



Journal of Contemporary Narrative Therapy

Editors: Tom Stone Carlson, Sanni Paljakka, marcela polanco, and David Epston

Editor's Note

In January of 2020 David and I began talking about a special issue that focused on Narrative Therapy in palliative care. As our plans unfolded we heard about Covid 19 for the first time. It wasn't long before news came to us that the disease was spreading around the world. When the virus arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand, David and I, like many people, had conversations about our own mortality.

Since then I (Sasha) have met with many families who have suffered through the impacts of the pandemic. No doubt as many of you have. In my work for hospice I have met with people who, in addition to managing the knowledge they or someone they love is going to die, are also living in a wider of context of huge stress, isolation and the effects of the pandemic on the health system.

In conversations with David we reflected on how we wanted to go about living in a pandemic and asked ourselves what we could do to contribute. One practical thing we decided to do was to pursue our idea of gathering together papers from colleagues who worked in contexts where there was loss and death.

Under the most difficult circumstances, our friends and colleagues submitted papers which will be published in two separate releases. We are particularly grateful to each of our contributors for making the time and taking the effort to do so. We would like to introduce each of our authors to you.

Helene Grau Kristensen works as a counsellor in private practice in Denmark. The main focus of Helene's therapy practice is working with people who are grieving. She has also taught Narrative Therapy at the University of Copenhagen for many years. In her paper Helene discusses some of her ideas about grief with illustrations of her practice.

Susan Crozier works in the inpatient unit of Harbour Hospice in Auckland, New Zealand. In her paper Susan explores her encounter with what Tom Carlson and David Epston have called the "spirits of Narrative Therapy" and contemplates the flavours, commitments and inspirations of Narrative Therapy in palliative care. Susan also reflects on her engagements with Buddhist ideas in a way she hopes will be approachable for the non-Buddhist reader.

Linda Moxley-Haegart is currently working at Shriner's Hospital for Children and at a community service centre for the First people of the Mohawk Nation near Montreal in Canada. Linda, who is an experienced narrative therapist, came to write her paper following the death of a man

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through suicide. It was the first time in all her years of practice that someone whom she had worked with therapeutically had taken their own life. Linda describes the narrative informed practice work she embarked on with his parents as a healing journey for them all.

I (Sasha) work in the community for Harbour Hospice in Auckland. I have been a keen writer of therapeutic letters for many years. More recently, I have developed an interest in stories that illustrate Narrative Therapy both for therapeutic and teaching purposes. My paper was written in collaboration with the woman in the story and illustrates the conversations we had as she grieved the loss of her life partner and father of her children. The paper includes discussion about my thinking using footnotes.

We hope you enjoy part one of the Special Issue.

Sasha McAllum Pilkington

David Epston

