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978-0-521-84365-2 - Shaping History: Narratives of Political Change

Molly Andrews

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Shaping History

Featuring extraordinary personal accounts, this book provides a unique window through which to examine some of the great political changes of our time, and reveals both the potential and the challenge of narrating the political world. Molly Andrews' novel analysis of the relationship between history and biography presents in-depth case studies of four different countries, which offer insights into controversial issues such as the lifelong commitment to fight for social justice in England; the explosion of patriotism in the post-9/11 USA; East Germans' ambivalent reactions to the fall of the Berlin Wall; and the pressures on victims to tell certain kinds of stories while testifying before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Each of the case studies explores the implicit political worldviews which individuals impart through the stories they tell about their lives, as well as the wider social and political context which makes some stories more 'tell-able' than others.

MOLLY ANDREWS is Reader in the School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, and Co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research, at the University of East London.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521604697

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-84365-2 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-60469-7 paperback

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*For Charlotte and Peter
Long may you ask questions about how the
world works
And continue to care about what is fair*

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Acknowledgements

As this book covers the four main studies with which I have been involved over the past two decades, it would be impossible to list all of those who have influenced my thinking, and helped me along the way. There are some, however, who stand out, those without whom the research would not have been as rich, and may not even have happened.

I wish to thank Wolfgang Edelstein, of the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. From the first moment I described to him the project I wished to pursue, he believed in it, and in my ability to carry it out. His kindness and support were so important to me. Birgit Schmidt and Stefan Walter always made me feel welcome in their home in Berlin where I shared a room with their newborn daughter. They acted as friends, translators, and great supports.

The Women's Studies faculty at Dartmouth College were very welcoming to me during my six months' sabbatical there. Jeff and Maureen Doyle define for me 'the kindness of strangers' by offering my family their wonderful home on the riverbanks in the woods just outside Norwich, Vermont.

Ongoing conversations with Cathy Riessman, Mark Freeman, and Jens Brockmeier have always pushed my thinking further. I thank Elliot Mishler for inviting me to present an earlier version of my patriotism paper (chapter 4 in this volume) to the Narratives Group which met at his home. This was a deeply rewarding experience for me; the feedback I received could not have been more critically supportive and, indeed, helped me to find my own voice narrating the fall-out of 9/11. Corinne Squire and Maria Tamboukou are exemplary colleagues and friends, and our work together building the Centre for Narrative Research has been rewarding in many ways. Anna

x ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Constanstas' help in the final stages of copy-editing was much appreciated. Shirin Rai's careful reading of draft chapters of this book illustrates why she will always be my 'connected critic'.

Thank you to my parents, Joan and Peter Andrews, for bringing their six kids with them to the anti-war demonstrations in the 1970s in Washington, DC; this, and other adventures, instilled in all of us a love of political stories.

Charlotte, Peter, and Ted have kept me sane all the while. I will never forget Peter's question to me as we sat watching the events of 9/11 unfold on the television. Barely four years old, he turned to me and asked 'Mommy, do the baddies think they are goodies?' It might be mother's pride, but I have not heard a more pertinent question than this about those fateful events and what followed in their wake. Peter and Charlotte, your inquiring minds help me to think better.

Finally, and most importantly, I acknowledge those women and men who have participated in my research. All of them gave of their time selflessly, and it is because of this that we have the possibility of looking through the window of their lives onto some of the most tumultuous events of our times.