cultural memory within specific national contexts, and researchers coming from different disciplines are frequently holding on to their own theoretical and methodological approaches. We hope that the conference will generate discussions about the state of the art in Memory Studies as well as the future of the research in the field. How can we consolidate Memory Studies? What kind of new directions within the field we can identify today?

Keynote speakers for this three-day conference include Claus Leggewie - Professor of Political Science at Justus-Liebig University Giessen Daniel Levy - Associate Professor of Sociology at Stony Brook University Leyla Neyzi, Professor of Social Anthropology, Sabanci University in Istanbul Jeffrey Olick, Professor of Sociology at University of Virginia James E. Young, Professor of English and Judaic Studies at University of Massachusetts

WORKSHOPS 1) Remembering forced migrations and ethnic cleansings in Europe (Chair: Barbara.Tornquist-Plewa@slav.lu.se) 2) Memory and Place in European Cities (Chair: Bo.Larsson@cfe.lu.se) 3) Memory, Emotions and Politics (Chair: Tea.Sindbaek@cfe.lu.se) 4) Asymmetric memories in Europe (chair: Conny.Mithander@kau.se) 5) Transnational cultural memory (chair: John.Sundholm@kau.se) 6) Remediating memory (chair: Maria.Holmgren.Troy@kau.se) 7) Memory and Literary Representation (Chair: Alexandre.dessingue@uis.no) 8) Nordic realms of memory (Chair: Peter.Stadius@helsinki.fi) 9) Memory in News Media (Chair: Niklas.Bernsand@slav.lu.se)

### **XIst AUTO/BIOGRAPHY SUMMER CONFERENCE 2012**

University of Reading ~ Thursday 12 July - Saturday 14 July  
Conference Theme: "Heroes, Fools & Villains"

The Conference will be organised in two parallel streams and will open with The Phil Salmon Memorial Lecture to be given by Consuelo Rivera-Fuentes. The conference will close on Saturday after lunch. The title of the conference may be interpreted broadly. The Phil Salmon Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr Consuelo Rivera-Fuentes, Open University, UK on the topic: "Che Guevara, Pinochet, & ME" at 6.30pm Thursday 12th July 2012

For more information please contact Gill Clarke (gmclarke@virginmedia.com) 17 Queen Street Emsworth, Hants PO10 7BJ UK

### **Narratives and entertainment:**

#### **The use of stories to make communication more entertaining and effective**

June 21-22, 2012, University of Amsterdam

Narratives have the capacity to evoke strong emotions in viewers and readers. A dramatic story can make people fill up with tears, a thriller can keep viewers in suspense until the final moment of relief, and a comedy can make people laugh out loud. These emotions likely contribute to the effects of narratives. Narratives are interesting for recipients, catch their attention easily and weaken their resistance to messages in the narrative. That is why stories are increasingly used across a variety of communication types, such as news and education, making the information more entertaining and at the same time more effective. This process is called entertainization, or the inclusion of entertainment elements in information, education and advertising. A keynote speaker at the workshop is Melanie C. Green (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), who is an expert and pioneer in research on the effective use of narratives in persuasion and health communication.

Organizers: Dr. Anneke de Graaf University of Amsterdam Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR) Kloveniersburgwal 48 1012 CX Amsterdam +31 (0) 20 525 4401 a.m.degraaf@uva.nl Prof. Dr. Helena Bilandzic Augsburg University

Department for Media and Educational Technology Universitätsstraße 10 86159  
Augsburg +49 (0) 821 598 5906 helena.bilandzic@phil.uni-augsburg.de

The School of Applied Social Sciences, Durham University is hosting an Advances in Biographical Methods Research Symposium: Creativity, Innovation and Application on May 17th 2012. Speakers include: Professor Brian Roberts, Professor Janice Haaken, Professor Andrew Sparkes, Professor Maggie O'Neill, Dr. Kip Jones and Dr. John Given. Workshops on: Comics and biography, Auto/biography and photography, Film, narrative and biography & Historical/archival biographical research.

