

Oedipus Unbound: Heutagogic Journeys Beyond a Working Class Wilderness

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Working Class Academics Conference

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Telling Stories (as context)

Come see me in the mornin'

Can't you see I'm tellin' stories

My sweet angel's everlasting true love ways



**the
charlatans**



Telling Stories (as context)

- Autobiography – story about working class heritage & identity
- Metrics (measurement = W/C)?
 - *History*
 - Obstacles (navigated): school
 - School, control & expectation
- My cultural traces = music, hope & creativity (hence the clips)



Telling Stories (as Prophecy)

Live for the day

I see yo I see your **head is meant to be cemented**

Joe com It's true

When the *stories that you tell* **come back to haunt you**



the
charlatans



I am (was) Oedipus

- Oedipus – The Myth (**Swollen Foot**)
 - Oedipus ankles – bound after birth – prevent prophesy (*kill father & marry mother*)
- My ankles were bound by the rigidities of schooling & immediate culture
- Teachers, the system, its assumptions = bound my ankles (no reference beyond)
- Pedagogy; staid knowledge; testing & 'intelligence'
- Karl Popper *The Poverty of Historicism* (Oedipus Effect)



When the stories that you tell **come back to haunt you**



Telling Stories (as Liberation)

See me go through' changes

Revelations to **blank pages**

I'll find a brighter guide to see me through'



Telling Stories (as Liberation)

- How did I move beyond a heritage that didn't recognise / value: higher education & university?
- In my 20s: **Music**, space and personal discovery (inspired by different knowledge)
- OU – politics, philosophy, sociology ...
- Space to explore & incorporate this in formal educational contexts

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Revelations to **blank pages**

I'll find a brighter guide to see me through'



Telling Stories (as Liberation)

- Space in my experience of academic / teaching practice
- Opportunities for open, reflective & creative learning were created
- My ankles - unbound
- Encounters with learning – inspirational (music, film)



Heutagogy in Action

Self-Determined Learning

Heutagogy in Action

Edited by
Stewart Hase and Chris Kenyon

- Published by Bloomsbury in 2013
- Inspired by the work of Person Centred Therapist, and his approach to Non-Directive Teaching: **Carl Rogers**
- Heuriskein – to self-discover

The *Blank Page* (writing beyond charlatanism)

Michel de Certeau (The Scriptural Economy)

The dynamic power of the 'blank page',
undisclosed hopefulness and possibility

The non-populated blank page harbours a power,
the freedom to create/write something new

Charlatic System

"A system claiming to have a special knowledge of,
and proclaim predictions (of me)"

Imposed alien expectations

Being afforded space to engage with & create
knowledge – utilise my own cultural reference
points ...

Transgress the haunting prophecies



A blank page

Thankyou

Any questions?