

Narrative Medicine Workshop

Venice, Italy

20th - 22nd September 2009

Canossiano Institute



NARRATIVE MEDICINE

The effective care of the sick requires deep and singular knowledge of the patient, competence and commitment of the physician, and a sturdy bond of trust between the two. Despite the many sociocultural and professional factors that may divide doctors and patients and the impact of political and economic pressures on health care as a whole, effective medical practice needs to replace hurried and impersonal care with careful listening, empathic attention, and personal fidelity. Narrative medicine is one cost-effective and evidence-based method to equip health care professionals with the skills needed to respond to the challenge. By fortifying clinical practice with the ability to recognize, absorb, interpret, and be moved by stories of illness, narrative training enables practitioners to comprehend patients' experiences and to understand what they themselves undergo as clinicians. Professionalism, cultural competence, bioethical competence, interpersonal communication skills, self-reflective practice, and ability to work with health care teams can be strengthened by increasing narrative competence.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

The workshop, reserved for 48 participants, will offer rigorous skill-building in narrative competence. Participants will learn effective techniques for attentive listening, adopting others' perspectives, accurate representation, and reflective reasoning. Plenary sessions will focus on reconceptualizing empathy, narrative ethics, bearing witness, and illness narratives.

Small group seminars will offer firsthand experience in close reading, reflective writing, and autobiographical exercises. Participants will receive a packet of readings prior to the conference that will include seminar articles in the field of narrative medicine by leading educators.

The workshop will be led by an international faculty from

- Columbia University's Program in Narrative Medicine, New York, USA (Craig Irvine, Maura Spiegel)
- University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada (Allan Peterkin)
- George Washington University Medical Centre, Washington D.C., USA (Linda Raphael)
- Technion, Haifa, Israel (Shmuel Reis)
- University of Milan, Milan, Italy (Lucia Zannini)

«Power remains in the basics of attentive listening, close reading and reflective writing. The Narrative Medicine Workshop offers an exceptional opportunity to learn and practice these tools with intensity, guidance and expertise. This is a unique setting that will engage you in a multidimensional learning process. During the workshops you will closely examine the interweave between illness, the personal lives of patients and the interplay of your role. Narrative medicine offers the opportunity for telling and witnessing that reveals the psychological, emotional, sociocultural and political context to expose the deepest roots of illness - this enables medicine with tools to heal if not cure.»

Katherine Ellington (Narrative Medicine Workshop, May 2006)

PARTICIPANTS WILL

- develop the narrative competence to nourish empathic doctor-patient relationships
- learn narrative communication strategies for patient-centred and life-framed practice
- build habits of reflective practice that enhance professionalism and nurture clinical communities
- acquire pedagogic skills to teach methods of narrative medicine
- replace isolation with affiliation, cultivate enduring collegial alliances, and reveal meaning in clinical practice

Held at the Canossiano Institute of Venice this 3 days workshop will provide opportunities for individual consultations with faculty, shared meals, informal social gatherings, and access to the cultural offerings of the City of Venice. By the way - do not miss the Biennale of Arts www.labiennale.org/en/!

THIS WORKSHOP IS ORGANIZED AS A SATELLITE EVENT TO:

THE XIII CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR DERMATOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY
THE XX CONGRESS ON PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE

www.esdap2009.org
www.icpm2009.com

FACULTY



Craig Irvine, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Behavioural Science in the Center for Family Medicine, author of *The Other Side of Silence: Levinas, Medicine and Literature*.

He holds a PhD in Philosophy. He is Assistant Professor in the Center for Family and Community Medicine and Director of Education of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

For more than ten years, he has been designing and teaching cultural competency, ethics, Narrative Medicine, and Humanities and Medicine curricula for residents, medical students, physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, dentists, and other health professionals. He has over 20 years of experience researching the history of philosophy, phenomenology, and narrative ethics, and over 25 years of experience teaching ethics, humanities, the history of philosophy, logic, and narrative medicine at the graduate, undergraduate, and preparatory school levels. He has published articles in the areas of ethics, residency education, and literature and medicine and has presented at numerous national and international conferences on these and other topics.



Maura Spiegel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, editor of *The Grim Reader: Writings on Death, Dying, and Living On*.

She teaches Literature and Film at Columbia University and Barnard College, and is a member of the core faculty of Narrative Medicine at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she teaches courses on film to medical students.

She is also on the faculty of the Master of Science program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia. Co-author of *The Grim Reader: Writing on Death, Dying and Living On* (Anchor/Doubleday), *The Breast Book: An Intimate and Curious History* (Workman), which was a Book-of-the-Month Club-Quality Paperbacks selection, she co-edited the journal of Literature and Medicine with Rita Charon for seven years. She has written for The New York Times, has recently edited new editions of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Tarzan of the Apes* for the Barnes & Noble Classics Series, and she is currently working on a book on the films of Sidney Lumet.



Allan Peterkin, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the University of Toronto, author of *A Post-Cocktail AIDS Anthology*.

