



## Journal of Contemporary Narrative Therapy

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

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### Editor's Note By David Epston

I first met Christoffer in the audience of a 2-day workshop I presented in Aarrhus, Denmark in March of 2014. I was so taken by the erudition of his concerns regarding the ethics of the practice of Narrative Therapy and the passion with which he expressed himself that I sought him out afterwards. After further discussion, I pleaded with him to consider writing these matters up for publication which he did in two consecutive papers (see Haugaard, C., (2015). Narrative Practice as an Ethical Position and the Moral Legitimacy of Narrative Therapy, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, (3), 55-63; and Haugaard, C., (2016). Narrative Therapy as an Ethical Practice, *Journal of Systemic Therapies*, 35(1), 1-19).

As well, we had entered in to an email correspondence around his taking up of Michael White's practice relating to 'psychotic experience' and the 'Power to our Journeys' group. As a consequence of this, the management at Aalborg Psychiatric Hospital in Denmark where he worked sought that he should develop an approach along these lines for those recidivists to their service who no longer accepted conventional psychotropic medication for reasons of their own and wished to withdraw or had done so.

I suggested a co-researching approach much like the one I had been engaged in leading to the publication of "Biting the Hand that Starves You: Inspiring Resistance to Anorexia/Bulimia." Such co-research had close parallels to Collaborative Anthropology and Participant Action Research (PAR). This led to his interviews with Victoria. The development of his approach to 'seeing' voices as persons spontaneously grew out his collaboration with Max in late 2016 and in 2017, which then became part of the co-research project due to the surprising effects of the letters to him. Collaborations with Alice and later Rose then built on the discoveries by Victoria and Max in 2018 and onwards. Christoffer and I have been in close correspondence since early 2017 and continue to the present. This led to the publication of Christoffer's work in a previous release of this journal (See: Haugaard, C. & Max (2019): Respectful letters for aggressive voices: Max's story. pp. 19-36; and Haugaard, C. & Victoria (2019): Sitting through it with the voices: pp. 37-54, *Journal of Narrative Family Therapy*, 2019, Release 3).

Since then, his work has advanced considerably and this special release has decided to collect several lengthy papers up in one place. Because of the complexity of his practice which has taken place over a considerable period of time (e.g., Alice's paper covers a period between mid-2018 and into 2020; Rose's paper describes developments over less than a year from late 2018 to mid-2019; Trish covers just over a year from 2019 to 2020), we have waived all conventions

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about length of articles. As well, we considered it vital to an appreciation of his practice that he include transcribed excerpts along with commentaries by those co-researchers concerned. I believe, given this practice is only 5 or 6 years old, we hope Christoffer will keep us informed and consider another special release in due course.

Christoffer brings to his practice a vast scholarship in northern European mythology, and folklore, contemporary anthropology especially in reference to the Amazon and Candomblé (an Afro-Brazilian religion in Brazil) and as far away as Miyazaki films, especially 'Spirited Away.'

I would suggest these references for some of his inspirations in question:

Harvey, G. (2018), If Not all Stones Are Alive: Radical Relationality in Animism Studies, *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, 11(4), 48-497.

Pickering, A. (2017). The ontological Turn. *Social Analysis*, Vol. 61, Issue 2, Summer, 2017, 134-150.

Rasmussen, R. H. (2019), *The Stick and the Calabash. Building Gods in Bahian Candomblé*, Uppsala Universitet.

Shaw, M. (2018). The Lindworm. A Story Told by Martin Shaw. *Emergence Magazine*, June 15, 2018. <https://emergencemagazine.org/film/the-lindworm/>

