

The 2024 Project Narrative Summer Institute: Rhetorical and Intersectional Narratologies in Dialogue

Co-Directors: Jim Phelan and Robyn Warhol

Dates: June 17-28, 2024 (on Zoom)

PNSI is a two-week workshop that offers faculty and advanced graduate students in any discipline the opportunity for an intensive study of core concepts and issues in narrative theory. The focus for summer 2024 will be Rhetorical and Intersectional Narratologies, and the co-directors will ground their approach in the principle of dialogue. More specifically, we will explore the grounding principles of each approach by reading foundational and cutting-edge texts from each, and we will attend to the convergences and divergences between them. Just as important, we will add a range of primary texts to the dialogue, including Jane Austen's *Emma*, Edith Wharton's "Roman Fever," Toni Morrison's "Recitatif," and Jesmyn Ward's "On Witness and Repair." Sample questions: How do rhetorical narratology's roots in the Poetics of Aristotle and of the neo-Aristotelian Chicago Critics and intersectional narratology's roots in structuralism and feminist theory influence the current theory and practice of each approach? How do the narrative texts prompt re-examination, revision, and/or extensions of the theories? More generally, what can rhetorical and intersectional narratologies do for each other? We'll take up these (and other) questions as we work through the syllabus, and in relation to the specific interests and projects of the participants. At the end of the Institute, each participant will present and receive feedback on their individual project.

Syllabus

Before the Institute begins, everyone should (re)read Jane Austen's *Emma*

Part I: Rhetorical Narratology

Monday, June 17

Poetics:

Theoretical Texts: Aristotle, *Poetics*; R.S. Crane, "The Concept of Plot and the Plot of *Tom Jones*"; Ralph W. Rader, "The Dramatic Monologue and Related Lyric Forms"; James Phelan, "The Chicago School: From Neo-Aristotelian Poetics to the Rhetorical Theory of Narrative"

Narrative Texts (in addition to *Emma*): T.C. Boyle, "Chicxulub"; Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"; Alfred, Lord Tennyson "Tithonus"

Tuesday, June 18: The Rhetorical and Ethical Turn

Wayne C. Booth, *The Rhetoric of Fiction*: Excerpt about Unreliable Narration and "Control of Distance in *Emma*"; Booth, *The Company We Keep*, discussion of *Emma*;

Peter J. Rabinowitz, "Truth in Fiction: A Re-Examination of Audiences"; Introduction to *Before Reading*; Nielsen, Phelan, and Walsh, "Ten Theses about Fictionality."

Narrative Texts: *Emma*; Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"; Toni Cade Bambara, "The Lesson"; Roddy Doyle, "Worms"

Wednesday, June 19: Rhetorical Poetics

Theoretical Texts: Phelan, Intro to *Reading People, Reading Plots*; Chapter One of *Somebody Telling Somebody Else*; Excerpts from *Debating Rhetorical Narratology*: definitions of mimetic, thematic, and synthetic; discussion of *Emma*; Phelan and Sarah Copland, "The Ideal Narratee and the Rhetorical Model of Audiences"

Narrative Texts (in addition to *Emma*): Wharton, "Roman Fever"; Cisneros, "Barbie-Q"; John Donne, "The Flea," Jamaica Kincaid, "Girl"

Thursday, June 20: Applied Rhetorical Narratology: Rhetorical Narrative Medicine; Black Women's Stories of Everyday Racism

Phelan, Excerpts from *Narrative Medicine*, Chapter 1; "Narrative as Rhetoric and the Art of Medicine"; Chapter 11, *Narrative Medicine Workshops: Understanding, Overstanding, Springboarding*; Phelan, "Rhetorical Listening: Character, Progression and Fictionality in African American Women's Stories of Everyday Racism"

Narrative Texts: Jesmyn Ward, "On Witness and Repair: A Personal Tragedy Followed by Pandemic"; Joyce Carol Oates, "Hospice/Honeymoon"; Stories by Mary Bullock and Scotia Brown from *Black Women's Stories of Everyday Racism*

Part Two: Intersectional Narratologies

Friday, June 21: NARRATIVE DISRUPTED

First, read: Toni Morrison, "Recitatif."

Plot, Genre, Ethnicity: Paula Gunn Allen, "Kochinnenako in Academe"(1986)

Sexualities: Valerie Rohy, "Queer Narrative Theory" (2018)

Race & Disability, Robyn Warhol & Amy Shuman, "The Unspeakable, the Unnarratable and the Repudiation of Epiphany in 'Recitatif'" (2018);

Monday, June 24: NARRATIVITY/TELLABILITY

Ruth Page, "The Narrative Dimensions of Social Media Storytelling: Options for Linearity and Tellership" (2015)

Susan Lanser & Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, "Narratology at the Checkpoint" (2019)

David Herman, "Zoonarratology" (2012)

Julio Cortázar, "Axolotl"

Tuesday, June 25: EMPATHY/SUBJECTIVITY

First, read: Judith Butler, "Giving an Account of Oneself" (2009)—available on Project Muse

Katherine Young, "Narratives of Indeterminacy: Breaking the Medical Body into its Discourses: Breaking the Discursive Body out of Postmodernism" (1999)

Amy Shuman, "Entitlement and Empathy in Personal Narrative" (2006)

Warhol, "She Was Not Heard: Personal Narratives that Tackle Structural Racism." Additional stories from *Black Women's Stories of Everyday Racism*

Wednesday, June 26: ALTERNATE PARADIGMS

Susan Lanser, "Toward (a Queerer and) More (Feminist) Narratology" (2015)

Claudia Breger, "Affects in Configuration: A New Approach to Narrative Worldmaking" (2017)

Karin Kukkonen, "A moving target – cognitive narratology and feminism" (2018)

Thursday, June 27 and Friday, June 28: Participant Presentations