

International Research Seminar. Thursday, November 27

COLLECTIVE NARRATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED PRIOR LEARNING, from environmental to mental health

Morning - 09:00–13:00 - Villa Rabelais, 116 Boulevard Béranger, 37000 Tours.

9:00 – Hervé Breton, presentation of the seminar.

9:15 – Jérôme Lafitte, synthesis of the precedent work on the thematic and avenues for consideration.

9h30. Dai Matsumoto, University of Tohoku, Japan. Title : How Does a Life-Storytelling Community Emerge in Local Japan?

This study investigates how a life-storytelling community emerges in a Japanese local context, where residents learn from sharing personal narratives. Focusing on an NPO in Miyagi Prefecture that conducts interview-based documentation of community members' experiences, the study analyzes practices in which people record and reflect on their stories, including those related to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Through this case, the research explores the processes and structures of learning that arise from community-based storytelling.

10h00. Chiara Ramponi, University of Tohoku, Japan. Title : Medical ethics from an experiential perspective, focusing on the narrative of the complainant's lived experience.

In the context of the clinical trial on thyroid cancer following the Fukushima nuclear accident (Japan), testimonies refer to the iatrogenic aspect of both the epidemiological interpretation of thyroid cancer in Fukushima (officially considered unrelated to the accident) and the clinical approach adopted within Fukushima University Hospital. This paper focuses on the narratives produced in the context of a legal dispute, paying particular attention to their testimonial, descriptive, ethic and performative dimensions.

10h30. Sophie Houdart, CNRS, France. Title : Storytelling, walking: a trail for reconstruction after the 2011 tsunami, Japan

In his book *M/T and the Story of the Forest's Wonders*, Japanese novelist and essayist Ôe Kenzaburô lays the foundations for what closely resembles a literary theory, in which he viscerally links storytelling and the feeling of nostalgia, sticky, persistent, that they are likely to give rise to—a connection that, in turn, can contribute to the very lives of individuals and the choices they make.

The stories his grandmother told him fell within the purview of the generic figure of the storyteller, or kataribe, who finds an original expression in situations following a disaster. Alongside the disaster kataribe, volunteers or semi-professionals who are called upon to bear witness to what has been and/or to recount what has been experienced by others, it is possible to find another way of recounting experiences: like a hiking trail, the Michinoku Coastal Trail, designed to commemorate the 2011 tsunami, prolong and share some of its effects.

11h00. Miki Noda, University of Ritsumeikan. Title : Personal Voices and Silences in Mental Health Recovery: Opening Collective Narratives through Clinical Listening

This presentation explores how personal narratives open toward collective narratives, understood as a polyphonic resonance rather than a single, unified voice. Drawing on qualitative inquiry with workers who took mental health sick leave and experienced different paths of recovery, it examines how personal voices and silences open—or fail to open—toward collective narratives, while also questioning what “recovery” means and how it is narrated. These collective narratives in turn become reference points for reshaping individual stories. Finally, clinical listening is discussed as a perspective to reconsider how collective narratives are heard and lived.

11h30. Masayoshi Morioka, University of Ritsumeikan. Title : Emergence and Dynamics of Collectives in Mental Health. Life Story as a Collaborative Construction of Living Reality

Autoformation is defined as ‘the dynamic process of constructing the self’, and the life story is the method that concretizes this process of autoformation (Pineau, 1983). Life stories are structured around events and transactions. Transactions denote actions that create relationships between two individuals, or between individuals and organizations. Through transactions, events transform into relationships between existence and environment. The self is then formed upon the foundation of transactions with others and society. I shall examine this dynamism using a clinical interview example involving a woman with severe trauma.