



NEUROLOGY AND NARRATIVE

History of Science 171

Thursdays, 2-4pm

Science Center 226

(Limited to 15 students)

Anne Harrington

What does it “feel like” to live inside a brain that has been damaged? What role has knowledge of such experience played - or failed to play - in the development of brain science over the past two hundred years? This course probes these questions by juxtaposing narratives “about” brain damage with the science “of ” brain damage. Readings will range from the case histories that launched neurology in the mid-19th-century to the essays of Oliver Sacks.

Week one (September 19): Orientations

- Roy Porter. “The Patient’s View. Doing Medical History from Below.” *Theory and Society*, 14 (1985), 167-174.
- Guenter B. Risse and John Harley Warner. “Reconstructing Clinical Activities: Patient Records in Medical History.” *Social History of Medicine*, 5 (1992), 183-205.
- Hunter, Kathryn Montgomery. “Remaking the Case.” *Literature and Medicine*, 11:1 (Spring 1992) 163-179.
- Rimmon-Kenan, Shlomith (2002). “The Story of ‘I’: Illness and Narrative Identity,” *Narrative*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 9-27

Part one: DOCTORS’ STORIES

Week two (September 26): Phineas Gage: a story for all seasons

- Pogliano, Claudio, “Between Form and Function: A New Science of Man,” in *The Enchanted Loom: Chapters in the History of Neuroscience*, ed. P. Corsi. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991, pp. 144-157
- J. M. Harlow (1848). Passage of an iron rod through the head. *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, 39, 389-393
- H. J. Bigelow (1850). Dr. Harlow’s case of recovery from the passage of an iron bar through the head. *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, 19, 13-22
- J. M. Harlow (1868). Recovery from the passage of an iron bar through the head. *Publications of the Massachusetts Medical Society*, 2, 327-347
- MacMillan, Malcolm, *An Odd Kind of Fame: Stories of Phineas Gage*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000 pp. 175-226.

- Damasio, Hanna, Thomas Grabowski, Randall Frank, Albert M. Galaburda, Antonio R. Damasio "The Return of Phineas Gage: Clues About the Brain from The Skull of a Famous Patient ," *Science*, New Series, Vol. 264, No. 5162. (May 20, 1994), pp. 1102-1105.
- Damasio, Antonio, *Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain*. New York: Putnam Sons, 1994, pp. 3-51 (skim)
- "The Phineas Gage information page," <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/GAGEPAGE/>

Note: we will try to organize a visit this week to the Warren Anatomical Museum at HMS to view the skull of Phineas Gage on display there.

Week three (October 3): Stories about the aphasic

- Harrington, Anne, "Beyond Phrenology: Localization in the Modern Era," in *The Enchanted Loom: Chapters in the History of Neuroscience*, ed P. Corsi. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991, pp. 207-225
- Jacyna, Stephen, "The Discourse of Aphasia," in *Lost Words*. Princeton University Press, 2000, pp. 81-122
- Broca, Paul, "Remarks on the Seat of the Faculty of Articulated Language, Following an Observation of Aphemia (Loss of Speech) First published in *Bulletin de la Société Anatomique*, 6, 330-357, tr. Christopher D. Green. Posted on the "Classics in the History of Psychology" website at York University. <http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Broca/aphemie-e.htm>
- Wernicke, Carl, *The Aphasia Syndrome Complex: A Psychological Study on an Anatomical Basis* (1874), excerpts, pp. 118-144
- Liepmann, Hugo "The Syndrome of Apraxia (motor Asymboly) based on a case of unilateral apraxia," (1900), *Agnosia and Apraxia: Selected Papers of Liepmann, Lange, and Potzl* (Institute for Research in Behavioral Neuroscience), ed. Jason W. Brown. Lawrence Earlbaum, 1988, pp. 155-183 (skim)

Week four (October 10): Stories of brain-damaged soldiers

- Jacyna, Stephen, "Head Wounds," and "Talking Cures," in *Lost Words*, pp. 146-170, 214-230
- Henry Head, *Aphasia and Kindred Disorders of Speech*, 1926, introduction, and selected cases
- Harrington, Anne, "Kurt Goldstein's Neurology of Healing and Wholeness: A Weimar Story," in *Greater Than the Parts: Holism in Biomedicine, 1920-1950*. Christopher Lawrence and George Weisz, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 25-45
- "World War I: Trenches on the web," [<http://www.worldwar1.com/>] and "First World War.com" [<http://www.firstworldwar.com/>]