He trained as a family doctor and psychiatrist at McGill University.

He is the author of several books on medicine and/or cultural history including *Staying Human During Residency Training* (University of Toronto Press, 4th edition 2008) and recently edited *STILL HERE: A Post-Cocktail AIDS Anthology*, a collection of writings from the therapeutic writing group he has led for 9 years for men and women living with HIV (Life Rattle Press, 2008). He is a founding editor of the literary journal *ARS MEDICA - A Journal of Medicine, The Arts and Humanities* (www.ars-medica.ca). He heads the Program in Narrative and Healthcare Humanities at Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto) and is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Peterkin has led workshops across Canada on the therapeutic and pedagogical uses of writing in clinical settings and on narrative medicine.



Linda Raphael, Ph.D., Director of the Medical Humanities Program at George Washington University.

She trained at Ohio State and Brown Universities, receiving her PhD from the former. She has been a member of the English departments at Georgetown and George Washington Universities, and while she continues teaching at the latter, she has been an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine since 2005 when she founded and became Director of the Program in Medical Humanities.

This academic year the School of Medicine added a Track in Medical Humanities which she directs, and she serves on the Hospital Ethics Committee. Dr. Raphael has published books and articles on narrative and on Holocaust literature. She is author of *Narrative Scepticism: Moral Agency and Representations of Consciousness in Fiction* (Associated University Presses, 2001) and co-editor of *When Night Fell: An Anthology of Holocaust Short Stories* (Rutgers University Press, 1999). Early in 2009 her essay on «Fathers and Daughters in Henry James: The Italian Connection», appeared in *Tracing Henry James* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009).



Shmuel Reis, M.D., MHPE, Professor of Family Medicine and Medical Education, Chairperson of the Division of Family Medicine at the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) Rappaport, Faculty of Medicine in Haifa, Israel, co-author of *Patients and Doctors: Life-Changing Stories from Primary Care*.

He is a family physician. Prior to becoming chair of the Division of Family Medicine he chaired Medical Education and coordinated the Galil Center for Medical Informatics and Telemedicine in the same faculty. His present focus is on narrative medicine, mentoring, as well as teaching and assessing communication skills and professionalism. He studies the patient-doctor-computer relationship, Holocaust and Medicine, and the use of reflective writing in medical education. He is an editor of the Reflective Practice section for the scientific journal *Patient Education and Counseling*. He was the Israeli principal investigator in multinational research projects (IMPROVE, EUROPEP) and is active in various international initiatives, research projects and societies. At the same time, Dr. Reis continues to be a family doctor for a stable patient population in the Galilee of Northern Israel, within the regional integrated health and social services health center he pioneered over 31 years ago.



Lucia Zannini, Ph.D., Chair of Pedagogy, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Milan.

She trained at the Faculty of Philosophy of Milan University, receiving her PhD in Pedagogy for Medical Professionals. She has been teaching courses at several Universities in the same field and is presently associate Professor at the Department of Public Health at Milan University teaching courses on Pedagogy and Anthropology, Methods of Social Research, Human Sciences and on other related subjects.

She has published several books in her field of interest, among others *Narrative Medicine and Medical Humanities* (Milan 2008) as well as *Il corpo paziente - da oggetto di cure a soggetto della relazione terapeutica* [The body (as) a patient - from being the object of care to being the acting subject in the therapeutic relationship] (Milan 2004).

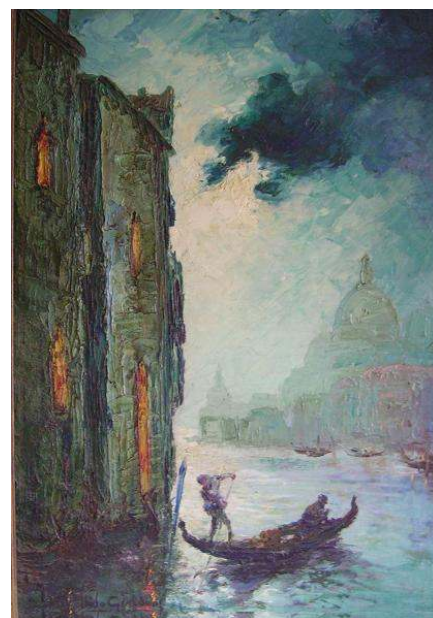
THE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY September 20th, 2009

- 14.00 Registration
- 14.30 Welcome
Linda Raphael, Ph.D., Craig Irvine, Ph.D., Maura Spiegel, Ph.D., Shmuel Reis, M.D., Lucia Zannini, Ph.D., Allan Peterkin, M.D.
- 14.45 Narrative Medicine: Methods for Improving Clinical Effectiveness
Linda Raphael, Ph.D.
This plenary session will describe and draw lessons from a four-year-old program at a major urban medical center in Washington D.C. The Narrative Medicine Program at The George Washington School of Medicine includes a variety of courses, sessions, and lecture/discussion groups. In particular, the program has one unique feature: the regular integration of reflective writing and discussions of stories and films into each of the third-year and one fourth-year clerkship. The differences amongst the sessions (numbers of meetings, absence or presence of the clerkship director, length of the sessions, and nature of the specialty) have provided valuable information on the effects of narrative medicine in medical school education. This session will highlight some of our findings and will offer a close reading of one of the stories we read.
- 17.00 Small Group Seminars
Clinical Cases from Narrative Medicine
- 18.30 Adjournment
- 19.30 Cocktail Reception & Dinner - Ristorante La Vecia Cavana, Venice

