The 2020 Project Narrative Summer Institute: Narrative, Medicine, and Disability

Co-Directors: Jim Phelan and Amy Shuman

PNSI is a two-week workshop on the campus of Ohio State University 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 2020 will be Narrative, Medicine, and Disability, and the co-directors will ground their approach in the principle of dialogue. More specifically, we will explore the connections and tensions among a range of objects of study—the three objects named in the Institute’s subtitle-- and of discourses about them: narrative theory, narrative medicine, and disability studies. Sample dialogues: What can narrative theory and narratives about illness do for each other? What can narrative medicine and narratives of disability do for each other? What can narrative theory, narrative medicine, and disability studies do for each other? What are the limitations of efforts to find synergies among these objects of study and discourses about them? We’ll take up these questions in relation to the readings listed below, and in relation to the specific interests and projects of the participants.

**Syllabus**

**Monday, June 22**

The Call for Narrative Medicine: Rita Charon, et al. *Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine*chapters 1, 2, 5; Ian McEwan, *Saturday*

Afternoon session: brief presentations of participants’ projects

**Tuesday, June 23**

Narrative Medicine Continued: Charon, et al. Chapter 7, Phelan, *Somebody Telling Somebody Else*, pp. ix—62; *Saturday*

**Wednesday, June 24**

Disability Studies: Chapters from the *Disability Studies Reader:* Lennard Davis, Introduction: Disability, Normality, and Power"; Tom Shakespeare, “The Social Model of Disability”; David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder, “Narrative Prosthesis”; Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp. "Disability worlds." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42 (2013): 53-68; Hyden Lars-Christer Hydén, and Eleonor Antelius. "Communicative disability and stories: Towards an embodied conception of narratives." *Health:* 15.6 (2011): 588-603. Toni Morrison, "Recitatif"

**Thursday, June 25**

Disability Studies Continued: Ato Quayson, *Aesthetic Nervousness*, Chapters 1, 2, and 4; Toni Morrison, *Beloved*

**Friday, June 26**

Nonfiction Narrative: Damon Tweedy, *Black Man in a White Coat*; Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9; Phelan, "Narrative Ethics"

**Monday, June 29**,

Nonfiction Narrative: Nancy Mairs, *Waist High in the World*

**Tuesday, June 30**

Narrative and Argument: Atul Gawande*, Being Mortal*, Chapter on "Letting Go" and Part III; Charon, et al, Chapter 12

**Wednesday, July 1**

Graphic Narrative, Fictionality, Disability, Mortality: Roz Chast, *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?*, Charon, et al. Chapter 13; Nielsen, Phelan, and Walsh, "Ten Theses about Fictionality"

Wednesday afternoon: First set of Presentations

**Thursday, July 2**

Second Set of Presentations

To Apply:

Applicants should send a current CV, a short description of the proposed project (no longer than a single-spaced page), and one letter of recommendation to Project Narrative by April 1, 2020. Applications will be reviewed promptly after the deadline. If, in order to meet funding deadlines, applicants need an earlier decision, the co-directors will consider special requests for early action. Applications can be emailed to [projectnarrative@osu.edu](mailto:projectnarrative@osu.edu) or sent by post to the following address:

421 Denney Hall Attn: Project Narrative 164 Annie and John Glenn Avenue Columbus, OH 43210  
Please email [projectnarrative@osu.edu](mailto:projectnarrative@osu.edu) with any questions about applying.

Fees and Housing:

Tuition for the 2019 Project Narrative Summer Institute is $1800. This does not include housing, but the Project Narrative staff will assist participants in finding affordable housing options according to individual needs. Project Narrative cannot provide financial aid, but the co-directors will gladly write in support of participants’ applications for funding from home institutions.