

lab notes



ICP International Lab

lab notes Summer 2018

Welcome to the new summer edition of lab notes! This time we feature four articles on the theme of **storytelling** which have interested and inspired us recently. We love receiving your comments and feedback, and do please let us know if you have good ideas and links for future editions: info@icp-intlab.org

In this issue:

- 1. Storytelling as a tool for knowing who we are** - Ursula le Guin in conversation
- 2. The future of science storytelling** - plot twists and competing interpretations
- 3. The discontinuous self** - Eudora Welty on the nonlinearity of who we are
- 4. I am not a story** - a challenge to the narrative approach to self-as-story

Storytelling as a tool for knowing who we are



“Over the last hundred years, history has preempted the other forms of storytelling because of its claim to absolute, objective truth. All that has changed radically over the last twenty years ... History is not a science, it’s an art”

Ursula le Guin in conversation: “One of the functions of art is to give people the words to know their own experience”

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2018/01/30/ursula-k-le-guin-walking-on-the-water/>

The future of science storytelling



“Science does indeed progress, but scientific stories may always be fractured and heterogeneous. If so, the dichotomy of opinion/ scientific fact is superficial since science is troubled from within; classifications depend on how we structure and frame our data.”

“The future of science writing may put an end to much of the explanatory optimism of current writing, and reveal a starker outlook, one gripped with tension.” Jim Kozubek

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/the-future-of-science-storytelling/>

The discontinuous self

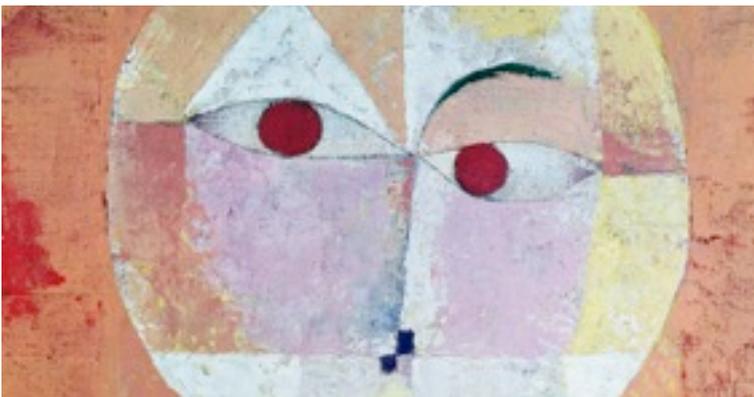


“The frame through which I viewed the world changed too, with time. Greater than scene, I came to see, is situation. Greater than situation is implication. Greater than all of these is a single, entire human being, who will never be confined in any frame.”

“To be human is to unfold in time but remain discontinuous.” **Maria Popova** on writer **Eudora Welty**: 'Embracing the Nonlinearity of How We Become Who We Are'

<https://www.brainpickings.org/2018/02/21/eudora-welty-one-writers-beginnings/>

I am not a story



“I think it’s false that everyone stories themselves.

‘Life’s ‘great shambles’ is the American novelist Henry James’s expression. This seems a much better characterisation of human existence as we find it. Life simply never assumes a story-like shape for us. And neither, from a moral point of view, should it.”

Galen Strawson challenges the narrativists: “At best, I doubt that what they say is an accurate description even of themselves.”

<https://aeon.co/essays/let-s-ditch-the-dangerous-idea-that-life-is-a-story>



Institute of Constructivist Psychology

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
of Personal Construct Psychology

icp
Inter national
Lab

Please visit our website for news and information <https://www.icp-intlab.org/>



European Conference in PCP : 2018 Edinburgh UK

We are looking forward to hosting a lively session at the **EPCA conference in Edinburgh** ‘**PCP in the MIX**’ featuring very short 6-minute presentations on children, entrepreneurs, sailing, language, film-making, strength-finding, self-help, cross-cultural construing, and constructivist education!! We hope to see you there - come and enjoy the mix, meet other conference delegates, find out who shares your interests, and be inspired!

If we can help you to find contacts or to promote and develop Personal Construct Psychology where you are, please get in touch with us - we would love to hear from you: info@icp-intlab.org

With best wishes from the ICP Lab team:

Mary Frances, Chiara Lui, Sara Pavanello, Giovanni Stella, Gabriele Bendenelli