



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Social Work  
Vancouver Campus



Continuing Education and Certificate Programs

## **Narrative Therapy II: Advanced Skills for Reauthoring Conversations in Practice**

**Dates:** November 7, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**CEU:** 6 hours

**Location:** Virtual – Zoom sessions\*

**Cost:** \$180

[Registration link](#)

*\*Zoom link will be provided 72 hours before the start of the course.*

**“What does that say about what is important to you?”**

### **Audience:**

This second-level course is open to social workers, nurses, counsellors, mental health professionals, students and anyone working in the human services field who has a foundational understanding of Narrative Therapy and wants to continue developing and deepening their skills.

Building on the foundational principles of narrative practice, this session will focus specifically on deep and therapeutically meaningful reauthoring conversations - a central practice in Narrative Therapy that supports people to renegotiate their relationship to problem identities and to connect with their values, hopes, competencies and abilities. This includes a deepening of the skills of externalizing and deconstruction of oppressive forces acting on the individual.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in experiential learning focused on the application of clinical skills, with the intention of bringing reauthoring conversations to life.

**Learning objectives:**

1. Develop a deeper understanding of the key theoretical and ethical considerations that inform Narrative Therapy with a focus on the reauthoring process.
2. Understand and apply skills in developing alternative storylines through therapeutic conversations using unique outcome, landscape of action and landscape of identity questions.
3. Evaluate how to integrate reauthoring conversations into the learner's own practice, with attention to both personal and systemic narratives.

**Learning Activities:**

- Didactic lecture and skills instruction
- Group discussion and reflection
- Review of session transcripts
- Guided exercises
- One-on-one skills practice and debriefing

**Subsequent Narrative Therapy courses being planned as part of this series:**

- Narrative Therapy III: Advanced Questions and Navigating Sessions
- Narrative Approaches with People Experiencing Substance Use Challenges
- Narrative Approaches with People Experiencing Disordered Eating Challenges
- Narrative Approaches with People Experiencing Grief and Loss
- Narrative Approaches with Couples and Relationships
- Narrative Practice with Young People
- Braiding Knowledges: Indigenous Framework for Narrative Therapy
- Narrative Therapy Integrative Seminar

**Note:** This course is part of a planned UBC micro-credential certificate in narrative therapy, which is in development. The completion of this course will count toward the completion of this planned certificate program.

## Facilitators:



**Tommy Spence, MSW, RSW (He/Him)** is a therapist and social worker who lives and works on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples. He is interested in social constructionist and collaborative approaches to helping work and has been practicing from a narrative perspective for the past 6 years. Tommy has had the privilege of working alongside people in non-profit, health care and group practice settings. Alongside his therapeutic work, Tommy is a faculty member in the Douglas College Child and Youth Care program and an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia School of Social Work.

**Matty Devenish, MSW, RSW (He/Him)** is a cis-gender settler therapist and social worker from English, Scottish and Swiss ancestry. Matty and his family live in Xwesam (Roberts Creek) which is a community that shares overlapping territories with the Shíshálh (Sechelt) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples. Matty has been working in the counselling field and studying Narrative Therapy for nearly 20 years with over 10 years of working in private practice. He is the co-founder and Clinical Director of Vancouver Counselling and Wellness Centre and is passionate about teaching therapy modalities that assist people in understanding problems within a larger sociopolitical context and which help connect people to meaningful stories about themselves that empower the life they want to live.



**Lara Ellison, MSW, RSW (She/Her)** is deeply grateful to have been living, working, and raising her family as an uninvited guest on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples since birth. Lara and her family live in Xwesam (Roberts Creek) which is a community that shares overlapping territories with the Shíshálh (Sechelt) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples. Lara is of mixed ancestry; her ancestry is Choctaw and European decent. Being raised disconnected from culture, Lara began her journey of identity and understanding as an Indigenous woman in her adult life. Lara has been working in harm reduction, counselling and social work settings since 2006. For nearly a decade, Lara has been working full time in a private practice focusing on using narrative therapy. Outside of work she can be found enjoying time with her partner, three wonderful and hilarious kids and her chickens.