



Call for Papers

The Ninth Semiannual Residency Conference
Of the Union Institute & University's Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies Program

Engaging Stories



Solveigh Goett, "Storytelling" (2008)
<http://www.mirabilia-domestica.co.uk>

July 8, 2010

Cincinnati, Ohio

If I tell you my story, you will listen for a while, and then you will fall asleep. But, if, as I tell you my story, you begin to hear your own story, you will wake up.

--Chassidic Saying

Scientific knowledge cannot justify its pretension to be true knowledge without having recourse to that other form of knowing, the story.

--Jean-François Lyotard, *La Condition Postmoderne*, 1979

In the wake of the linguistic turn in Western philosophy and Jean-François Lyotard's influential definition of the postmodern "as incredulity toward metanarratives," stories and narratives have received renewed scholarly attention. Jerome Seymour Bruner's "The Narrative Construction of Reality" underscores the centrality of narrative as a mode of organizing not just discourse but human knowledge-making. According to Bruner, "we organize our experience and our memory

of human happenings mainly in the form of narratives--stories, excuses, myths, reasons for doing and not doing and so on." The "narrative mode," Bruner maintains, offers the principal way of knowing and constructing human realities, experiences, beliefs, doubts, and emotions. Yet, ever since Descartes, the "narrative mode" has been overshadowed by the "paradigmatic mode" of scholarly inquiry, which uses observations, analyses, and proofs to establish material realities and generalizable truths.

Over the past decades, renewed engagement with stories has had a profound impact on the humanities and social sciences, leading to the development of theories and practices of counternarrativity, autoethnography, narrative therapy, and more. Leadership Studies, for instance, has used stories to generate both theories and practice in its consideration of great and toxic leaders. And while Martin McQuillan has pointed out that "the telling of a story is always bound up with power, property, and domination," Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee remind us that stories are vital sources in "attending to how and what other people think, feel, and do." Similarly, noting that "the contemporary focus on storytelling and narrative analysis owes much to the focus on language in poststructural and postmodern theories," Frank Fisher has called for "a poststructural policy analysis" that examines narration "on the everyday level of communicative action." In listening to stories, Fisher asserts, "the analyst encounters metaphors, categories, markings" that "connect language to action" and "reveal the significance" of narrated events for various social actors.

Examples of topics that might be explored within an interdisciplinary framework are (other topics are welcomed):

- Blogging and Storytelling
- Counternarratives
- Local Narratives
- Micronarrativity and Fundamentalism
- The Value of Stories and Stories of Value
- Indigenous Stories
- Untold Stories
- Storytelling as Social Advocacy
- Transformational Stories
- Healing Stories
- Silenced Stories
- Stories as Witness
- Stories in Education
- Stories, Public Discourse, and Policy Making
- The Media and Narratives
- Narrative Appropriations
- Narrative in Political Theory
- Stories, Spirituality, and the Sacred
- Narrative Framing and Public Policy

Please join us!

Submissions

We encourage individual and group submissions that showcase creative work and/or utilize alternative approaches such as poster sessions, storytelling sessions, dramatic tellings,

roundtables. Please forward all proposals via email, c/o “Review and Organization Committee,” to karsten.piep@myunion.edu. The deadline for proposal submissions is **May 15, 2010**. Please include the following information:

- Name
- Institutional and/or program affiliation(s)
- Mailing address (including zip code)
- Phone number(s)
- E-mail address
- Title of the proposed presentation
- Abstract of 200-500 words
- AV equipment needs, if any
- Special needs, if any

Panel or roundtable organizers should include the above information for each participant.

Location

The conference will be held at the [Kingsgate Marriott Conference Hotel at the University of Cincinnati](#). In order to receive the discounted rate of \$89/night plus tax, please mention the Union Institute & University when making reservations.

Kingsgate Marriott Conference Hotel
151 Goodman Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
1-513- 487-3800
1-888-720-1299

Registration

Presenters will have to confirm their conference participation within one week of receiving the acceptance notice. There is no registration fee. However, non-Union presenters wishing to attend the keynote dinner must make advance reservations at the charge of \$25.

Awards

Union Institute & University’s Interdisciplinary Studies Program accepts nominations for the following awards:

- Dean’s Award for Outstanding Artistic/Scholarly Work on The Creative Process
- Dean’s Award for Outstanding Artistic/Scholarly Work on Engaging Difference
- Dean’s Award for Outstanding Artistic/Scholarly Work on Ethics & Social Justice

Up to three \$100 awards may be given semiannually to presenting graduate students, whose papers contribute significantly to the understanding of issues surrounding the creative process, engaging difference, and ethics & social justice (for more information about the program’s foundational themes, please consult <http://www.myunion.edu/academics/cohort/curriculum.asp>).

To make a nomination, panel chairs should contact the Review and Organization Committee. Presenting graduate students are encouraged to self-nominate.