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**Tourism Innovations: A Journal of Indian Tourism and Hospitality Congress (ITHC)** is a bi-annual international referred research Journal focusing on academic perspectives in Tourism and Hospitality. Being an journal of inter-disciplinary field, the journal focuses on various aspects of tourism and hospitality like, Tourism Issues, Tourism Impacts, Eco-tourism, Sustainable Tourism, Tourism Marketing, Medical Tourism, Health Tourism, Culture Tourism, Culinary Arts, Service Operations and other tourism, travel and hospitality areas. The objective of the journal is to have a comprehensive collection of research articles and dispersal of updated knowledge and information about tourism sector.

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## Doing Narrative Research

Molly Andrews

Corinne Squire & Maria Tamboukou (2009) Sage Publications Ltd, London  
ISBN 978-1-4129-1196-2.

*My purpose is to make my narrative as truthful as possible.*

—George Armstrong Custer

Narratives are an accepted portmanteau expression in present-day social research. And rightly the purpose of the narratives is without doubt to provide a connote exacting acute perceptions of the tricky incidents by reading or hearing the anecdotes of those concerned. The book is a beautifully crafted treatise for the novice researchers who are not familiar with narratives. Though an edited book, it has plethora of information on narratives from the most knowledgeable lot. The book has been edited by Molly Andrews, Corinne Squire and Maria Tamboukou who themselves have done a lot of work on this aspect and are Co-Directors of the Centre for Narrative Research at the University of East London in England. The book was first published in 2008 & then reprinted in 2009.

The book opens with a striking Introduction that “What is narrative Research?” It gives a deep and yet a general commentary about the narrative research. The prologue investigates narrative research, its diverse histories and theoretical disagreements and the likelihood for functioning productively inside those intricacies. The concept itself is an umbrella expression for capturing personal experience & cultural context. It efficiently assembles, evaluate and signify stories of masses as told by them. And confront traditional and modernist views of truth, reality, knowledge and personhood. The book has been divided into eight chapters. In its beginning chapters, core issues of the narrative research like positionality, reflexivity and power are considered while the final chapters deal with actual social problems and ethical dilemmas which researcher face while dealing with it.

### Chapter 1

Wendy Patterson presents the Labov’s model of the structure of the personal experience narrative. He presents its advantages like the ability to find some narratives within the transcript; reveal structure of narratives allowing comparison; encode various types of evaluation which help in examining events and eliciting personal narratives. Also,

some limitations are associated with the approach for example distinction between referential & evaluative clauses is often problematic, significant differences between gender narratives. This leads to a contemplation of event –centric in opposition to experiential approaches and elucidation of the more interpretive experiential viewpoint.

## **Chapter 2**

In the chapter Corinne Squire gave two perspectives i.e. experience centred and culturally centred view for studying narratives rather that is centred on events. The chapter focuses on the semantics of narrated experience i.e. experience centred narrative research and the notion that “experience through stories, become part of consciousness”. It also takes hermeneutic approach to completely comprehend by examining stories rather than following William Labov’s structural analysis. Also, the chapter spell out the incessant disagreements and intricacies involved with the approach. The chapter links many examples employed by Patterson and Squire’s own experiences, including the HIV experience of South Africa.

## **Chapter 3**

Ann phoenix brilliantly correlates her experience with the earlier chapters of the book. She follows the Georgakopolou (2006a:123) approach that as “moved from the study of narrative as text to the study of narrative-in-context”. The chapter outlines the benefits of small story telling over the big story approaches by highlighting the “under-represented narratives”. Further the chapter analyses the interpersonal contexts which help in construction of narratives which change over period of time and has used extracts from a study of social identities i.e. from dialogue with a white mother of a child with mixed race descent.

## **Chapter 4**

The section deals with the dialogue between Phillida salmon and Catherine Kohler Riessman who were senior narrative scholars and brings into notice the complicacies which are involved in narratives making it a chaotic affair. The scholars instead of writing the section contributed a dialogue between them. The narrative experiences emphasize the importance of words, but at the same time highlight the non –consistency of words both for the orators or listeners over time. Hence, the narrative process is for all time in the course of transformation.

## Chapter 5

Molly Andrews in this chapter views narratives as a journey, in which nothing is permanent and continuously there is a change. The transformation is manifested in our thought process, actions, and our experiences which vary with our age. Neo- experiences and neo- understanding of older experiences bring neo- perspectives which affect not only our present, past as well as our future. The section considers the in progress rapport among power, history and biography. And how our understanding of ourselves and society always changes with a swing in events in the life.

## Chapter 6

The chapter presents a Foucauldian approach, in which Maria Tamboukou uses narratives as a means to re-imagine history, examining the interrelationship between narrative, subjectivity and authority (power). Tamboukou has broadly highlighted the chapter into three sub-areas i.e. genealogical problems, questions of the method and emerging themes in Foucauldian approach. Tamboukou sees Foucauldian approach to narratives as an open methodological framework which creates “a methodological rhythm of their own, weaving around a set of crucial questions ...questions which create unexplored and even unthought of areas of investigation”.

## Chapter 7

The chapter is written by Margareta Hyden, starts with an example of Maria, a sex worker. The incident and other examples bring to light the topic of narrating sensitive topics, and how the power & space help in outlining the relational circumstances. And these relational circumstances define sensitive issues which are dependent on the relationship between listener and teller in personal, cultural and contextual aspects. Hyden, further states that narrating the sensitive issues highlight the darker or victimized side of the interviewee may cause pain to the individual & hence seriously limit your research.

## Chapter 8

In the last chapter, Paul Gready examines certain ethical, political and methodological challenges, which the narratives face prior to their presentation. And prior to the presentation of narratives, the researcher should have a full understanding of public sphere and at the same time

the violation of trust should be avoided. The narratives should give voice to the issues which are dealt in research, should give control & ownership to the interviewees by adopting ethical, political and methodological propositions when narratives go through public forefront.

The book takes you through a fine journey on narrative research. It explains the topic in a phased and detailed manner. At many instances, interrogatory questions are raised followed by good explanations. Numerous incidents (examples) of narratives in the book highlight the various perspectives of this research type. The various editors of the volume demonstrate relevancies of diverse methodological perspectives, cross disciplinary and multivocal aspects that come under the broad areas of narrative research. Catherine Kohler Riessman in her concluding comments says that book would be a great help to students & answer their three questions - "How is narrative research employed? To what degree does an investigation attend to narrative features? How do narrative analysts take into considerations to the 'worlds' that surround a narrative text?" She further ends her comments by saying that these three questions will help the future investigators to develop a 'theoretical bicolage' of narrative research which is full of complexity and diversity.

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