

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Abstracts and Speaker Biographies

Dr Tim Boon

Humming the Tune or Losing the Plot?: Narrative in Science Museums

Expectations of narrative approaches to display in science museums have never been higher, but if these are to be nearly as successful as proponents hope, the nature of the museum medium, and the character of the visitor's encounter with displays has to be considered very carefully.

The displays of technical museums in the early twentieth century generally consisted of extensive typological and/or evolutionary displays of classes of objects; bicycles, dynamos, steam engines, et al. The stronger the collection, the bigger the display.

For several decades since the humanities' turn to the social, social historical and other narratives have dominated how museum collections are presented to the public. Science museums have often been in the vanguard of the application of contextual devices, such as films, audio-visual displays, or have enthusiastically taken part in broader museological innovations such as contextualising object displays with painted backdrops and dioramas.

The greater the expectations of narrative, however, the more problematic it becomes, not because there is anything intrinsically wrong with wanting to connect displays in narrative sequences, but because there are strong grounds to doubt that visitors 'read' the narratives that curators and designers implant in their displays.

In this presentation I will present this argument in more detail, and explore the implications for public engagement with science and challenges for display practice in science museums.

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Mark Brake

Space, Time, Machine, and Monster: The Stories Fiction Tells About Science

Mark looks at the relationship between science and science fiction. His opinion is that since its emergence in the seventeenth century, science fiction has provided a sustained, coherent and often subversive check on the promises and pitfalls of science, as well as exploring what we see, do, and dream.

Mark Brake is an author, broadcaster, futurist, and communicator of science. Mark is a freelance academic, working out of the UK, who writes popular science books, and has done science communication work in film, television, print, and radio on five continents. He has communicated science for NASA, Seattle's Science Fiction Museum, the BBC, the Royal Institution, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Nature, the British Council, and the National Science Museum of Thailand.

Professor Hamish Fyfe

Chair: Provocation 3

Hamish Fyfe Co-Director of the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling in the Cardiff School of Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Glamorgan.. He has worked as a teacher, actor, and researcher in a variety of contexts. He worked for twenty years in Belfast, Northern Ireland before taking up his post as Chair of Arts in the Community at the University of Glamorgan in September 2004. He is the Director of the MA in Arts in the Community which is now being offered at the University of Glamorgan.

His research interests currently fall into three broad areas;

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science

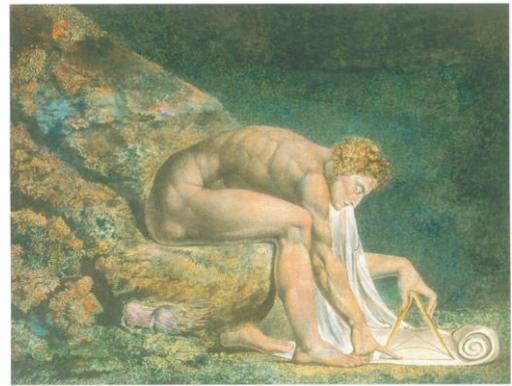


Image: Wikimedia Commons

- Creative community building through cross-sector collaboration with the arts
- What is creativity, how does it 'work' and how can it be fostered?
- Theatre, ritual and identity

He worked on a research project for the Welsh Assembly which is concerned with cross-sectoral arts activity throughout Wales. Recommendations from the report are forming an element of the developing cultural policy for Wales. In a recently published book – *She Danced and We Danced – Artists, Creativity and Education* Hamish examines the role of artists and other creative professionals in learning and community building in Northern Ireland. He is currently researching for a new publication the working title of which is *Making Play Work* which is concerned with the developing international debate about creativity and its contribution to social and economic development. He is editor of the journal **Art and Communities** published by Intellect.

Louie Jenkins

Moth

Moth is a solo autobiographical performance about absence/presence, life/death, Leeds United and a Ford Capri. The piece explores the stories written on the body, memories held in the sinew and narratives sown into the flesh. "I've met Death a few times now, he's not very talkative. With Rebecca he stayed in our hospice room for ten days. He liked the chair by the window playing cards."

Louie Jenkins is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Chichester, where she lead on modules relating to Performance Writing and Theatre and Intervention. Her Masters was in Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths College, University of London and she is working towards her

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science

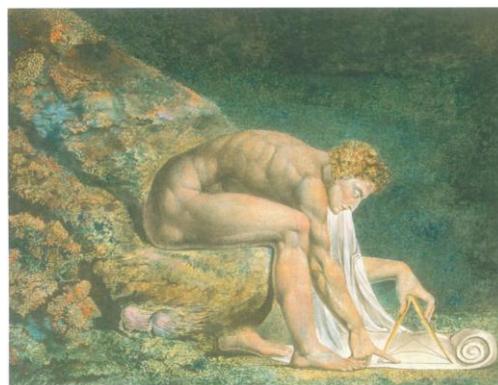


Image: Wikimedia Commons

Practice as Research PhD at Brunel University. Louie has worked as a professional actress, director and playwright in the UK and USA. Her main research interests are in autobiographical solo performance with specific reference to illness, dying, mortality and grief. She is exploring biopolitics and Lacanian notions of trauma and death. She is also interested in the modalities of Martial Arts and Contact Improvisation.

