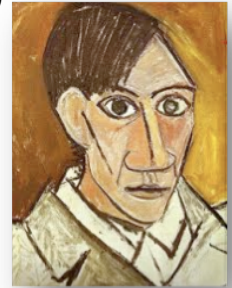




2 *STORIES* and *BOTH/AND Resources* present:
**PURITY VS. PROMISCUITY IN
 THERAPEUTIC PRACTICE:**

***IF REMBRANDT MET PICASSO HOW WOULD
 THEIR CONVERSATION GO?***



**With Sheila McNamee, Ph.D.
 Friday May 20, 2011
 Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis**

Family Therapy has continually confronted choices between polarized positions – structural, strategic, solution-focused, narrative – each one taken up with zeal because it solved an old dilemma but eventually encountering its own limitations. I suggest that we have evolved to a point where, instead of deciding which is better, we can focus on how to use theories, models, & techniques as fluid & flexible resources for action in the therapeutic conversation. Doing so focuses our attention on how we can move in & out of various positions including those that simplify issues & those that embrace complexity. Such promiscuity also positions us to confront our images & expectations of what it means to be “professional,” as we become more “competent” & engaged.

SHEILA MCNAMEE is Professor of Communication at the University of New Hampshire as well as co-founder, Vice President and Board Member of the Taos Institute. Her work is focused on dialogic transformation and she actively engages constructionist practices in a variety of contexts, bringing communities of participants with diverse and often opposing viewpoints together to create livable futures. Among many publications, she is author of *Relational Responsibility: Resources for Sustainable Dialogue*, with Kenneth Gergen.

WHERE:
PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*
 1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
 Minneapolis
 Parking Free; bus routes 2, 10, 11, 17,18, 25, 59, 568

WHEN:
FRIDAY MAY 20, 2011
 8:30 Registration
 9:00-4:30 Workshop
 Lunch on your own 12:00-1:30 (Eat Street!)

** Plymouth is an inclusive & affirming church that welcomes all persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status & faith background, & affirms and celebrates all loving & committed relationships.*

EARLY BIRD RATE POSTMARKED BY 5/2/11: \$65.00!!!

Postmarked by 5/14: \$75.00

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Send check payable to “2 stories” to:

Julie Tilsen
 3609 Harriet Ave
 Minneapolis 55409

Questions???

julie@2stories.com
 BriMi50@aol.com
 Julie--612.462.3707

Certificate of attendance for 6 CEUs

Julie Tilsen and Brier Miller, who are hosting Sheila's Minneapolis visit, asked Sheila to respond to a few questions about the upcoming workshop, *Purity vs. Promiscuity in Therapeutic Practice: If Rembrandt Met Picasso How Would Their Conversation Go?*

Q: Who would this workshop be best suited for?

A: Anyone who is interested in alternative ways of approaching personal, social, and cultural challenges in their work as therapists and in other social service contexts.

Q: What would be some "take aways" from the workshop? How might a client of a participant describe what the participant got from the workshop and how it made a difference in their work together?

A: A client of a workshop participant might notice (in my dream of dreams) that the participant is less "professional" and more "competent" and engaged. My hope is that participants come away from this workshop embracing the conversational resources that are comfortable and familiar for them and that can help them be fully engaged with their clients. My hope is also that participants come to appreciate the power of what we create together and abandon the discourse of individual (or marginal group) pathology.

Q: How did you come to this place of positioning yourself in this way? What about this work most excites you and you would hope most excites others?

A: This is a hard question! Which story should I tell? How did I come to this positioning? From the margins. My narrative of myself is that I am always on the edges and never in the center. This frustrated me until, as a young assistant professor, I realized that being on the edge is the most privileged place to be. From the boundary you can ask the "naive" question (which always turns out to be the provocative question). Seeing a situation in ways that those involved can't see it is not a deficit; it's a generative practice. I find this exciting and hope I can always position myself in the "other" domain. I hope that excites others as well.

Q: In this day of so-called "evidence based practice" how do you stick by your argument for these practices?

A: Luckily, I don't work in a domain that requires EBP..Well, education does, but not in the same way. However, I think the best way to operate in any system that is opposed to one's own worldview is to become curious and respectful toward that "other" worldview. The challenge is to find a way to "go on together" rather than "win" the argument. This would be a very interesting conversation to have in full.....How might we go on together? How can we become/remain curious about approaches with which we disagree? If we seek for others' agreement of our own orientation, aren't we entering into the possibility of constructing the new right way to be? How to keep the conversation going without aiming for agreement or adjudication? That's the challenge.