

## **Lecture Six: The Evolution of Narrative and the Self**

Narrative has been subject to considerable examination in various disciplines over the last three decades. This lecture considers narrative in relation to “the self,” arguing that more sophisticated forms of narrative support more sophisticated elaborations of one’s inner life. The argument is grounded in the theory of neuro-behavioral mode elaborated by the late Warren McCulloch. Through that theory one can glimpse both the psychoanalytic theory of organ modes (oral, anal, etc.) and contemporary models of distributed computation in neural networks. More sophisticated narrative modes give us more sophisticated means to regulate our behavioral modes. This suggests that story-telling is not ornamental, but is fundamental among the mechanisms that societies use to enculturate their members.

The Evolution of Narrative and the Self

<http://asweknowit.ca/evcult/LitEvol.shtml>