

Global collaborations to achieve impact through speech pathology. The importance of sharing our stories.

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Session description

In an increasingly connected world, the stories we tell - about ourselves, our experiences, and our communities - hold powerful potential to support and shape participation, identity, and well-being.

The presentation will begin by unpacking what narratives are and why they matter, with a particular focus on *personal narratives* as a universal and foundational form of communication. Personal narratives are central to everyday life: they support individuals of all ages to participate meaningfully at home, at school or work, and within their communities; to build and maintain friendships; and to make sense of the world through listening, reading, and speaking. Despite their ubiquity, personal narratives are often under-recognised in assessment and intervention, even though they are closely linked to both social participation and academic success.

The second half of this talk will introduce the Global TALEs (Talking About Lived Experiences in Stories) Network, showcasing its freely accessible protocol, global reach, and recent developments, along with key future directions. By weaving together global collaboration, research evidence, and the power of storytelling, this keynote will invite speech pathologists to reimagine the role of personal narratives in their work - and to recognise that by valuing and supporting the stories people tell, we can contribute to meaningful change on a global scale.

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- **OSF:** Our project is listed on the Open Science Framework. The protocol itself has been registered <https://osf.io/ztqg6/>