



Presenters: McMahon, Mary
Senior Lecturer, The University of Queensland, Australia

Watson, Mark
Professor, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa

Contact Information: School of Education, The University of Queensland, Brisbane Q 4072, Australia.

email: marylcmahon@uq.edu.au

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About Presenters:

Dr. Mary McMahon is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at The University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia. She teaches in the career development and guidance and counselling specialisations of the Master of Educational Studies. Mary's research focuses on the career development of children, adolescents and older adults, narrative career counselling and qualitative career assessment.

Prof. Mark Watson is a professor in the Psychology Department of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa. He specialises, researches and practises in career, school and adolescent psychology. Mark has published extensively in international journals, has contributed chapters to international career texts, and is on the editorial advisory board of several international career journals.

Both Mary and Mark have considerable experience as career counsellors. Together they have been developing practical ways of using career assessment that enable clients to tell their career stories.

Title of Paper: **Using Quantitative Assessment in Storytelling Approaches to Career Counseling**

Abstract:

Assessment has played a defining and valuable role throughout the history of career counselling. Both quantitative and qualitative career assessment instruments have been used to assist and guide clients in their career decision making. Quantitative career assessment has received greater emphasis than qualitative career assessment.



McMahon and Watson (Continued)

In recent years, there has been a trend to use narrative and storied approaches in career counselling. The construction of stories may assist clients to grow and become more agentic in their career planning. This trend has raised questions about how quantitative assessment may be incorporated into narrative and storied processes.

This workshop overviews the use of narrative and storied approaches and of assessment in career counselling. A criticism of narrative and storied approaches is that they have provided limited practical suggestions for practitioners. The workshop is responsive to such criticisms. It provides practical suggestions about constructing thick and rich stories from career assessment and scaffolding the construction of future stories. In particular, the workshop presents a guided reflection process designed to construct career stories grounded in the three letter code of Holland's Self-Directed Search and in the context of client's life experiences. This workshop will be experiential and model a process that career counsellors may use with their own clients. Consideration will also be given to how the process may be utilised as a training technique by counsellor educators.