### IV CNR graduate programmes for 2012-3

Graduate Programmes, 2012-3, at the Centre for Narrative Research

The MA, Postgraduate Masters, Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Associate Certificate programmes in Narrative Research at CNR are unique interdisciplinary programmes, drawing on social sciences and the humanities to provide graduate-level education in narrative theories and methods. The programmes give students experience in the application of narrative concepts and analysis to particular fields. The MA guides them through the planning and performance of a piece of advanced and original narrative research. In addition, the programmes develop more general skills of review, criticism, and team and individual research, all within the context of narrative research.

Modules can be taken singly or in combination, part- or full-time, and alongside other UEL Masters' level modules if required.

Four modules and a dissertation yield a Masters in Narrative Research  
This year, the New London Graduate School is offering AHRC studentships for programmes including the  
Masters in Narrative Research:  
<http://www.uel.ac.uk/nlgs/index.htm#Studentships> Closing date: April 30.

Four modules (including other choices from the School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies graduate programme) constitute a Postgraduate Diploma in Narrative Research

Two narrative research modules give a Postgraduate Certificate in Narrative Research

Students passing one narrative research module gain an Associate Postgraduate Certificate in Narrative Research.

Narrative Research Starting September 2012, by distance learning, with onsite and online tutorials

This module provide students with an overview of the range of narrative research methodologies. Beginning with an exploration of the meaning of narrative, the module outlines Labovian methods, biographical methods and context-oriented methods. It then considers three key fields of narrative research: oral, personal narratives; written narratives (including autobiographies and letters); and visual narratives. Through a range of theoretical perspectives, we shall be attempting to address a number of questions; for instance: How do people come to see themselves as distinct subjects about whom a story can be told? What role do memory, ideology, sense of audience, etc. play in people's accounts of their lives? How do class, ethnicity, gender and other social characteristics shape the stories people tell? What do we look for when we analyze accounts of people's lives?

Narrative Force starting February 2013 by distance learning. Narrative Force focuses on elements of narrative research relating to Foucauldian and Deleuzian analysis. In this module, students will examine, discuss critically evaluate and apply discourse analysis in narrative research. The main topics of study will be:

- \* Genealogical approaches to narrative research
- \* Modalities of power and desire in narrative analysis
- \* Narratives as discursive sites for the production of knowledge
- \* Narratives as technologies of the self
- \* Spatial narratives
- \* Time, Memory and Narratives
- \* Politics, Imagination, Narratives
- \* Narratability and the Self
- \* Interfaces between Visual and Textual Narratives

For further information, please email [c.squire@uel.ac.uk](mailto:c.squire@uel.ac.uk) and see

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/ma-narrative.htm>

And [http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module\\_info/cert\\_narr\\_res.htm](http://www.uel.ac.uk/dl/programmes/module_info/cert_narr_res.htm)

Alternatively, contact the Distance Learning Advice Team on:

[distance.learning@uel.ac.uk](mailto:distance.learning@uel.ac.uk) / tel: +44 (0)20 8223 2564

MASTERS FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR 2012/13 from the New London Graduate School AHRC Studentships (Full fee waiver + Maintenance grant of roughly £10,000pa) are available for students undertaking a Masters degree in 2012/13. Part time and Full time students are eligible. The Studentships are available for a wide selection of Masters courses at the University of East London, University of Greenwich, London South Bank University and Middlesex University. Go to [www.nlgs.ac.uk](http://www.nlgs.ac.uk) <<http://www.nlgs.ac.uk/>> to find out which Masters courses are eligible for funding. The closing date for applications is 30th April 2012. Full instructions are on the website - [www.nlgs.ac.uk](http://www.nlgs.ac.uk)

<<http://www.nlgs.ac.uk/>> - but in summary you will need to: 1) Get your application submitted to your chosen university and course, and make sure you have received a reference/application number (you don't need to wait for an offer before applying for our studentships). 2) Complete our application form (you can download this from our website) and email it, along with the required supporting documents (listed on the website), to [nlgs@uel.ac.uk](mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk) <<mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk>> 3) Ask an academic referee (eg, undergraduate tutor) to send us a reference for you to [nlgs@uel.ac.uk](mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk) <<mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk>> 4) We will let you know by the end of May whether you've been awarded a studentship. Please get in touch if you have any questions about the application process and we'll be happy to advise you. Either email [nlgs@uel.ac.uk](mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk) <<mailto:nlgs@uel.ac.uk>> or phone 0208 223 7097.

