

# **NARRATIVES** and **MENTAL HEALTH**

## Fragmentations, Disruptions & Silences

An Interdisciplinary and International Conference  
University of Paderborn - Germany

**7 - 8 DECEMBER 2017**

DEELENHAUS PADERBORN

Jarmila Mildorf (University of Paderborn)  
Elisabeth Punzi (University of Gothenburg)  
Christoph Singer (University of Paderborn)

### **KEYNOTES**

Jens Brockmeier (American University of Paris)  
Daniel D. Hutto (Wollongong University)  
Brian Schiff (American University of Paris)

[kw.uni-paderborn.de/anglistik-amerikanistik/namh2017](http://kw.uni-paderborn.de/anglistik-amerikanistik/namh2017)



Universitätsgesellschaft Paderborn  
*Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Universität Paderborn*

**DFG**



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG



**NARRATIVES AND MENTAL HEALTH**

Fragmentations, Disruptions &amp; Silences

An Interdisciplinary and International Conference  
University of Paderborn - Germany**7 - 8 December 2017**Jarmila Mildorf (University of Paderborn)  
Elisabeth Punzi (University of Gothenburg)  
Christoph Singer (University of Paderborn)

Mental illness and, conversely, the promotion and sustenance of mental health pose great challenges in our globalized world. Economic, political, demographic and cultural changes affect all societies and the individuals living in them. Even though mental problems are highly idiosyncratic and can manifest themselves in myriads of ways, the medicalization of psychological and psychiatric care as well as of mental health services more generally has led to approaches (both in treatment and research) that favour quantification and so-called evidence-based procedures. Rather than attending to individual persons and their idiosyncratic narratives, such approaches extrapolate from 'typical', standardized cases; questionnaires and manuals have become the standard tools for diagnosis. Likewise, many medical practitioners working, for example, in general practice and primary care, accident and emergency, paediatrics and gerontology, see psychosocial issues or illness resulting from such issues in their daily work but they may feel ill-equipped to deal with them. The economy-driven medical framework within which they treat patients rarely allows them a more holistic view.

This conference seeks to explore the liminal zones where mental illness, but also much of 'healthy' mental functioning, manifests itself: in fragmentations, disruptions and silences. It explores these aspects in a variety of contexts and artefacts: psychotherapy and medical practice; literature, the arts and music; caregiving and interpersonal relationships – thus hoping to offer new vistas for psychological, psychiatric and medical practice and training. Theoretical approaches and new sub-disciplines such as Narrative Psychology or the Medical Humanities have over the past decades challenged the existing institutional frames of reference and practices in psychiatry, psychology and medicine. They foreground especially the significance of narrative as a way of sense-making and self-expression and its relationship to identity work, remembering and human communication. At the same time, these processes of meaning-making and communication are anything but coherent, concise and linear. But it might be especially these areas where communication becomes meaningful, and practices can be refined and improved.

Moreover, philosophical debates surrounding the ethical implications of biomedicine and questions concerning personhood, autonomy, the 'good life', and so on have pinpointed the importance of self-reflection and a more critical stance. In recent years, scholars and practitioners have furthermore begun to explore the benefits of employing artistic forms of expression such as painting, creative writing or music in psychotherapy and medical treatment. There is some recognition of the fact that humans are essentially complex beings who cannot be fully grasped by scientific methods alone. Still, the scientific paradigm prevails.

The conference aims at offering a forum for cross- and interdisciplinary debate and therefore invites contributions from scholars and practitioners working in diverse fields: literary and cultural studies; sociology; philosophy; theology; psychoanalysis (or psychology in general); art history (including the history of architecture); film studies; political theory, etc.

**Dr. Jarmila Mildorf**University of Paderborn  
Department of  
English & American Studies

jarmila.mildorf@upb.de

**Dr. Elisabeth Punzi**University of Gothenburg  
Department of Psychology

elisabeth.punzi@psy.gu.se

**Dr. Christoph Singer**University of Paderborn  
Department of  
English & American Studies

csinger@mail.uni-paderborn.de

## Wednesday, 6. December

8 pm

Conference Warming, **Kitzgams**

## Thursday, 7. December

9.00 - 9.30 am

Welcome Address and Introduction  
**JARMILA MILDORF, ELISABETH PUNZI, CHRISTOPH SINGER**

