



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
School of Social Work  
Vancouver Campus



Continuing Education and Certificate Programs

### **Narrative Therapy III: Experiential Skill Building for Advanced Practice**

**Date:** April 17, 2026

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

**CEU:** 6 hours

**Location:** Virtual – Zoom Sessions

**Cost:** \$180

[Registration Link](#)

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

#### **Audience:**

This advanced-level course is designed for social workers, counsellors, nurses, mental health professionals, students, and others in the human services field who have prior training and experience in Narrative Therapy. Participants should be comfortable with foundational narrative therapy practices, including externalizing, deconstruction, and reauthoring conversations, and be ready to refine their skills.

#### **Description:**

This third-level training extends beyond foundational and intermediate narrative practices to focus on advanced narrative inquiry. Emphasis will be placed on how practitioners navigate complex conversational terrains with greater nuance, intentionality, and collaboration. Building on the reauthoring skills developed in Level II, this workshop focuses on scaffolding narrative conversations and the interplay between problem deconstruction and building rich counter stories. The intention of this workshop is to help practitioners engage more deeply with the stories that sustain people's preferred identities.

Participants will examine the practices that make narrative conversations richly generative, such as double listening, session scaffolding, and attending to power in therapeutic dialogue. Through immersive experiential learning, participants will practice weaving different types of narrative questions in response to the unfolding of real-time therapeutic interactions and supporting people to connect with their values, hopes and preferences. This workshop aims to provide practical skill development and will include a live therapy session and opportunities to practice developing your own narrative questions.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a deeper capacity to navigate complex narrative conversations by integrating advanced practices such as double listening, attending to power, and balancing deconstruction with the development of rich counter-stories.
2. Understand and apply skills in scaffolding narrative inquiries in real time, including weaving together different forms of narrative questions to enhance preferred identities and support connection to values, hopes, and commitments.
3. Understand and apply advanced narrative techniques, including formulating, refining, and delivering narrative questions with nuance and intentionality.

### Learning Activities:

- Lecture and skills instruction
- Observation of a live Narrative Therapy session
- Group discussion and reflection
- Experiential learning through guided collaborative exercises

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

- 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 and Matty Devenish, MSW, RSW



### Tommy Spence, MSW, RSW (He/Him)

Tommy is a therapist and social worker who lives and works on the unceded territories of the  $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} \acute{y} \acute{a} m$  (Musqueam),  $S \acute{k} w \acute{x} w \acute{u} 7 m e \acute{s} h$  (Squamish), and  $s \acute{a} l i l w \acute{e} t a \acute{t}$  (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)**

Matty 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.

*Cancellation Policy: Learners who need to cancel their registration for a course will be offered a 50% credit up to 14 days before scheduled course, which can subsequently be used for any other course in the Continuing Education and Certificate program. Please ensure that any cancellations are submitted to [sowk.coned@ubc.ca](mailto:sowk.coned@ubc.ca).*