



## NARRATIVE MEDICINE

June 20-23, 2019

A 3-day workshop with core faculty from the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University, New York City

## WHAT IS NARRATIVE MEDICINE?

The effective care of the sick requires 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 can 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 and attention. 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 understand what they themselves undergo as clinicians.

"The close reading of literature opens a bottomless resource for observing, thinking, and talking together about human interactions in the medical context at a level of depth and complexity that other worthy approaches (such as "professionalism" or communication skills training) cannot match....We have found that reading literary texts with a focus on relational dynamics awakens us to the social, structural, professional, and personal relationships in our working lives."

from Rita Charon, Sayantani DasGupta, Nellie Hermann, Craig Irvine, Eric R. Marcus, Edgar Rivera Colón, Danielle Spencer, Maura Spiegel, *The Principles and Practices of Narrative Medicine* (Oxford University Press 2017)

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This intensive weekend workshop offers rigorous skill-building in narrative competence. Participants will learn effective techniques for attentive listening, adopting others' perspectives, accurate representation and reflective reasoning. Small group seminars offer first-hand experience in close reading, reflective writing, and autobiographical exercises. Participants will receive a packet of readings prior to the week-end that will include seminar articles in the field of narrative medicine by leading educators. The target audience is health care professionals and scholars interested in narrative medicine.

Those who attended Mainz or Columbia Narrative Medicine workshops are very welcome; they will find that the plenary talks and the small groups differ, and returning participants will focus on methods of facilitation and address issues such as how to pick texts and how to write prompts.

## OBJECTIVES

Participants will

- develop narrative competence to nourish effective patient-clinician relationships
- learn narrative communication strategies for patient-centered and life-framed practice
- build habits of reflective practice that 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

Returning participants will further develop methods of facilitation and application for their professional areas.

## SCHEDULE

### “Cultures of Medicine” Conference (free of charge)

#### Thursday, June 20th, 2019, JGU Mainz

Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät (NatFak),  
Johann Joachim-Becher-Weg 21, Alter Senatssaal  
7th floor, room 07-232

- 10:00 Tilman Habermas (Frankfurt)  
“The crippling and healing powers of narrative”  
Mita Banerjee (Mainz)  
“Narrative Medicine and Ethnic Lives”
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 2:00 Maura Spiegel (Columbia)  
“Affect Theory and Medical Cultures”  
Danielle Spencer (Columbia)  
“Medical Rhetoric: Complaining, Complying,  
and Adhering”  
Deepthiman Gowda (Columbia)  
“Narrative and Acculturation at a New Medical School”
- 5:00 Coffee Break
- 5:30 Norbert Paul (Mainz)  
„The End of Scientific Revolutions? On Broken Frames  
and Lost Paradigms in Biomedicine and Life Sciences”

#### Friday, June 21st, 2019

- 10:00 Monika Claas (Mainz)  
“Cases, Paratext, and Commodification:  
Hughlings Jackson and The London Hospital Reports,  
1864”  
Christine Marks (New York)  
“The Politics of Relationality in Contemporary American  
Illness Narratives”  
Alfred Hornung (Mainz)  
“Poetic Knowledge and Narrative Medicine”

## SCHEDULE

### Narrative Medicine

Workshop (participation fee 495 €)

#### Friday, June 21st, 2019

3:00 - 3:45	Introductions
3:45 - 5:00	Reading - Ian Williams (London)
5:15 - 6:15	Small Group Seminar: Writing exercise
7:00	Dinner

#### Saturday, June 22nd, 2019

9:00	<b>Plenary Address:</b> "Accessing Experience through Film: A Narrative Medicine Technique" by Maura Spiegel
10:30	<b>Small Group Seminars:</b> Close Reading: Training for attentive listening
2:00	<b>Plenary Address:</b> "'The Narrative Turn' in Healthcare" by Danielle Spencer
3:30	<b>Small Group Seminars:</b> Narrative Writing from practice: enlarging the clinical fund of knowledge through representation
Evening	<b>Ian Williams' Reading</b>

#### Sunday, June 23rd, 2019

9:00	<b>Plenary Address:</b> "Narrative Medicine in Health Care Training: Grappling with Identity and Meaning" by Deepu Gowda
10:30	<b>Small Group Seminars:</b> Interviewing: How to elicit the full stories of illness
1:30	<b>Small Group Seminar</b>
3:00 - 4:30	<b>Roundtable Discussion</b>

## CONDITIONS

The workshop is organized by the Center of Continuing Education at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. It is based on the long-standing cooperation between the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies at Mainz and Columbia University in New York City. The workshop will take place on the main campus of JGU and will be held in English.