9.30 - 10.30 am

**KEYNOTE**  
**JENS BROCKMEIER**  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS  
Narrative, Identity, and the Human Sense of Possibility

10.30 - 11.00 am

Coffee Break

11.00 - 12.30 pm

**STORIES OF DEMENTIA**  
  
**DANIELA RINGKAMP**  
UNIVERSITY OF MAGDEBURG  
Narrative Ethics and Dementia: Critical Comments and Modifications  
  
**MARI HATAVARA**  
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE  
Life-Stories and Mental Health in the Interviews of Elderly Aged 90+  
  
**SARA STRAUSS**  
UNIVERSITY OF PADERBORN  
Fragments of a Life Remembered: Fragmentation and Silences in Dementia Narratives

12.30 - 2.00 pm

Lunch Break

2.00 - 3.30 pm

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES**  
  
**MALIN HILDEBRAND KARLÉN**  
UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG  
Diagnosing Mad Behaviour: Change and Stability in Behaviours incorporated in Psychiatric Diagnoses in Sweden 1821 and 1980  
  
**NIKA SÖDERLUND**  
UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG  
Social Narratives of Hallucinations and Delusions in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century  
  
**OLAF BERWALD**  
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY  
Silence as Wound: Inspections of Language Loss in Ovid and Trakl

3.30 - 4.00 pm

Coffee Break

## Thursday, 7. December

4.00 - 5.30 pm

### MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS

**MARINA IAKUSHEVIC**

UNIVERSITY OF PADERBORN

Mental Illness Representations in the German Mass Media:  
A Case of Depression

**SOLY ERLANDSSON**

UNIVERSITY OF WEST SWEDEN

Here We Don't Knock Anymore

**VIVIAN FRYD**

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Equal Time in Equal Space: Ending the Silence about Incest

5.30 - 6.00 pm

Coffee Break

### KEYNOTE

6.00 - 7.00

**DANIEL D. HUTTO**

WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

t.b.a.

8.00 pm

Conference Dinner, **Restaurant Bobberts**

## Friday, 8. December

9.00 - 10.00 am

### KEYNOTE

**BRIAN SCHIFF**

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

Imagining an Alternate Psychology

10.00 - 10.30 am

Coffee Break

10.30 - 12.00 pm

### ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

**MARIA MEDVED**

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

Narrating after Neurotrauma: Brain, Self, and the Other

**GÖRAN STÅHLE**

SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY STOCKHOLM

Narratives on Alternative Medical Treatment in Swedish Context: A  
Case Study on Ayurveda

**KATRIN RÖDER**

UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM

Shame and Narrative Silences in Contemporary British Mental Illness  
Memoirs

12.00 - 1.30 pm

Lunch Break

# PROGRAMME

---

## Friday, 8. December

---

1.30 - 3.00 pm

### LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF 'MADNESS'

**JARMILA MILDORF**

UNIVERSITY OF PADERBORN

Literature and Folk Psychology: The 'Mad Doctor' Topos in Anne Hope's Novel *The Ballroom*

**CORNELIA WÄCHTER**

UNIVERSITY OF BOCHUM

Though this be madness yet there is method in't: Clare Allan's *Poppy Shakespeare*

**MARKUS WIERSCHEM**

UNIVERSITY OF PADERBORN

Eye Spy With My Deviant I: Voyeurism, Psychopathy, and (Narrative) Perspective

3.00 - 3.30 pm

Coffee Break

3.30 - 4.30

### CLINICIAN-CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

**BARBARA VENTAROLA**

FREE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

Mental Health and Doctor-Patient Interactions: Virginia Woolf, Ingeborg Bachmann, Siri Hustvedt

**ELISABETH PUNZI**

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

The Art of Teaching the Art of Listening

4.30 - 5.00 pm

Coffee Break

5.00 - 6.30 pm

### SPACES & SILENCES

**PAULA FEMENIAS**

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY GOTHENBURG

Understanding User Satisfaction of Contemporary Apartments through Spatial Narratives of Modifications to Floor Plans

**CHRISTOPH SINGER**

UNIVERSITY OF PADERBORN

"Nothing is more real than nothing." Enduring the Temporalities of Fragmentation in Beckett and Golding

**NICOLAS DAUMAN**

UNIVERSITY OF POITIERS

Is Silence the Fulfillment of Our Desire? Clinical Thoughts on Noise and Frustration

---