

*Stories of career
development: Influences
on the career development of
children and adolescents*



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*Symposium on Career Development and
Comprehensive Guidance Programs in Schools
17 January 2009*

Stories of career development



A challenge to consider

*“the construction of a new identity
and the production of a ‘good
narrative’ for career practice in
the 21st century”*

(Watson & McMahon, 2005, p. ix)

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- *Tell me about yourself*
- *What would it be helpful for me to know about you?*
- *What would you like to tell me?*

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“Story is a human universal”

(Cochran, 2007, p. 18)

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Where it all began ...

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A chance event ...

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Stories are constructed in context

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Constructing identity through story

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“Narratives not only portray identity, but they also fashion identity”

(Gibson, 2004, p. 178)

“Identity is both the product and the process of self-narrative construction”

(Botella, et al., 2004, p. 122)

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*Identity may be regarded as
“an internalized and evolving
life story”*

(McAdams, 2001, p. 117)

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*Chance again
and opportunity ...
The Talent Scout*

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*“later experiences are not random
but are themselves a function of
what the earlier experiences
were”*

(Wachtel, 2007, p. ix)

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people

*“live their lives by stories ...
these stories are shaping of life
... they have real, not imagined
effects ... these stories provide
the structure of life”*

(White (1992, p. 123))

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“habits, perceptions, and inclinations that characterize our lives are clearly powerfully shaped by the experiences of our early years”

(Wachtel, 2007, p. ix)

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News of difference ...

Life continues ...

A new story is told ...

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“building a new ‘narrative to live by’ is not simply a matter of inventing a new discourse”

(Gergen & Gergen, 2006, p. 113)

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Future stories must be:

- *believable – clients clearly see the elements of the future story in their role in previous stories*
- *actionable – clients believe the elements can be put into practice*

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Scaffolding:

*Drawing the raw material for the
future story from stories of past
and present experiences*

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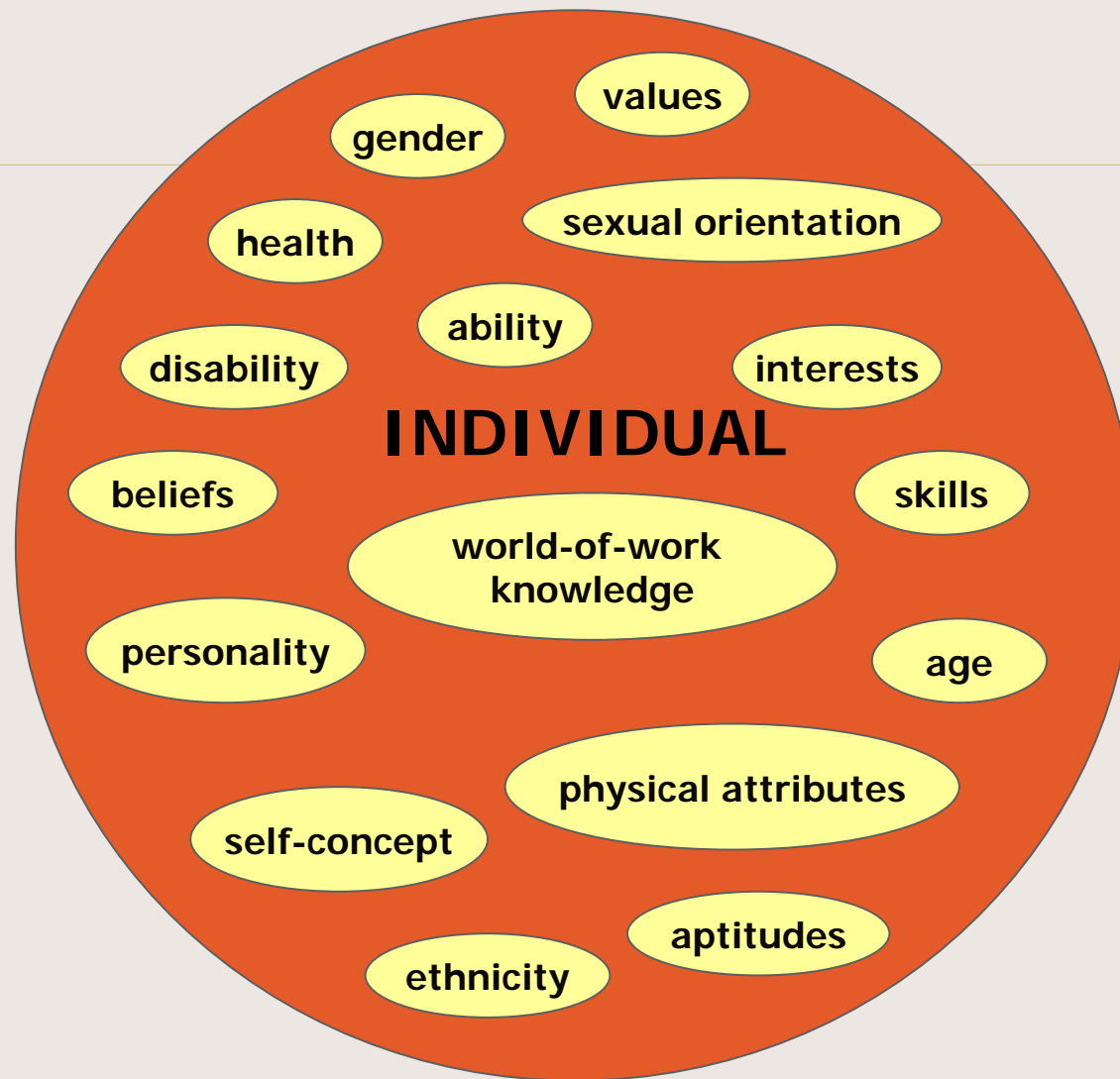
The journey experienced by the storyteller is often more rich than the story they tell

