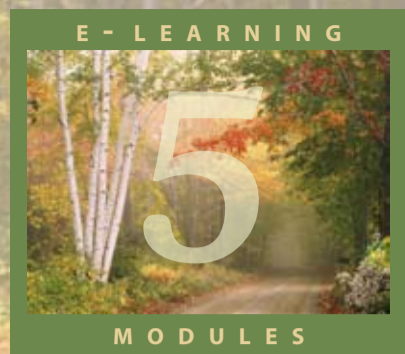


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Narrative Practice and Collaborative Inquiry Study Group

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Peggy Sax, Ph.D., guides this learning module within the NPCI Study Group.

NPCI E-Learning Module 5

Narrative in Action: In and Beyond the Therapy Room

Overview

Members of the Narrative Practice & Collaborative Inquiry Study Group work in different settings - public sector and private sector - that include independent practice, agencies, home-based work, hospitals and psychiatric settings, home-based work, and other contexts. This E-learning Module offers opportunities for members to find others from across the globe with shared interests in and beyond the therapy room. We will continue adding to the following list, in response to emergent interests of study group members. A topic that generates a lot of discussion can also become a future learning module for more in depth study.

Guest authors joining us include: David Epston, Aileen Cheshire & Dorothea Lewis (Auckland, New Zealand), Jill Freedman & Gene Combs (Chicago, USA), Chris Behan (Maine, USA), Elisabeth Buckley and Phil Decter (Boston, USA), Peter Fraenkel (New York, USA), Dean Lobovits (Berkeley, USA), Bill Madsen (Boston, USA), Sue Mann (Adelaide, S. Australia), and Karen Young (Toronto, Canada).

Readings (each article earns one CE credit)

Adventure-based therapy

🌿 "A narrative approach to adventure-based therapy" Aileen Cheshire & Dorothea Lewis (1996)

Community work

🌿 "Consulting with communities and organizations" Jill Freedman and Gene Combs (2009)

Crisis work

🌿 "From isolation to community" by Betsy Buckley and Phil Decter (2006)

Families with infants, toddlers and young children

🌿 "Narrative therapy and family support: Strengthening the mother's voice in working with families with infants and toddlers" (1997)

Homelessness

🌿 "Narrative and collaborative practices in work with families that are homeless" by Peter Fraenkel, Thomas Hameline, and Michele Shannon (2009)

Narrative supervision

🌿 "Some ground to stand on: Supervision in narrative therapy" by Chris Behan (2003)

The Social practitioner

🌿 "On becoming a just practitioner: Experimenting with the final paper of an undergraduate programme as a rite of passage" by David Epston, G. Rennie and K. Napin (2004)

Walk-in clinic

🌿 "Narrative practice at a walk-in therapy clinic: Developing children's worry wisdom" by Karen Young (2008)

Working in hospital settings

🌿 "Collaborative representation: Narrative ideas in practice" by Sue Mann (2002)

Working in schools

🍷 "A proposal for an interview format and practices of appreciation that value teachers' and students' knowledges in schools" by Maria Kecskemeti and David Epston(1999)

Working within traditional structures

🍷 "Collaborative helping: A practice framework for family-centered services" by Bill Madsen (2009)

Guest Authors

Christopher Behan, MSW, MPA is a consultant with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, assisting state child welfare agencies to create more family strengthening practice. He has written several papers on narrative therapy practice including "Some Ground to Stand On: Narrative Supervision: and "Linking Lives Around Shared Themes: Narrative Group Therapy with Gay Men." Chris extends narrative practice into his work with large organizations and through community practice.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Buckley, MSW is a social worker and family therapist who works from a narrative approach in her public sector work with children and families. For the past ten years, Betsy has had the privilege of working with families in their homes, and has also worked in hospital, emergency room, and outpatient settings. She teaches about narrative and collaborative, family centered ideas at academic and agency settings in Massachusetts.

Aileen Cheshire, MA, and **Dorothea Lewis**, MA wish to introduce themselves together: "Our work partnership began in 1992 when we met as school counsellors at Selwyn College, a High School in Auckland New Zealand. Our interest in narrative and collaborative practices grew and was nurtured by David Epston, Johnella Bird and Michael White as we attended supervision and workshops while working with teenagers and their families. Our collaborative partnership flourished as we responded to the complexities of counselling work in a school context. At Selwyn College we worked alongside students building an Anti- harassment Team as it became known, and we developed an adventure therapy programme known as The Journey. In 2000 we were invited to start teaching collaborative ideas and practices together at Unitec, a tertiary institution in Auckland. This part of our professional lives has grown; we left Selwyn College and gradually developed a Post-graduate Diploma in Counselling. This is informed by poststructuralism and offers training in narrative and collaborative styles of therapy. We are passionate about developing teaching practices congruent with the collaborative ideas we are teaching. Alongside our teaching practice each of us meets with clients in a private practice."