## V Reports of recent events

To Think is To Experiment Postgraduate Research Day 2012  
Theme: 'Narratives in/of Translation'

The Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London and the NOVELLA ESRC Research Node, Institute of Education and UEL

The Centre for Narrative Research organises the eleventh annual Research Day for graduate students on 25 April 2012 in collaboration with NOVELLA, Narratives of varied everyday lives and linked approaches (NOVELLA). To Think is to Experiment has been functioning as an intellectual and narrative space for postgraduate students from various disciplines in different stages of their research. Over the past years, the event has hosted stimulating presentations and intense conversations on the multiplicities in narrative-based research, approaches and experiences. The event has also been a communication node for the participants to build up further research connections. The programmes and abstracts from previous years are available on CNR website, <http://www.uel.ac.uk/cnr/tothinkistoexperiment.htm>

This year, we organise to Think is to Experiment with a special theme of Narratives in/of Translation. Translation processes within research context and surrounding questions have been a burgeoning niche for the arguments about complexities and dilemmas of working with material in multiple languages in intercultural research settings. Among other disciplines and research practices, narrative research is particularly interested in political and cultural complexities involved in translation of narratives within research, how the processes of translation function not only as a linguistic but also a cultural performance of narrative exchanges.

Centre for Narrative Research in the Social Sciences  
&

NOVELLA ESRC Research Node,  
Institute of Education and University of East London

**To THink is To eXperiment**  
**Narratives in/of Translation**

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, Docklands Campus**  
**West Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

<b>Morning Session - Room WB.2.02</b>	
09.45-10.00	Welcome and Introductions
10.00 -10.30	<b>Memorial Lecture for Siyanda Ndlovu</b> <b>Translation or transition: cultural boundaries and the making of the self through language</b> Dr Mastoureh Fathi
10.30-11.15	<b>A Trialogue on Translating Narratives Cross-Culturally</b> Emma Brännlund, Tanja Kovacic, Aura Lounasmaa National University of Ireland, Galway
<b>11.15-11.30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.30-12.00	<b>Transitions and Translations. The story of doing higher education field research in 3 languages in two countries</b> Réka Plugor, University of Leicester
12.00-12.30	<b>Colourful Footprints along the Career Journey: Voices of Indigenous and Immigrant youth on the transition between school and career.</b> Lianne Britten, William Borgen, Mark Wiggins
<b>Afternoon Session - Room WB.2.05</b>	
13.30- 14.00	<b>The visual narrative in the performance of life/live: Interrogating the performance artist's autobiographical self through documentary film practice</b> Barbara Elektra Droth, University of Sussex
14.00-14.30	<b>Reflections on a narrative interview: Coming to terms with a kidnapping</b> Natalie Honein, University of Bristol
<b>14.30-14.45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>

14.45-15.15	<b>Journalistic professionalism in translation</b> Marija Lobanova, University of East London
15.15-15.45	<b>Phetolelo: The politics of language</b> Puleng Segalo, City University of New York
<b>15.45-17.00</b>	<b>Discussion with wine and chese</b>

### **Memorial Lecture for Siyanda Ndlovu**

#### **Translation or transition: cultural boundaries and the making of the self through language**

*Dr Mastoureh Fathi, University of East London*

This talk draws on narratives Iranian women migrants living in the UK whom I interviewed for my doctoral research. My paper explores transitions across two languages Farsi and English in these narratives but also discusses the minutiae of what it means to transform data from one language to another.

Drawing on difficulties of translation as an act of transition between cultures, I argue that translation acts as a space for creative thinking and having 'a dialogue with the self'. Although the act of translation is never free from ethical sensitivities and power relations, I will discuss the possibilities of being an in-between researcher.