Week five (October 17): Stories about the hysteric

- Charcot, Jean-Martin, "Hystero-epilepsy: a young woman with a convulsive attack in the auditorium," *Charcot the Clinician: The Tuesday Lessons*, trans. Christopher G. Goetz. New York: Raven Press, 1987, pp. 102-122
- Breuer, Joseph and Sigmund Freud, *Studies on Hysteria*. New York: Basic Books, 1957: "Fräulein Anna O [Breuer]," pp. 21-47, "Fräulein Elizabeth von R, [Freud]" pp. 135-181
- Marneffe, Daphne de. "Looking and listening: The construction of clinical knowledge in Charcot and Freud." *Signs* 17 (1991): 91-112

Week six (October 24):

The rise of the “neurological novel”

- * Luria, A. R., *The Man with a Shattered World: The History of a Brain Wound*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1972
- Hawkins, Anne Hunsaker, "A. R. Luria and the Art of Clinical Biography," *Literature and Medicine* 5 (1986): 1-15
- Sacks, Oliver, "Clinical Tales," *Literature and Medicine* 5 (1986): 16-23.
- Hawkins, Anne Hunsaker, "Oliver Sacks's *Awakenings*: Reshaping Clinical Discourse," *Configurations* 1.2 (1993) 229-245
- * Sacks, Oliver, *The Man who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1985, excerpts
- Cassuto, Leonard, "Oliver Sacks: the P.T. Barnum of the Postmodern World?", *American Quarterly* 52.2 (2000) 326-333.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v052/52.2cassuto.html

FILM EVENING: *Awakenings*, 1990 (time and venue TBA)

☞Note: Midterm essay is due at 5pm on Friday of this week!

Part two: PATIENTS' STORIES

Week seven (October 31): Stories of breakdown and recovery (case study: depression)

- * Frank, Arthur W., "The Restitution Narrative," in *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 75-96
- * Slater, Lauren, *Prozac Diary*. New York: Random House, 1998
- * Kramer, Peter D., *Listening to Prozac*. New York: Penguin Books, 1993 excerpts

Week eight (November 7): Stories of breakdown, loss and mourning (case study: Alzheimer's)

- * Frank, Arthur W., "The Chaos Narrative," in *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 97-114
- * Anderson, Cary Smith, *Partial View: an Alzheimer's Journal*. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1998

Week nine (November 14): Stories about the search for self-knowledge (case study: Tourette's syndrome)

- * Frank, Arthur W., "The Quest Narrative," in *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 115-136
- Chiten, Laurel "Twist and Shout: a documentary about Tourette syndrome," 1994 (film)

☞Note: All students will meet with me this week to discuss research projects

Week ten (November 21): Stories about discovering specialness in difference (case study: autism)

- * Grandin, Temple, *Thinking in Pictures, and other reports from my life with autism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995
- Silberman, Steve, "The Geek Syndrome," *Wired* (9-12-2001)
http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/9.12/aspergers_pr.html
- "Exploring autism," website sponsored by the National Alliance for Autism Research:
<http://www.exploringautism.org/>

⇒Note: second short paper is due by 5pm on Wednesday, November 27, before Thanksgiving (emailed papers will be accepted)

**Week eleven (November 28):
THANKSGIVING BREAK: No class**

**Week twelve (December 5):
Multiple-choice session: with *small-group reports*
(*case study: epilepsy*)**

Each small group will choose a book from the following list, work up its own additional readings to put the book in context, and meet once outside of class to develop its ideas for an in-class report

- Salzman, Mark. *Lying Awake*. Vintage Books, 2001
- Fadiman, Anne, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures*. Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1998.
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor (1871) *The Idiot* (multiple editions) *Note: this is a long novel; prepare accordingly)*
- La Plante, Eve, *Seized: Temporal Lobe Epilepsy as a Medical, Historical, and Artistic Phenomenon*. iUniverse.com, 2000.
- Background for all groups: "Temporal lobes"
<http://www.brainplace.com/bp/brainsystem/temporal.asp>

**Week thirteen (December 12):
Reports on individual research projects
Stock-taking**

No readings

⇒Note: Final research papers are due January 12, 2003, 5pm, in the Department.

⇒Additional housekeeping notes:

All readings for this course are available either as: books on sale at the Coop and on reserve at Lamont (these are marked with an asterisk in the syllabus); as articles that have been placed in a file for you to photocopy in Science Center 235; or as on-line resources. The only exceptions are the choice of books for week 12, that will need to be purchased or borrowed on your own.

For this course, you will write two short essays (5-7 pages), and a research paper (c. 12-15 pages). Guidance will be provided throughout.