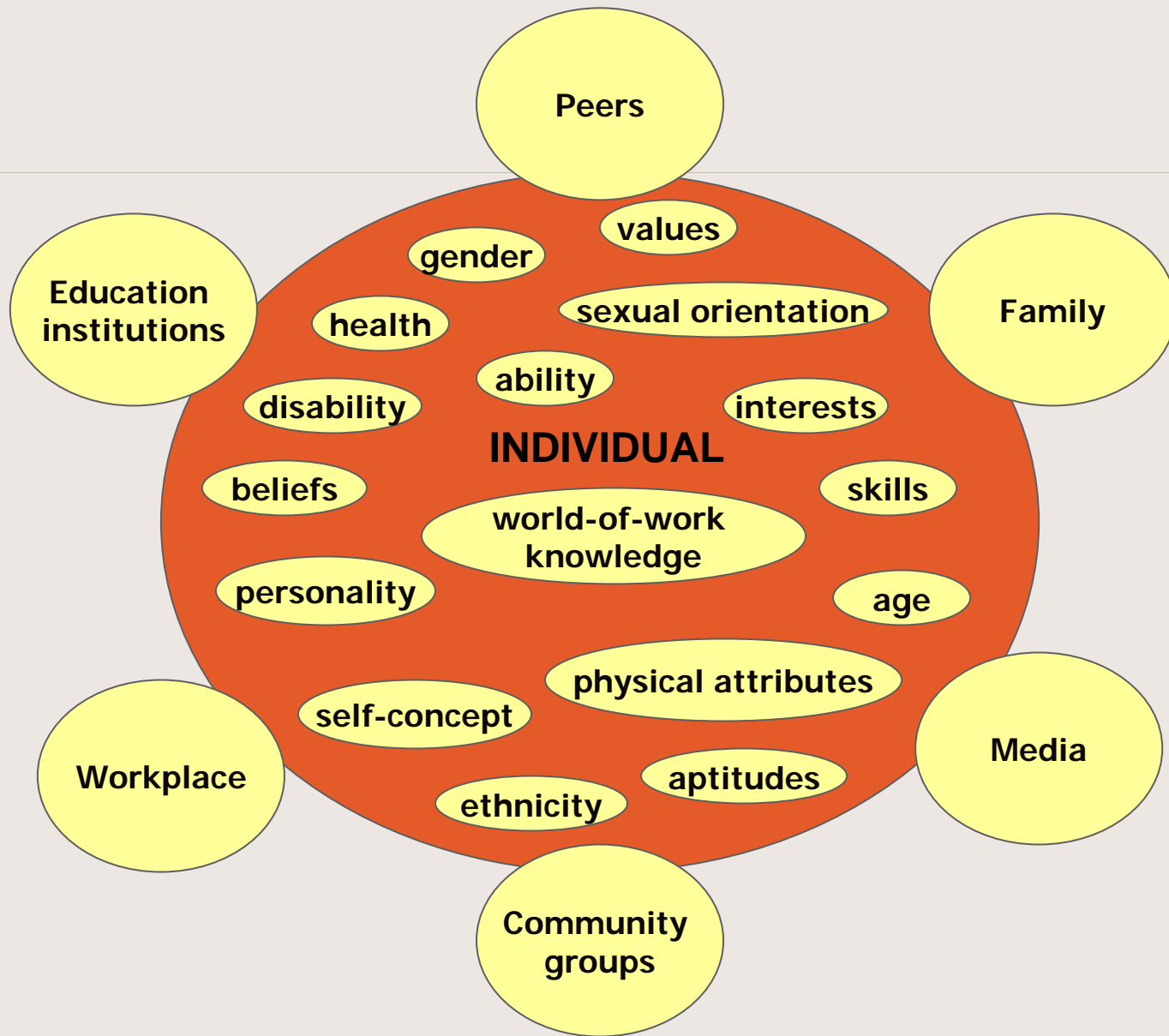
(McMahon, 2003)