MONDAY September 21st, 2009

- 8.30 Continental Breakfast
- 9.00 Plenary Address «Reconceptualizing Empathy»
Maura Spiegel, Ph.D.
The concept of «empathy» has been under critique from many quarters for some time. Reviewing the salient charges against this term and against its usefulness in the precincts of medical training, the discussion will provide a close reading of a film that literalizes the concept of empathy, as the doctor becomes a patient. Acknowledging problems with the concept of empathy as generally purveyed, we will examine where the film fails in its representation of empathy and where it succeeds - and why. With the aid of clips from a few other films we will explore the uses of narrative (including cinematic) mediation as a site and condition for a nourishing empathic experience.
- 10.30 Small Group Seminars
Close Reading: Training for attentive listening
- 12.00 Adjournment
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Plenary Address: «Narrative ethics: New Clinical approaches in the dilemmas of illness»
Craig Irvine, Ph.D.
While medicine is surely among humanity's greatest works, the nature of this greatness is beyond its own power to judge. Medicine must answer to ethics. Unfortunately, medicine, by nature, veils the ethical imperative presupposed by its very existence. Narrative medicine helps lift this veil. Narrative is central to our construction of knowledge, our interpretation of experience, and our definition of the right and the good. It is therefore indispensable to moral inquiry. Drawing on stories written by attending physicians, residents, medical students and others, Dr. Irvine will demonstrate how a biomedical ethics based in narrative engages every level of our being, including and perhaps especially our emotional life, immeasurably deepening our moral sensitivity.
- 15.30 Small Group Seminars
Narrative writing from practice:
enlarging the clinical fund of knowledge through representation
- 17.00 Adjournment
- 17.30 Plenary Address: «The therapeutic power of Patients' narrative writing and its usefulness in health professionals' training»
Lucia Zannini, Ph.D.
Since Pennebaker's discovery of the beneficial effect on health of expressive writing, several health professionals have started introducing writing exercises into the therapeutic relationship. Autobiographic writing has been proposed in many therapeutic settings: primary health care, hospice care, mental health, rehabilitation programs, survivors of intimate partner violence and many others. Patients autobiographical writing can have a therapeutic effect, and is, at the same time, a powerful means for health professionals to gain, in the perspective of narrative-based medicine, a better understanding of the patients illness experience.
- 18.30 Adjournment
Dinner on your own



TUESDAY September 22nd, 2009

- 8.30 Continental Breakfast
- 9.00 Plenary Address «Illness Narratives»
Shmuel Reis, M.D.
Illness stories or pathographies abound, Doctors stories start to become visible too. Rarely are the stories told together. We will explore the three types of narratives, as well as the notion of Narrative Evidence Based Medicine. Addressing illness narratives as well as (wounded) healers stories may remoralize and reclaim generosity to healthcare.
- 10.30 Small Group Seminars
Narrative interviewing: how to elicit the full stories of illness
- 12.00 Adjournment
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Plenary Address: «Restoring narrative competence - What Psychotherapy can teach us»
Allan Peterkin, M.D.
*Modern medical training has the potential to damage or impair narrative competence with respect to the skills of listening attentively, telling fully embodied stories and reading with curiosity and a sense of openness and pleasure. Psychodynamic psychotherapy has much to teach us about letting a patient's story unfold in a helpful way through the utilization of specific principles including dream work, interpretation, examination of transference dynamics, free association and co-construction of meaning in the context of a working alliance. At the same time, narrative medicine practices differ distinctively from actual psychotherapy. (As one example-therapy usually privileges the «problem story» whereas narrative inquiry invites/allows the exploration of happy/successful experiences).
This keynote will review relevant psychotherapeutic strategies for enhancing both personal reflection and narrative competence within the clinical setting.*
- 15.00 Small Group Seminars
Illness narratives: the skills of bearing witness to the suffering of others
- 17.30 Adjournment

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCREDITATION

We are applying for European Medical Credits (recognized by the United States Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and Italian Medical Credits.

REGISTRATION

Tuition (includes syllabus, simple lunches, one welcome dinner, and literary readings) is Euro 650,00 for all participants.

You can register directly online using our online registration form: www.theoffice.it/esdap09 or you can previously contact us at esdap09@theoffice.it should you need further information.

Once your position is secured, you will receive confirmation and further details.

LOCATION

All plenary and small group sessions will take place in the Canossiano Institute's conference rooms in Venice City.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.esdap2009.org

