

## The Narrative Practice Hypothesis

**Daniel D. Hutto**

Department of Philosophy  
University of Hertfordshire

[D.D.Hutto@herts.ac.uk](mailto:D.D.Hutto@herts.ac.uk)

<http://www.herts.ac.uk/philosophy/dh.html>

It is argued that a sub-set of narrative practices, those involving stories of a distinctive kind, constitute the true basis of our folk psychological understanding and our everyday skill at making sense of actions in terms of reasons (a practice which I call folk psychology, *sensu stricto*). This is the core claim of the Narrative Practice Hypothesis (or NPH). This talk will elaborate, situate, motivate and defend the NPH against some recent challenges - both from those who favour standard explanations of such abilities in terms of 'theory or mind' mechanisms (where this includes most simulationists) and also those who advocate a radically eliminativist stance on folk psychology. Most importantly, I will defuse the worry that the relevant narrative competency must presuppose mature 'ToM' abilities.