**Postscript:** It is only hours since the close of this year's 'to think is to experiment'. Run as a collaborative event between NOVELLA and CNR, with our own Cigdem Esin at the helm, organizing things with her usual calm and creative spirit, the day was a great success. After only a short while it became clear that we had in one room quite a diverse group of postgraduate students. Not normally one given over to statistical breakdown, I nonetheless circulated a sheet of paper asking people their country of origin and to list their languages. I can report that of 26 people assembled came from 16 different countries. They had 14 different native languages between them with an additional 13 subsidiary languages – so 27 languages represented by these 26 people. The papers were wide ranging, dealing with translation and transition in a number of different settings and forums. Our varied activities in the day included examining excerpts from interview transcripts, watching short videos of a performance artist as well as a woman interviewing her grandmother about her uncle's kidnapping, hearing the stories of immigrant and indigenious Australian youth, looking at autobiographical tapestries created by women in South Africa depicting their life under apartheid, and many other explorations. It is days like this, learning about the projects of postgraduate students, that bring hope in these hard times for higher education.

Thank you to all who participated!

Molly Andrews, 27 April 2012

**Writing Narratives  
Reflections and Diffractions**

**One Day Symposium, March 2, 2012.**

**The British Library, London, UK.**

Centre for Narrative Research (CNR), University of East London, UK  
The Network for Reflexive Academic Writing Methodologies (R.A.W.), Mid Sweden University, Sweden

**PROGRAM**

9.30-10.00: Registration

10.00-10.15: Welcome!

Maria Tamboukou, Professor of Feminist Studies, CNR, University of East London  
Mona Livholts, Associate Professor of Social Work, RAW, Mid Sweden University, Sweden

Jude England, Head of Social Sciences, The British Library

10.15-11.00: A Diary of Excellence. Some Notes on the Practice and Politics of Style in Feminist Academic Writing

Annelie Bränström Öhman, Associate Professor of Literary Studies, Culture and Media Studies, Umeå University, Sweden.

11.00-11.45: Mourning, Loss and Politics: reflections on a semi-autobiographical experiment

Olivia Guaraldo, Adjunct Professor in Political Philosophy, University of Verona, Italy

11.45-12.15: Break for Coffee / Tea

12.15-1.00: When might narrating become impossible? On an altered sense of time.

Denise Riley, Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University, USA

1.00 – 1.30: Discussion

13.30-14.30: Break for Lunch

14.30-15.15: Someone Else. History's ethical turn and the narrative of others

Carolyn Steedman, Professor of History, Department of History, University of Warwick

15.15-15.45: Writing Water. An Untimely Academic Novella

Mona Livholts, Associate Professor of Social Work, RAW, Mid Sweden University, Sweden

15.45-16.15: Discussion

16.15-15.00 Book Launch: Mona Livholts (Ed.) *Emergent Writing Methodologies in Feminist Studies*



### Abstracts

**Annelie Bränström Öhman: *A Diary of Excellence. Some Notes on the Practice and Politics of Style in Feminist Academic Writing***



In the wake of the neo-cultural shift within academia, towards a culture of “excellence” and “individualization”, the practice of academic writing has changed in the perhaps most thorough way since the “linguistic turn”. This shift, which might be labeled an “utilitaristic turn”, accompanies the shift from, roughly put, content to counting in the evaluation of academic text. The question to be raised here is how to re-think, re-write and reflect upon the methods and potentially emancipatory and/or subversive strategies of (feminist) academic writing - as well as their hidden emotional costs and intellectual consequences. It is crucial to address the gains as well as the losses with feminist textwriting catching up on the Excellence-train-of-thought. And moreover, to dare the question of what to do with the emotional leaks and cracks; the leftovers of embodiment and everyday life? Here lays one of the core-questions and challenges of feminist theory: the complex matter of style and politics. In overlapping sections a personal "Diary of Excellence" is enfolded in the paper, documenting the journey

through one academic year - with all the distress of endless meetings, never-ending evaluations and occasional moments of secret elation. The form of the paper will be a part of its content; an archival experiment and experience, making use of memory work as well as personal diaries, poetry writing and theory.