We invite interested professionals and scholars with a background in medicine, health care or the humanities. Participants must be proficient in English.

The workshop is limited to 32 participants.  
**The deadline for registration is June 3rd, 2019.**

The workshop cost of 495,- Euro includes

- teaching equivalent of 2 ECTS
- accreditation for continuing medical education
- JGU certificate after successful completion
- catering during lunch and coffee breaks

Registration and recommendations for accommodation via the following link:  
<https://www.zww.uni-mainz.de/narrative-medicine/>  
 Phone: +49 6131/39-24118

More information on narrative medicine via  
 Prof. Dr. Alfred Hornung (hornung@uni-mainz.de)  
 Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee (mita.banerjee@uni-mainz.de)  
 Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies  
 Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz  
 Jakob-Welder-Weg 20  
 55128 Mainz



Die Veranstaltung ist zur Zertifizierung bei der Ärztekammer angemeldet.

## FACULTY

**Deepthiman Gowda, MD, MPH,** is a general internist and an associate professor of medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is the Director of Clinical Practice for the Program in Narrative Medicine and the Director of the Foundations of Clinical Medicine, which teaches Columbia's students the medical interview, physical exam, and clinical reasoning. Through a grant from the Macy Foundation he is investigating the impact of introducing narrative medicine methods in primary care clinics.



**Danielle Spencer, M.S.,** is a faculty member of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University as well as the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Bioethics department. She is a co-author of *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* (Oxford University Press, 2017). She worked as artist/musician David Byrne's Art Director for many years, collaborating on and exhibiting a range of projects, as well as working with photographer Nan Goldin.



**Maura Spiegel, Ph.D.,** teaches literature and film at Columbia University and Barnard College. She is the associate director of the Program in Narrative Medicine at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she also teaches a film course. With Rita Charon, MD, Ph.D., she edited the journal *Literature and Medicine* for seven years. She is co-author of *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* (Oxford University Press, 2017).



**Anita Wohlmann, Ph.D.,** is assistant professor of literature and narrative medicine at the University of Southern Denmark. In her research, she explores the role of metaphors in medical humanities and American literature. After a research stay at the Program in Narrative Medicine in 2015, she has completed a certificate of study in narrative practice (Boston 2016) and has facilitated narrative medicine work-shops with medical students and practitioners in Germany.



**Mita Banerjee, Ph.D.** teaches American studies at the Obama Institute of Transnational American Studies at the University of Mainz. She is co-speaker, with Norbert Paul, of the Research Training Group "Life Sciences, Life Writing", which is funded by the German Research Foundation. She is the author of *Medical Humanities in American Studies: Life Writing, Medicine, and the Power of Autobiography* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2018).



**Ian Williams** is a comics artist, writer and physician. His graphic novel, *The Bad Doctor*, was published in 2014 and the follow up, *The Lady Doctor*, in 2019. He studied Fine Art after medical school and then became involved in the Medical Humanities movement.



He named the area of study called Graphic Medicine, founding the eponymous website in 2007, which he currently co-edits. He is co-author of the Eisner-nominated *Graphic Medicine Manifesto*. He has been the recipient of several grants and has contributed to numerous medical, humanities, and comics publications. Between May 2015 and January 2017 he drew a weekly comic strip, *Sick Notes*, for *The Guardian*.

## LEGAL NOTICE

JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ  
Zentrum für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung  
Forum universitatis 1  
D 55099 Mainz

Telefon: +49 6131 39 24 11 8  
Email: [info@zww.uni-mainz.de](mailto:info@zww.uni-mainz.de)  
[www.zww.uni-mainz.de](http://www.zww.uni-mainz.de)

