



Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity

By *Elliot G. Mishler*

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What do we mean when we refer to our "identity," and how do we represent it in the stories we tell about our lives? Is "identity" a sustained private core, or does it change as circumstances and relationships shift? Mishler explores these questions through analyses of in-depth interviews with five craftartists, who reflect on their lives and their efforts to sustain their form of work as committed artists in a world of mass production and standardization.

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Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity By Elliot G. Mishler Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Storylines is as much a narrative of Elliot Mishler's love affair with the crafts and his own craft as a researcher in narratives of identity, as it is a richly textured account of the creative forces in the lives of the five craft artists he interviewed. On the basis of these interviews...[he] concludes that life narratives are not factual histories of the past but rather constructions that can only emerge in the dialogic process of talking about one's life trajectory and personal identity to a participant listener...Mishler's celebration of the craft artist and non-alienated labor is eloquently moral and well worth the effort....Expect to be alternately enchanted, challenged, bewildered, sometimes even disoriented and finally enlightened. (Louise J. Kaplan *American Craft*)

In the last two decades, there has been a significant shift in the study of persons and social life, away from counted-data methods to a focus on the life-story or narrative. Much of this shift has been a result of Elliot Mishler's pioneering contributions. In this newest book, Mishler explores the meaning of the 'hand-made' for artisans devoting their lives to crafts, and in the process, enlarges both theory and method of human science study. This is truly a fascinating, sophisticated, and important study and one unique in showing the significance of taking seriously a reflexive and dialogic perspective in the study of identity. (Bertram J. Cohler, University of Chicago)

In this case, the researcher's affinity with the artists' lives is clear and, to my mind, makes the work on theory more readable and more credible because it emerges from Mishler's own story...ultimately, readers can learn more about difference from a researcher like Mishler, who has carved from more than a decade's research an unusual book that is both personal and professional in scope, philosophy, and evidence. (Claire Badaracco *Journal of Communication*)

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From the Inside Flap

What do we mean when we refer to our "identity", and how do we represent it in the stories we tell about our lives? Do we choose and maintain identity, like a job, or do we constantly change and rework it, like a potter's clay? Is "identity" a sustained private core, or does it change as circumstances and relationships change? In this thoughtful and learned book, a founder of narrative studies in the human sciences and a recognized master of research interviewing explores these questions through analyses of in-depth interviews with five craftartists, who reflect on their lives and their efforts to sustain their form of work as committed artists in a world of mass production and standardization.

The artists describe their families of origin and the families they have created, and the conscious decisions, chance events, and life experiences that entered into the ways they achieved their adult artistic identities. Exploring these continuities, discontinuities, and unresolvable tensions in an analysis that brings new

sophistication to a much-used term, Elliot Mishler suggests that "identity" is always dialogic and relational, a complex of partial subidentities rather than a unitary monad. More a verb than a noun, it reflects an individual's modes of adaptation, appropriation, and resistance to sociocultural plots and roles.

With its critical review of narrative research methods, model of analysis for the systematic study of life stories and identity, and vision of how narrative studies may contribute to theory and research in the social sciences, *Storylines* is an eloquent and important book for narrative psychology and lifespan development.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hattie Jasso:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This *Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Shelly Rodriguez:

This *Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity* usually are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The key reason why of this *Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity* can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed anyone with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this *Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity* giving you an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Mike Gray:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled *Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity* can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Margaret Head:

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someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for your requirements is Storylines: Craftartists' Narratives of Identity this e-book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how does the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book suitable all of you.

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