Bränström Öhman is Associate professor of literary studies at the Department of Culture and Media Studies at Umeå University, Sweden. In her research and academic publications as well as in her teaching she has been oriented towards the three overlapping and diverging areas of feminist theory, creative writing and love.

### **Olivia Guaraldo**

#### ***Mourning, Loss and Politics: reflections on a semi-autobiographical experiment***

The relationship between politics and mourning has been rarely analyzed by mainstream political discourse and theory. Yet in recent years this theme has been brought about by feminist scholars such as Judith Butler and Bonnie Honig (Butler 2003, 2009; Honig 2009) as a way to interrogate recent political events from an innovative situated viewpoint, that of those who grieve and mourn losses. To understand and analyze the contemporary global political situation as characterized by a violence that has lost its scope is what Adriana Cavarero undertakes in her latest book, *Horrorism. Naming Contemporary Violence* (Cavarero 2009). Similarly to Butler, Cavarero attempts a reading of contemporary political violence that moves from its remainders, namely the helpless and non belligerent victims. By drawing from these theoretical frameworks, my actual research project deals with the possibility of developing a feminist critique of the traditional interdependence of war, violence and politics by producing a feminine genealogy of anti-war attitudes based on mourning and by thereby criticizing the traditional friend/foe distinction as central to politics.

Based on a newspaper report I found by chance among the papers of my grandmother, the story of the death of my grandfather, in a small village of Northern Italy in 1944, led me to interrogate my ongoing research on the relationship between politics and violence in a different way. My grandfather's death as a partisan during the Resistance acquired a decisive role in the research insofar as it offered me, so to say, the rare occasion to theorize and abstract by moving from a very personal and painful experience. Killed in a badly planned ambush against some German soldiers, my grandfather's body was firstly buried and later violated by the Fascist police, who prohibited the burial.

What happens when the personal, the autobiographical, contaminate a scholar's work? I asked myself this question while analyzing simultaneously the almost carnal experience of a private loss and Sophocle's *Antigone* on the political implications of mourning. My



presentation will deal with the tentative reflexions I have drawn from this unusual yet exciting working method.

Olivia Guaraldo is Adjunct Professor in Political Philosophy at the University of Verona. Her field of research includes modern and contemporary political thought, with a special focus on the political significance of philosophy. Her main topic of research is the thought of Hannah Arendt. Her approach to politics is also influenced by a rhetorical, poetic analysis that is intended to contest the supposed primacy of philosophical discourse.

**Denise Riley:**

***When might narrating become impossible? On an altered sense of time.***

I'll discuss the experience of living inside an arrested time, and why this can temporarily stop your capacity to narrate. After another's death [particularly, perhaps, by the death of your child] a violently altered feeling of time may set in. You discover that your old scaffolding of temporal awareness has been dismantled. To your astonishment, you learn that to dwell in the flow of time was only a perception among other possible temporal perceptions; and it can stop, although you are left sharply alive within its stopping. An unexpected death smashes your usual cognitive assumption that objects and people will continue to exist and reappear. Once ferociously shaken up, cognition can't readily reassemble with its old anticipation intact. The stance inside which you'd previously lived is changed, not merely by reflective sadness, but by an upheaval of that pre-conscious topography through which your apprehension of the world had once quietly moved. Even more intractably, the very act of telling assumes the passing of time in each use of an implicit 'next' or 'later'. But where there's no longer any element of 'and then', narration can't proceed. This is where any attempt at descriptive writing soon becomes an impasse, especially as it would have relied on its own future unfolding. To live on, but to live without a tense, presents serious problems of what's describable. To try to narrate becomes not only an unenticing prospect, but structurally impossible. Not because, as others might assume, you are 'too shocked' by the death to speak – but because, as the movement of time halts for you, so do all those 'befores' and 'afters' that underpin narration.

Denise Riley has written several books on the affect of language and has taught aspects of philosophy and literature. Her latest publication is *Time Lived, Without Its Flow*, Capsule Editions, London 2012.

