

**2023 Project Narrative Summer Institute:
Narrative Medicine/Graphic Medicine**

June 19—June 30, 2023

**Synchronous Hybrid Format: In person at the Ohio State University and on
Zoom Directors: James Phelan and Jared Gardner**

The closely related movements of Narrative Medicine and Graphic Medicine assume that skill with telling and listening to stories can enhance the quality of caregiver-patient interactions and ultimately improve their outcomes. But both movements are still working out the consequences of that assumption. We hope to contribute to that effort in PNSI 2023 by establishing and sustaining dialogue among (a) medical narratives in different media, especially print and comics, (b) work in the broad field of narrative theory, and (c) work in narrative medicine and graphic medicine. As we conduct that dialogue, we will be exploring a number of questions. How does reclaiming the centrality of narrative to the processes of illness, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery (or the impossibility of recovery) change the way both practitioners and patients experience those processes? What happens to medical practice when caregivers approach patients as people with stories rather than lists of symptoms and test results? What happens if we expand narrative medicine and graphic medicine's concern with improving the narrative skills of caregivers to include the skills of patients?

This focus on practice and people also feeds back into the project of narrative theory. What happens if we shift the focus of the field from core elements of narrative and textual structures of storytelling to the bodies and minds of storytellers and their audiences? How might (some) stories of illness require some revisions or extensions of existing narrative theory—or even the development of new theoretical constructs? How might (some) stories of illness highlight and even reveal the affordances and limitations of print and comics? What happens to narrative theory when the endpoint of working with it is not the construction of new tools or new interpretations but practical consequences in the lives of patients and caregivers?

We do not presume that PNSI will provide definitive and comprehensive answers to these questions, but we do aim to collectively develop and test worthwhile hypotheses in response to them. And we expect these hypotheses to open up new questions.

We will conduct the Institute in a hybrid format; participants can choose to attend either in person or on-line. We'll meet daily (M-F) for 2 hour and 30 minutes minus a fifteen-minute break

Books to Purchase:

Rita Charon, et al. *Principles and Practices of Narrative Medicine*

M. K. Czerwiec, et al. *The Graphic Medicine Manifesto*

James Phelan, *Narrative Medicine: A Rhetorical Rx*

Katie Green, *Lighter Than My Shadow*

Ellen Forney, *Marbles*

Other Texts available on our Canvas site or via links to the internet

Agenda settings: Beginning with our session on Wednesday, June 21, participants will collaborate in small groups to post initial questions for discussion about the reading. Logistical details to follow.

Presentations: During last two days of the Institute, each participant will give a short presentation (10 minutes, plus 5 minutes for Q&A) about some aspect of his/her work in narrative medicine. The directors are happy to consult with you about your presentation during office hours.

Monday, June 19

M.K. Czerwicz, *Graphic Medicine Manifesto*, Introduction, Chapters 1-3; **Katie Green**, *Lighter Than My Shadow*

Tuesday, June 20

Graphic Medicine Manifesto, Chapters 4-6; *Lighter Than My Shadow* (continued); Jared Gardner, "Out of Sync"

Wednesday, June 21

Charon, et al. *Principles and Practices*. Chapter 1, "Accounts of Self"; Chapter 5, "Deliver Us from Certainty: Training for Narrative Ethics"; Chapter 7, "Close Reading: The Signature Method of Narrative Medicine"; Colm Toibin, "One Minus One"; Ellen Forney, *Marbles*

Thursday, June 22

Phelan, *Narrative Medicine: A Rhetorical Rx*: Preface; Chapter 1 "Narrative Medicine as Rhetoric and the Art of Medicine"; "Principles and Activities of Rhetorical Reading: Understanding, Overstanding, and Springboarding"; "One Minus One" and *Marbles* (continued)

Friday, June 23

Chapters 5-6, "Somebody Telling I: Authors, Narrators, Characters, and Occasions" and "Somebody Telling II: Perspective and Voice"; Chapter 11, "Rhetorical Narrative Medicine Workshops"; Tweedy, "People Like Us" from *Black Man in a White Coat*; Oates, "Hospice/Honeymoon"; Danticat, "Sunrise/Sunset"

Monday, June 26

Jared on stand-up comedy about physical and mental illness; reading(s) from disability studies TBD

Tuesday, June 27 Covid Narratives

Graphic and Print; Ethan Sacks, Dalibor Talajić, Bosung Kim, *The Covid Chronicles* (selections); Roddy Doyle, "Worms"

Wednesday, June 28, Illness and the Affordances of Film

Film and reading TBD

Thursday, Presentations

Friday, Presentations