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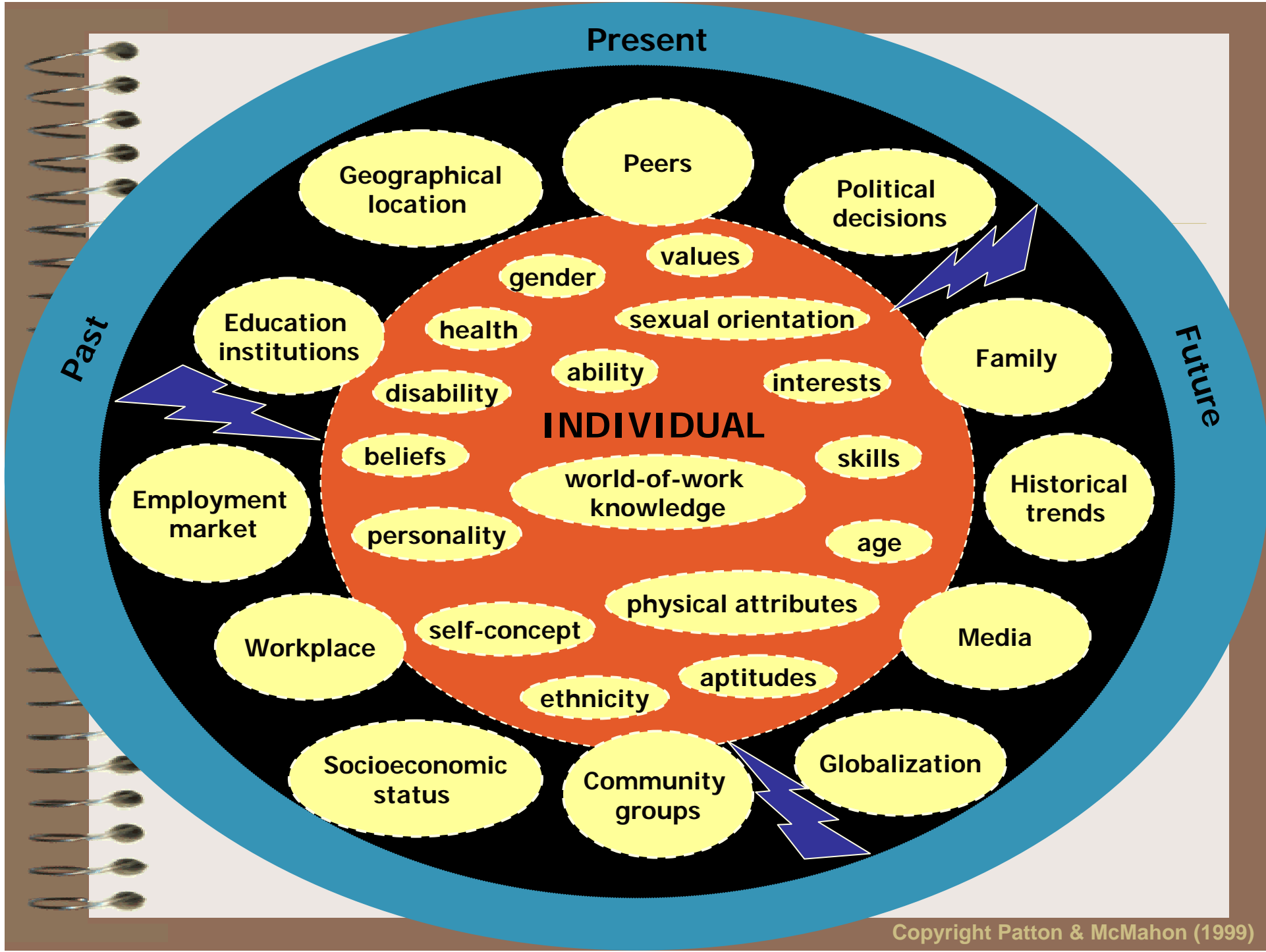
*Life stories:
Sarah
Katie and Ellen*