**Carolyn Steedman**

***Someone Else. History's Ethical Turn and the Narrative of Others.***

My paper may well turn out to ask a variant of Denise Riley's question: 'When might narrating become impossible?' The 'narrative of others' here is deliberately ambiguous, for a large part of what historians do, is produce narratives of the now dead and gone; frequently they collect together other lives in order to write general accounts of large-scale societal and economic change. And sometimes historians use individual self-narratives from the past, written or spoken, to produce 'history'. Something is consequent on what 'history' is, and what 'narrative' and narrating *might be*. But not everything depends on the definition of terms, or on the form in which one writes--though it is important to remember the powerful formal constraints of (academic) history writing. The recent ethical turn in historical studies pushes my contribution towards the confessional. There are questions now about the historian's responsibilities to the dead and gone that were not asked--that were not conceptualised--twenty years ago. Beyond the cultural, linguistic, subjective, and archival 'turns' in historical studies, and beyond historiographical questions asked from the 'postcolony' about the West as the Subject, or 'I', of historical writing, many historians have started to consider their relationship to their (dead) subjects. Who has the right to speak for the dead? For particular categories of the dead?



I shall reflect briefly on my writing of historical subjects under an earlier regime (John Pearman, the radical soldier in 1988; Margaret MacMillan, socialist journalist and educator in 1990), in an attempt to understand why my current writing of the Nottinghamshire framework knitter Joseph Woolley (b.1773) is so very difficult. His dairies cover some of the years between 1801 and 1815, but there is no extant volume for 1811-12 when the Luddite movement (or campaign, or rebellion, or crisis) emerged in the stocking-making villages around Nottingham. He bears no witness to a defining episode in 'the making of the English working class'; but I speculate that this is least of my problems in writing a narrative about him.

Carolyn Steedman is Professor of History at the University of Warwick. Her most recent books include *Master and Servant: Love and Labour in the English Industrial Age* (2007) and *Labours Lost: Domestic Service and the Making of Modern England* (2009).

**Mona Livholts**

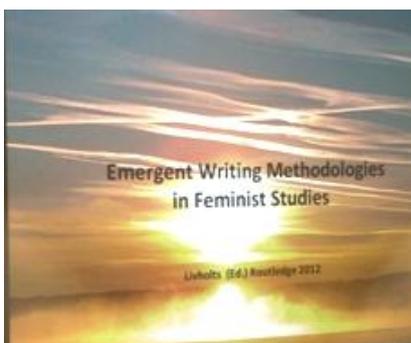
***Writing Water. An Untimely Academic Novella.***



This talk is based on the third untimely academic novella in a trilogy of auto/biographical narratives about a woman's life, writing and desire to obtain a professor's chair in the beginning of the twenty-first century, in Sweden. The diversity of forms used in creating a set of interwoven stories is inspired by poststructuralist and postcolonial feminist theory and literary fiction and by writing methodologies such as diary writing, memory work and poetic

writing. In particular it draws on work by the theorist critic and writer of fiction, Hélène Cixous, and the feminist author and theorist Charlotte Perkins Gilman, drawing on interpretation of Cixous' essay "Enter the Theatre" and Gilman's story "The Yellow Wallpaper". Characteristics of the untimely academic novella elaborate with possible forms of the symbolic, visual and performative, photographic and sensory in writing research; furthermore time, change and unfinal endings play a pervasive role. The novella engages also in some of the key aspects of Plummer's ideas about a critical humanism with emphasis on the contribution from the fictional novella to explore complex relations of power. Writing water a story about resistance that shows how family, society and academia interact in the making of knowledge. Writing water is forthcoming in: Stanley Liz, *Documents of Life Revisited: Narrative and Biographical Methods for a 21st Century of Critical Humanism*. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Mona Livholts is Associate Professor of Social Work at Mid Sweden University. Her latest publications include *Emergent Writing Methodologies in Feminist Studies* (Ed. 2012), *The Professor's Chair. An Untimely Academic Novella* and *The Snow Angel and Other Imprints. An Untimely Academic Novella* (2010).



### ***Some thoughts about the day from participants***

I would like to say that I found the day inspiring. I felt that the women presenting were academics I would like to emulate. I thought that the papers by Mona Livholts and Denise Riley/Molly Andrews in particular were beautiful examples of moving and theoretical work.