Louie is a founding member of Factory Floor, a national network of solo female performers. The organisation tours and runs workshops throughout the country. She is touring Moth, (Chapter, Cardiff, Blue Coat, Liverpool and The Show Room, Chichester), she is now developing MothII, with dancer Carrie Whittaker. Louie is about to complete writing the Feature Film, Ash.

Dr Steve Killick

All theories are stories- have the poet and the scientist anything to say to each other?

Science is finding more sophisticated ways of understanding human experience but can it match the complexity that a story contains? The narrative structure of story has been honed by evolution to be a powerful method of communication and great claims are made for the benefits of storytelling. However storytelling is difficult to examine and neither artists nor scientists are interested in such a project. Yet this might miss the potential of understanding the impact of storytelling on the developing mind particularly in the cognitive, social and emotional domains? Do we need a theory of 'family storytelling' to examine this?

Steve is a Clinical Child Psychologist in the NHS and independently with interests in emotional literacy, positive psychology and creative approaches to therapy. He has a background in the performing arts and also works as a storyteller. He uses storytelling in his work as a psychologist and has written considerably on this subject.

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Karen Lewis

Chair: Provocation 2

Karen is Project Leader for Storyworks, which was established at WIHSC at the University of Glamorgan in January 2009 to undertake consultancy and research in the field of narrative and storytelling, with a particular focus on Public Services. She started her career as a teacher of English, Drama and Media before moving into the voluntary sector, where she worked as a Senior Practitioner for Barnardos and Training and Communications Manager for the Special Needs Advisory Project (Wales). She spent some time as a freelance trainer and consultant, undertaking work for a range of organisations including Save the Children, Torfaen Council, Clybiau Plant Cymru, Cardiff Council and Children in Wales.

Karen then joined the BBC in 1999, where she stayed for ten years. During this period she worked in radio, television and new media and was the founder producer of the Bafta Cymru award-winning digital storytelling project, Capture Wales. Her final position at BBC Wales was as Partnerships Manager, with responsibility for relationships with external organisations and BBC Wales' charities broadcasts.

Dr Pat Ryan

Folk and Wonder Tales

Pat's repertoire consists of traditional folk and wonder tales and he'll be telling some of those stories that relate successful and unsuccessful quests for health, happiness and life.

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Pat Ryan is a post-doctoral research fellow at George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling, and has worked as a teacher and professional storyteller for over thirty years. He regularly tours Britain, Europe and the US performing, lecturing and conducting a variety of projects and workshops. Recent notable projects include Kick into Reading, training professional football players and coaches to tell stories to children, various long-term residencies for schools in England and Northern Ireland, including NAWE's Writing Together project and Artforms' Active Learning scheme; these programmes link storytelling, literacy and creative writing by training students, teachers, and other spoken and written word artists. Publications include several academic articles on storytelling and Shakespeare's Storybook, a children's anthology which was awarded the Aesop Accolade by the American Folklore Association. He's also written and performed for various BBC and RTE radio programmes, and BBC 2's documentary on Kick into Reading was recently nominated for an Arts Award at the Celtic Media Festival.

Emily Underwood-Lee

Patience

"I grew some lumps, I grew some lumps, I grew some lumps. One was a baby, two were something more sinister."

Patience explores Emily's experience of being diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant. It traces her emotional journey through the most difficult choices - whether to undertake treatment or protect her unborn baby. Using personal narrative to explore universal themes Patience asks questions about life, death, love, determination, motherhood and what it means to be a woman.

Emily is a researcher and performer. She is Research Assistant at the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling and is also currently studying for a PhD at the University of Glamorgan. Her thesis

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling

The George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Fourth Annual Symposium Storytelling and Science



Image: Wikimedia Commons

concerns the construction of gender and how the female body can be presented and represented in contemporary feminist performance art. Her research interests include performing the body, autobiographical performance and the performance of illness. Emily is a founder member of the Factory Floor creative network for women solo performers/writers.

Professor Michael Wilson

Chair: Provocation 1

Michael Wilson is Head of Research, Professor of Drama and Co-Director of the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling in the Cardiff School of Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Glamorgan. He has particular teaching and research interests in popular, political, community and vernacular forms of performance. His background is in community theatre, in which he has been involved as an actor, director, writer and amateur and also has enjoyed a long and successful career as a professional storyteller. He received his PhD from the University of Exeter in 1997 and has published widely on various aspects of storytelling practice, including two books (*Performance and Practice: Oral Narratives Among Teenagers in Britain and Ireland*, Ashgate, 1997 and *Storytelling and Theatre*, Palgrave, 2005) and numerous articles and book chapters. Mike is also series co-editor for Papyrus, a series of occasional refereed research papers on storytelling. He has translated and produced Brecht's *Leben des Galilei* and is currently involved in major research projects on the French Théâtre du Grand-Guignol with Professor Richard Hand (*Grand-Guignol: The French Theatre of Horror*, University of Exeter Press, 2002; *'London's Grand-Guignol and the Performance of Horror*, University of Exeter Press, 2007) and on the Munich cabaret performer Karl Valentin with Dr Oliver Double from the University of Kent. He is also currently working on a critical volume of translations of the Breton folktales of François-Marie Luzel for Wayne State University Press, which is due for publication in 2011.

George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling Canolfan Adrodd Storiâu George Ewart Evans

ATRium, University of Glamorgan, Adam Street, Cardiff, CF24 2XF
phone: 01443 668631, email: storytelling@glam.ac.uk
www.glam.ac.uk/storytelling