



Center for the Study of Narrative (CSN)

- **Qualitative Inquiry / Doctoral Dissertations**
- **Service Learning / Digital Storytelling**
- **Interdisciplinary Faculty Collaboration**
- **Study Abroad**
- **Counselor Education and Practical Training**
- **Community Outreach**

About CSN and our Mission

Founded in 2014 by Don Redmond, Ph.D. within the Department of Counselor Education and Supervision, Mercer University's Center for the Study of Narrative promotes and supports student and faculty scholarship and research that is narrative in focus. We partner with collaborators with a personal interest and passion for specific populations; wide-ranging examples include veterans, cancer survivors, adults of siblings with developmental disabilities, female clergy, and grieving former college football players.

CSN was originally inspired by the work of Erik Erikson and his theory of lifespan development, the wellness model from the field of counseling, the positive psychology movement led by Martin Seligman, and the following individuals/groups creating narrative-focused interdisciplinary models for research and outreach;

- Michael White and David Epsom and the Dulwich Centre
- Molly Andrews and her collaborators at the Centre for Narrative Research
- Dan McAdams at the Foley Center for the Study of Lives / Northwestern
- William Randall at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Narrative

Celebrating Stories and Human Connection



CSN emphasizes service-learning opportunities through several counseling courses, most notable COUN 614 – Lifespan Development, where students interview an older family member such as a grandparent. Examples of other service-learning activities include students of Dr. Melanie Pavich interviewing African American descendants of Harrington School graduates living on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

NARRATIVE THERAPY

Narrative Therapy, a postmodern approach to counseling, maintains a focus on subjective truth and whereby the counselor facilitates the "re-authoring" of stories by the client. By utilizing personal narratives, counselors provide a framework and environment that counteracts a client's subjective disempowering story to uncover one that is about positive traits such as perseverance.

*Mercer University and the Center for the Study of Narrative proudly hosted Narrative Matters 2022 / 10<sup>th</sup> Narrative Matters conference in Atlanta in May 2022.*