I thought Carolyn Steedman's talk was outstanding and made the whole day very worthwhile for me. And the British Library is a great place to meet. I was fortunate to meet some old colleagues unexpectedly so that was wonderful too. What felt missing to me was anything about students and the writing we ask them to do.

I really do want to thank you for a fantastic day of great readings and reflections, I left the symposium with my mind overfull of new ideas! I am still quite moved and dazzled, actually. My impressions are shared with the rest of my class who also attended the conference, whom I wish to send the best regards from. There was especially one reading that caught me and my classmates full attention and which moved us rather deeply, and that was Denise Rileys paper about narrating made impossible. The tension in the room when Molly was reading it was... incredible. I have never experienced an academic text so emotional and touching before. Thank you again for this day, it was indeed very special.

The workshop was a wonderful stimulus for my own work. Also, I find it intriguing - or maybe telling - that what was called at "an academic consciousness-raising" group at the event, or we could even say "Guerrilla group" - met at the time when university systems of evaluation discourage this kind of work (it is not measurable for excellence, or at least not easily) and that it was fully booked. Indeed, if you had a room with 200 seats in it, you may have been to fill it.

### **What is Narrative**

NOVELLA

Thomas Coram Research Unit

February 28, 2012-04-18

The presentation and papers can be found here: <http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/2272/>

### **The aim of the special seminar**

Narrative analysis has proliferated in many disciplines and refers to what Cathy Riessman (2005) calls 'a family of approaches to diverse kinds of texts, which have in common a storied form.' Part of the reason for this popularity is that storytelling is so common that Jerome Bruner and others refer to humans as 'homo narrans'. There is increasing agreement that narratives can be personal and political, that they involve construction, telling and interpretation and that sequence and consequence are central to narratives. There is, however, debate and disagreement about definitions of personal narrative, how best to analyse them and the claims that can be made on the basis of narrative analysis.

This special TCRU/CNR/NOVELLA seminar aims to generate debate about some of the issues that narrative analysts consider central to the understanding of narratives. Ann Phoenix will chair the event

## **Abstracts:**

### **Corinne Squire**

Narratives can be forms of telling but also of conveying or constructing knowledge. At the same time, they are marked by ambiguities and gaps in knowledge, and places where less canonic varieties of knowledge gain expression. I am going to explore briefly how narratives' characteristic particularity and movement allow for these different kinds of progression, looking at extracts from recent interviews with research participants in a study of HIV support.

### **Julia Brannen: Life stores and narrative**

Life stories are about giving meaning to lives lived in particular times, places and social circumstances. They are made up of narratives relating to phases, events and moments that give a sense of process to a life. The literature suggests the importance of the researcher's role as collaborator with the teller. In addition other conditions which shape the telling of a life story may be paramount, in particular a tension or discontinuity which threatens a subject's self identity in the context of recollecting the past and the present context of the narration (Burgos 1988). Whatever the form the life story takes the researcher's role is also that of a narrator giving additional layers of meaning to the account, and moving beyond the personal to set the life within family, historical and institutional contexts. I will briefly reflect on the relevance of such ideas to analyzing both material collected following a life story invitation and other qualitative data.

### **Molly Andrews**

Stories - both personal and communal - are pivotal to the way in which politics operates, both in people's minds (i.e. how they understand politics, and their place within and outside of the formal political sphere) as well as to how politics is practiced. These stories, as it were, are not just within the domain of the individual, but are built upon the collective memory of a group, just as they help to create how that memory is mobilised and for what purposes. This paper will explore the relationship between micro and macro political narratives, in other words the dynamic interplay between the stories of individuals (both told and untold) and the contested stories of the communities in which they live.

### **Maria Tamboukou : From the question of "what" to the question of "how"**

Throughout my work I have challenged the necessity of raising the question of "what is narrative". I have instead argued that it is the "how" of narrative that is important: How do narratives emerge? How do they work and with what effects? It is this transposition from the "what" to the "how" that I will talk about.