

Narrative Matters 2006

The Storied Nature of Human Experience: Fact and Fiction
An Interdisciplinary Conference on Narrative Research, Perspectives,
Approaches, and Issues across the Humanities and Social Sciences

24 - 27 May, 2006

Acadia University
Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Canada

Keynote speakers:

BOB BARTON, Storyteller, "Making Stories Happen"

Without the ability to make stories and tell them to others, human beings would be without a past, without a future, without imagination and without aspirations. As an urban storyteller living in the twenty-first century I no longer serve as the living memory of the tribe. I do, however, have responsibilities. In this address, those responsibilities will be considered.

ROBYN FIVUSH, Samuel Chandler Dobbs Professor of Psychology, Emory University, "Memory and Narrative, Self and Voice"

Narratives are the way in which we make sense and create meaning from our everyday experiences, and this process occurs within social interactions. As we talk about our experiences with others, we reinterpret, re-evaluate and reconstruct our experiences for ourselves. In this presentation, I explore this process from both cultural and developmental perspectives. Narratives are culturally constructed ways of understanding what a life and what a self is; each culture defines the canonical shape of an individual life, in which some events, and some interpretations of events, are given voice and others are silenced. Developmentally, children learn the forms and functions of autobiographical narratives through participating in adult-guided reminiscing. Essentially, children learn what events are reportable and how to report them, and in this way develop an autobiographical voice. But what can be voiced simultaneously determines what must be silenced. The way in which we create narratives of our experiences and of our lives thus defines both voice and silence, who we are and who we must not be.

R. MURRAY SCHAFER, Composer, "And Wolf Shall Inherit the Moon: The Collective Creation of a Myth"

No one really knows how ancient stories and myths came into existence. Were they the inspired creation of individual anonymous story-tellers or were they created collectively with everyone contributing, modifying and sharpening the theme? Twenty years ago, I decided to try to answer this question by gathering a group of people together to see how they would develop and modify a simple theme story over an extended period of time, on each occasion retelling and re-enacting the tale. I believe the experience has suggested certain patterns of development that might help to explain how ancient myths and fairy tales evolved into their final forms.

Acadia's 2006 Narrative Matters Conference Theme

The theme for the 2006 conference is The Storied Nature of Human Experience: Fact and Fiction. The 2006 Conference theme is meant to embrace a wide variety of disciplines and narrative foci, ranging from literature to social sciences to creative arts. Segments of the conference will also be devoted to exploring the storied nature of human experience within Nova Scotia. Topics: - The place of story in education, literature, politics, religion and the media - Narrative and diversity (e.g., culture, ethnicity, gender, age) - Collecting and analyzing stories as data in qualitative research - Narrative perspectives on memory, identity, and community - Narratives in therapeutic processes and relationships - Narratives of place

Full programme (over 100 sessions) is available at <http://www.narrativematters.com/preprogram.doc> URL: <http://www.narrativematters.com/>

The registration desk will be open on Wednesday from 11 - 8:30; on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:30 ? 5:00, in the main foyer of the Festival Theatre Building.

Please direct all inquiries concerning the conference to Dr. Patrick O'Neill, also if you have previously submitted an abstract and would like to update your contact information due to a change.

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