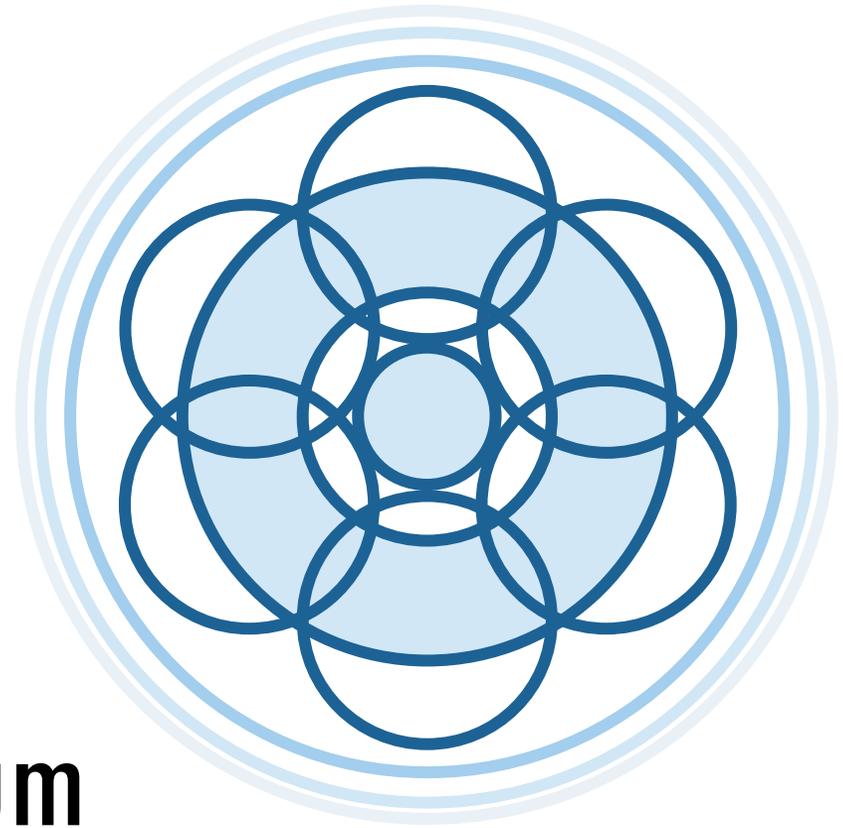


# INTRODUCTION TO THE PNI PRACTICUM

Prelude: A Taste of PNI



## PNI Practicum

A project-based course in participatory narrative inquiry

[cfkurtz.com/pnipracticum](http://cfkurtz.com/pnipracticum)

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License

Copyright 2023 Cynthia F. Kurtz

# ABOUT YOU

Take a moment to introduce yourselves and (quickly) answer these questions:

**Where** are you,  
geographically  
speaking?

Where do you live?

**Why** are you  
here?

What brought you to  
this moment? What  
interested you in this  
course?

What do you want to  
**get** out of this  
course?

What would you like to  
have at the end of it that  
you don't have now?

How much do you  
already **know** about  
PNI?

What about story work in  
general? Research?  
Facilitation? Anything else  
you'd like to mention?

# ONLINE MEETINGS

Your course meetings should take place once a week. Each meeting should be **three hours** long. In each meeting, follow this rough schedule.

## Check in 20 minutes

Talk about what happened when you carried out the previous outside-of-class activity (if there was one). Give everyone a chance to share their experiences.

## Read and discuss 1 hour

Read the week's chapter of ***Working with Stories Simplified*** together. Discuss as you read.

Look for *WWS-S* at [workingwithstories.org](http://workingwithstories.org).

## Sandbox 90 minutes

Participate in the week's sandbox exercise together.

Because this is a self-running course, **someone will need to read the sandbox instructions** before each meeting and facilitate each sandbox session. One or two people can do this for the whole course, or you can all take turns doing it.

## Discuss next activity 10 minutes

Look over the instructions for the next outside-of-class activity (if there is one). Talk about your plans.

# GROUND RULES

## Before the online meetings

If you have agreed to facilitate a sandbox session, **familiarize yourself** with the relevant instructions beforehand.

## During the online meetings

Do **respect everyone's time** and attention. Don't dominate the discussion. Give everyone time to speak.

## In your outside-of-class activities

Do put some time and energy into the activities! You will learn about PNI in this course, but only if you actually **do the work**.

## About other people's activities

**Be respectfully curious.** Ask useful questions. Don't insult or make fun of people or their mistakes.

# YOUR COURSE MATERIALS

## Description

- This presentation, which describes the course.

## Syllabus

- What you will read and do in each week of the course.

## Sandbox Instructions

- How to carry out the sandbox exercises.

## Activities

- What to do (outside of your meetings) each week.

# OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Week 1  
**Introduction and  
Fundamentals**

30+ minutes

Observe conversational storytelling with 2+ **people**. Take some notes on what you see.

Week 2  
**Story collection**

60+ minutes

Facilitate a story-sharing exercise with 3+ **people** who are not taking the course.

Ask your participants to fill out story forms. Add the stories to the course's common document.

Week 3  
**Sensemaking**

90+ minutes

Facilitate a sensemaking exercise with 2+ **people** who are not taking the course.

Take some notes on what happened. Prepare to use the things people built in the next sandbox session.

Week 4  
**Return**

No activity

**Ask a few friends**, colleagues, or family members who are not taking the course to help you do these activities. You can ask the same people every time, different people every time, or a mix.