

# Re•Storying Autism Fall Newsletter

---

## WRAPPING UP 2020

---

We hope you and those close to you are doing well in these uncertain times. We're sending out an update on the Re•Storying Autism project, with a brief summary of what has been happening since our last update, and what we're looking forward to in the coming months.

## STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS

---

Despite the difficult decisions that were made to postpone both of the originally scheduled story-telling workshops for this year, we were able to adapt to online storytelling! We completed our first online workshop with participants from Manitoba in collaboration with the Re•Vision Centre for Art & Social Justice in August. Dates for the originally planned Sheffield workshop have also been revised to early spring, 2021. Our focus for this online workshop with UK collaborators will be on international and global South participation and leadership, and thinking about decolonizing the project.

## ZINE-MAKING WORKSHOP

---

We have exciting news that the first initiative of the Re•Storying Autism Co-researcher Collective was launched this fall! We've wrapped up a zine-making workshop entitled, 'Autistic, surviving, & thriving under COVID-19: Imagining inclusive autistic futures'. Through this workshop, we've worked with autistic and neurodivergent participants in the creation of their very own zines led by autistic artists, facilitators and the Co-researcher Collective. The zine will be launched after December 3rd on the project website. We are still seeking BIPOC participants for interviews related to this theme – please share our flyer (attached) broadly.

## EVENTS

---

Many other planned speaking events were cancelled due to COVID-19. However, we have been able to pivot to virtual delivery of some events, including a screening with ReelAbilities Film Festival Toronto in early November. We were thrilled to screen 12 films from the project and conduct panel discussions with filmmakers. You can view the films shown at the festival, including some of those we produced online, here:

<https://www.restoryingautism.com/restorying-autism-on-screen>. Patty Douglas and Raya Shields also completed a full day online professional development with over 150 teachers in Brandon, Manitoba using some of the films from the project. Feedback from teachers was very positive, and we have been asked to offer this PD to all educational assistants in Brandon in January!

## WEBSITE

---

We have been working on a new project website and are at the soft launch stage! There are still some pieces we are working on. Take a look and let us know if anything in your bio is in need of an edit <https://www.restoryingautism.com> or if you have any other feedback.



## WEBSITE

---

Multiple writing groups on the project continue to do amazing generative work—these included this fall a chapter on ‘Teacher Talk’ submitted to Routledge’s Critical Autism Studies Handbook; a methodology paper ‘Storytelling Methods on the Move’ submitted to the International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education special issue on Critical Autism Studies Methodologies; and an article forthcoming in the Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies ‘Mad mothering: Learning from the intersections of madness, mothering and disability.’ Watch our Twitter feed for notice of these publications and please share broadly!

## LOOKING AHEAD

---

We will be sending out a call for interest in writing on new papers (policy, interview data, autism and race, media) and working groups (policy group, practice group, decolonizing reading group) early in January.

We will also be looking to bring on an additional staff member to the project in early 2021, to act as project coordinator. Madeleine will be staying on with the project in an advisory and research capacity, but will be scaling back some of her current roles, to pursue her dreams of becoming a medical doctor and completing a PhD.

We have been continuing to work on our social media outreach, using both Twitter and Instagram to generate knowledge and do outreach for the project. Be sure to follow us [@Restorying\\_autism](#) (Instagram) and [@ReStorying](#) (Twitter) for regular updates!

Thank you so much for being a member of this community! We're so thankful we are able to continue to engage with all of you amazing people on this project throughout the year, despite the uncertainty of the current moment. We are so looking forward to continuing this work, and wishing you all deep rest, safety and peace.

Warmest,

Patty & Madeleine