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New Zealand Research

- *Career as process*
- *Identity production*

(Vaughan, Roberts & Gardiner, 2006)

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“Stories live to be told to others”

(McAdams, 2001, p. 118)

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“There is never a fixed, final, or true life story to tell, nor a single way to tell it, but a plethora of possibilities”

(Botella, et al., 2004, p. 122)

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Our purpose is to assist clients close the gap between

what is, their present story or “the existing state of affairs”,

and

what ought/could/should be, “the desired state of affairs”

(Cochran, 1997, p. 16)

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Our role

“bring these alternate stories out of the shadows and to elevate them so that they play a far more central role in the shaping of people’s lives.”

(White, 1989, p. 19)

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“The starting point for many people in counselling is to be given the opportunity to tell their story”

(Amundson, 2003, p.161)

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*It is through stories that
counselors gain access to a
person's spirit and life theme*

(Savickas, 1997, p. 9)

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Stories are connected in time. The past is inextricably linked to the present and together, past and present provide clues to the future

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Cameron's Stories

Working with the storytellers



We need to:

- *Provide clients with opportunities to fully tell their stories*
- *Adjust and develop new stories that build confidence and emphasize possibility and optimism*

(Amundson, 2003)

Working with the storytellers



Stories may be

- *Told*
- *Untold*
- *Incomplete*
- *Silenced*
- *Unknown*

Working with the storytellers



Developing alternative stories by

- *Thickening thin stories*
- *Looking for exceptions*
- *Seeking stories from other settings*
- *Seeking stories from other times*
- *Seeking stories involving other characters*

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The counselling process

- *Entering the life-space of the client*
- *Creating a space for reflection*
- *Connecting*
- *Meaning-making*
- *Learning*
- *Agency*

(McMahon, 2003)

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Stories have the power to change our thinking, to impact our emotions, and to move us to action

(Amundson, 2003, p. 161)

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Career development is multi-storied

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Thank You

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