Philip Decter, MSW is Associate Director of the Family-Centered Services Project, an organizational change project dedicated to promoting family-centered care. He is a social worker and a family therapist who has worked with children and families in inpatient, outpatient, home-based and emergency room settings for more than fifteen years. Phil has been greatly influenced by narrative thought and practice and is pleased to be able to spend this day teaching and learning about narrative work.

David Epston, MA is the co-founder of Narrative therapy, along with Michael White. David attended the Universities of Auckland, Edinburgh, British Columbia and Warwick. Currently, he is co-director of the Family Therapy Centre in Auckland, New Zealand and Visiting Professor, School of Human Sciences and Community Studies, UNITEC Institute of Technology, Auckland. David has published widely and is perhaps best known for White and Epston (1990), Narrative Means to Therapeutic Ends, which has been translated into 10 languages. David has also made a number of training video-tapes with www.masterworks.com and co-produces the website- www.narrativeapproaches.com. with Dean Lobovits and Jennifer Freeman.

Peter Fraenkel, PhD, is Associate Professor of Psychology, Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, The City College of The City University of New York, and Director of the Ackerman Institute for the Family's Center for Work and Family, which includes community-based programs for families that are homeless, survivors of domestic violence and their children, and for immigrant families. His current research and programs focus the family and individual emotional impact of the ongoing trauma of homelessness. He has published widely and presented workshops internationally on the topic of family homelessness, prevention approaches to couple relationships, and the impact of time, work and technology on families. Jill Freedman & Gene Combs from "The Evanston Family Therapy Center" <http://www.narrativetherapychicago.com/> will join us to respond to our reflections and questions about a consulting with communities and organizations. Jill Freedman, MSW, is Director of Evanston Family Therapy Center and a faculty member of the Chicago Center for Family Health. Gene Combs, MD, is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Loyola University. Both Jill and Gene are internationally acclaimed authors and teachers of Narrative Therapy.

Jill Freedman & Gene Combs from “The Evanston Family Therapy Center”

<http://www.narrativetherapychicago.com/> will join us to respond to our reflections and questions about a consulting with communities and organizations. Jill Freedman, MSW, is Director of Evanston Family Therapy Center and a faculty member of the Chicago Center for Family Health. Gene Combs, MD, is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Loyola University. Both Jill and Gene are internationally acclaimed authors and teachers of Narrative Therapy.

Dean Lobovits, MA practices as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Berkeley, California. In addition to “Public practices: An ethic of circulation,” he is the co-author of several excellent articles and books that we will explore in the study group forum: *Playful approaches to serious problems: Narrative therapy with children and their families* (1997) with Jennifer Freeman and David Epston; “Annals of the new Dave,” (Geko 3, 1997: reprinted on http://www.narrativeapproaches.com/narrative%20papers%20folder/new_dave.htm). Dean is also the webmaster for the website www.narrativeapproaches.com, which he co-produces with David Epston and Jennifer Freeman.

Bill Madsen, PhD is the founding director of the Family-Centered Services Project, an organizational change initiative dedicated to helping community agencies and state departments develop institutional structures and organizational cultures that support more respectful and responsive ways of interacting with youth and families (www.family-centered-services.org). He is the author of *Collaborative Therapy with Multi- Stressed Families (2nd Ed)* and is currently working on another book that offers an inquiry-based practice framework for “helping” in general.

Sue Mann currently works in a non-government organization in Adelaide, South Australia, as Practice Manager, coordinating the development of counselling services and supervision, including the provision of training and supervision for counselors and supervisors, as well as her own therapeutic work. Sue’s work as a therapist, supervisor, educator and manager has a particular focus on conversations informed by narrative ideas. She has many years experience as a therapist working with women and men who have experienced abuse and trauma in their lives and has had the opportunity to teach and write about some of the complexities and dilemmas posed by this work. Sue has qualifications and extensive experience in Social Work, Adult Education and in Narrative Therapy and through the work of the Dulwich Centre, Narrative Teaching partnership and her current employment, has had many opportunities to teach narrative practices in Australia and overseas.

Peggy Sax, PhD, is in independent practice in Middlebury, Vermont, as a family therapist, psychologist, consultant, workshop presenter and instructor. She has apprenticed herself to narrative therapy since the early 1990s. Before becoming a family therapist, Peggy spent many years home-visiting families with infants with developmental special needs, consulting with British Columbia Infant Development Programmes, and working at the innovative Addison County Parent-Child Center in Middlebury, Vermont.

Karen Young, MSW, is a faculty member with Brief Therapy Training Centres International (a division of the Hincks-Dellcrest Institute) teaching in the Institute’s Narrative Therapy Training Program and in the year-long clinical extern program in Brief and Narrative Therapy. She is a therapist with 25 years of experience working with children and families and has situated her therapeutic conversations within narrative practices for 20 years. Karen has provided narrative training and consultation to many agencies throughout Canada and assisted several to plan and initiate their own walk-in clinics. Karen has contributed numerous publications regarding the application of narrative therapy including papers published in the *Journal of Systemic Therapies*.

For further information about guest authors, online resources and readings, go to reauthoringteaching.com/learning_modules