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Legacy of Masters: Honoring the Retirement of Professors Carolyn Ellis and Arthur P. Bochner

(Arthur P. Bochner, Carolyn Ellis, Marcin Kafar, Csaba Osvath, Erin Scheffels, Lisa P. Spinazola, Lisa M. Tillmann)

January 2019 was a special month for social and human sciences in The United States and across the globe. Two events organized in Florida marked a transitional state in which "architects of the rise of autoethnography," namely Carolyn Ellis and Arthur P. Bochner, came on stage to celebrate their passage from being active academics to being active but already retired academics. The first of the above-mentioned events was the *Symposium on Autoethnography and Narrative Inquiry: Honoring the Legacy of Carolyn Ellis & Art Bochner* (Jan. 3–5, Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Pete). It gathered nearly 100 scholars from several continents including, among others, such distinguished figures representing the "narrative movement" as Mark Freeman, Ronald J. Pelias, Laurel Richardson, and Carol Rambo. The latter event —titled *A Meaningful Academic Life: Indefinite, Amusing, Unsettling* (Jan. 25, Gibbons Alumni Center, Tampa)—was organized by the Department of Communication of the University of South Florida, home institution of Professors Ellis and Bochner. Although more modest than the Symposium, given the number of participants, this event was extraordinary in its discussion of what Ellis and Bochner proposed in the past 30 years as their original program of giving a humanistic quality to social sciences. Four generations of people with different statuses (colleagues, friends, research collaborators, and last but not least, students) met then to share personal memories about their (academic) life experiences as lived together with and touched by Carolyn Ellis and Arthur P. Bochner. These participants also gave talks in a form of short autoethnographies in which some nooks and crannies of their professional lives were examined and revealed.

The Reader of this collection has a unique opportunity to get into those stories (*A Meaningful Academic Life: Improvised, Amusing, Unsettling* (A. P. Bochner), *A Meaningful Academic Life: Loving, Fulfilling, Challenging, and Flabbergasting* (C. Ellis)) as well as read the stories contributed by Marcin Kafar, Csaba Osvath, Erin

http://dx.doi.org/10.18778/2450-4491.08.15

Scheffels, Lisa P. Spinazola and Lisa M. Tillmann (*Legacy of Masters: Remarks on Life and Work with Professors Carolyn Ellis and Arthur P. Bochner*)—a cohort of successors commemorating their mentors, teachers, Masters. Additionally, this part of the volume is complemented by two poems by Lisa M. Tillmann who, respectively in 2003 and 2004, published them in "American Communication Journal" to show how influential intergenerational relationships might become if only we are willing to trust each other in the world of Academia.

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Arthur P. Bochner (PhD Bowling Green State University) is Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, University of South Florida. He has published more than 100 articles and book chapters as well as two award winning books, *Coming to Narrative: A Personal History of Paradigm Change in the Human Sciences* (AltaMira Press, 2014) and (with Carolyn Ellis) *Evocative Autoethnography: Writing Lives and Telling Stories* (Routledge, 2016). He is a Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association (NCA) and served as President of NCA in 2007. He has received lifetime achievement awards from the International Association of Qualitative Inquiry and the Ethnography Division of NCA. He has received seven endowed awards for his scholarship and teaching including NCA's Charles Woolbert Award, Bernard J. Brommel Award for pioneering research in family communication, the Samuel Becker Distinguished Service Award, and the McKnight Foundation's William R. Jones Most Valuable Doctoral Mentor Award for mentoring minority students.

Carolyn Ellis (PhD Stony Brook University) is Distinguished University Professor Emerita, University of South Florida. She has established an international reputation for her contributions to autoethnography and the narrative study of human life. Dr. Ellis has published seven monographs, six edited books, and more than 150 articles, chapters, and review essays. She has edited two book series and presented keynote addresses and workshops in sixteen countries. Her most recent book is *Final Negotiations: A Story of Love, Loss, and Chronic Illness Expanded and Revised Edition*. Her numerous national and international lifetime career, scholarly, mentoring and book and article awards include the Charles H. Woolbert Research Award and the Distinguished Scholar Award, both from the National Communication Association (NCA), The Legacy Lifetime Award and best book and article awards from NCA's Ethnography Division, a Lifetime Achievement Award in Qualitative Inquiry and two best book awards from the International Center for Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois.

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