

Dr Eric Miller,
PhD in Folklore, MSc in Psychology



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www.storytellinginstitute.org (NGO)

Immediate Goals

To teach in High Schools, Colleges, Universities, and Institutes in Chennai and elsewhere, in-person and via videoconference. Courses taught include: Writing about Literature, Creative Writing (Fiction), Expository Writing (Non-fiction), Storytelling, Public Speaking, The Modern Short Story, USA Drama and Musical Theatre, and The Folktale. Workshops in Colleges include: Folklore, Eco-tourism, Storytelling Therapy, and Writing, Directing, and Acting for Theatre (Drama).

To conduct various types of Storytelling Workshops, including Using Storytelling to Teach/Train regarding the English Language; other Academic Subjects; and Communication, Life, and Soft Skills.

To theorise and practice "Storytelling Therapy" (along the lines of Drama Therapy), for counselling and coaching.

To facilitate videoconferences for Students and Faculty Members.

To develop interactive, collaborative, and project-based teaching-and-learning methods.

Research and Teaching interests

Storytelling (Oral Narrative), in conversation (Conversation Analysis), performance, and ritual. Therapeutic uses of storytelling (storytelling as a healing art).

Ways of presenting Story (Narrative) through various communication technologies.

Story Analysis. Story Writing (Creative Writing). Storytelling. Acting.

Storytellers' visual accompaniments.

Ways to conduct "Storytelling Therapy", one of the Creative Arts Therapies.

Expository Writing (Writing Letters, Research Essays, Persuasive Essays, Dissertations, etc).

History of Communication (oral, literary, and electronic), with an emphasis on Videoconferencing and other forms of Interactive Telecommunication (design, sociological, and regulatory issues). Teaching via Videoconference.

Educational uses of technology. Methods and technologies for teaching written and spoken languages. Methods of simultaneous translation.

Folklore in relation to Education, Tourism, and Business. Eco-Tourism, Cultural Tourism. Tourism Studies and Museum Studies (especially "Living Museums", in which the objects on display are still in everyday use, and are explained by community members).

Culture in relation to Nature, focusing on Tamil Nadu's Sea-Fishing Communities along Tamil Nadu's eastern coast, and Tribal Communities in Tamil Nadu's western mountains.

Silappathikaram (The Epic of the Anklet).

USA Drama and Musical Theatre, 1850 to present.

The Short Story (International, in English language), 1850 to present.

Education

MSc in Psychology, 2019. **University of Madras** (Chennai).

One-year course in "Psychological Counselling," 2016. **Chennai Counsellors Foundation** (Chennai).

PhD in Folklore, 2010. **University of Pennsylvania** (Philadelphia). Dissertation, "*Ethnographic Videoconferencing, as Applied to Songs/Chants/Dances/Games of South Indian Children, and Language Learning,*" www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/280.html .

MA in Cultural Studies, 1996. **New York University**, Gallatin School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Area of Concentration: "Storytelling Studies." Thesis, "Storytelling Accompanied by Visuals," www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/15.html .

BA in Cultural Studies, 1984. **New York University**, Gallatin School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Area of Concentration: "Cultural History of the West." (Also studied towards this degree at Swarthmore College and Oberlin College.)

Work Experience

2019.

Psychological Counsellor.

Specialising in 8-session counsellings for individual teenagers and adults (in-person and via videoconference), utilising principles of Storytelling Therapy, www.storytellinginstitute.org/216.html .

2007 to present (2019).

Co-Founder and Director,

World Storytelling Institute (based in Chennai), www.storytellinginstitute.org .

Conducting *Storytelling Workshops* for Educators, Therapists, Business Communication Trainers, Professional Storytellers, Screen Writers, Parents, Young People, etc.

2013 to present (2019).

Founder and Director,

Chennai Storytelling Festival, www.storytellinginstitute.org/123.html .

July-Dec 2017.

Guest Faculty, **Dept of Journalism and Communication, University of Madras.**

Teaching methods of Research and Writing.

Jan-Dec 2012.

Guest Faculty, **Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology - Madras.**

Courses taught:

Short Story Classics, Jan-April 2012.

Creative Writing, August-Dec 2012.

April 2008 - June 2011.

Professor of Story and Storytelling,

Image College of Animation, Arts, and Technology (Chennai).

Subjects taught: *Storytelling, Story Writing (Short Stories and Screenplays), Public Speaking, Art History, History of Communication Technology, Academic Writing and Research.*

Spring 2002.

Instructor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies, **New York University** (NYC).

Courses taught: Storytelling.

Fall 2001 - Spring 2002.

Fordham University, Department of English, Lincoln Center campus (NYC).

Adjunct Professor.

Courses taught: Expository Writing (twice), Introduction to Literature (twice).

Fall 1998 - Spring 2001

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences (Philadelphia).

Teaching Assistant for Prof Roger Abrahams, Folklore of the African Diaspora, Spring 1999.

Teaching Assistant for Prof Franklin Southworth, Male-Female Communication, East and West, Fall 1998.

Research Assistant for Prof Roger Abrahams, Folklore Program, Fall 1999 - Spring 2001.

Fall 1996 - Summer 1998.

St. John's University, Division of Humanities, Staten Island campus (NYC).

Adjunct Professor.

Courses taught: Public Speaking, Expository Writing (twice), Introduction to Literature (twice), The Modern Short Story (twice), USA Drama, The Folktale.

(Selected) Writings

"Giving Training in -- and Practicing -- a Form of Storytelling Therapy, In-person and via Videoconference" (2019), www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/23.html .

"Fairytale Therapy: A Type of Storytelling Therapy" (2018), www.storytellinginstitute.org/Fairytale_Therapy.pdf .

"Storytelling and Interactive Education" (2017), www.storytellinginstitute.org/23a.html .

"Ways Storytellers are Using Audio- and Videoconferencing for Training, Discussion, and Performance" (2017), a 12-page section of *Storytelling Magazine* (a publication of the USA's National Storytelling Network), guest-edited by Dr Eric Miller, www.storytellinginstitute.org/Teleconferencing.pdf .

"Ways Verbal Play such as Storytelling and Word-games Can Be Used for Teaching-and-learning Languages" (2015), www.storytellinginstitute.org/2015a.pdf .

"Ways Storytelling can be used for Teaching-and-Learning" (2015), www.storytellinginstitute.org/2015e.pdf .

"Child Development, Arts Therapies, Education -- and Storytelling", *Teacher Plus Magazine* (Hyderabad), Nov 2014, www.storytellinginstitute.org/888.pdf .

"Marina Beach Deserves a Living Museum", *Deccan Chronicle*, Chennai edition (10 Nov 2013), www.storytellinginstitute.org/12.jpg .

"Storytelling in the Age of Videoconferencing", *New Moment Magazine for Art and Advertising* (Belgrade, Serbia; and Ljubljana, Slovenia) (Nov 2013), www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/55.pdf .

"Videoconference Interviews in the Folklore Classroom", *Folklore and Education E-Newsletter* of the American Folklore Society, Spring 2008, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/7.pdf .

"In Praise of Citizen Kannagi", *The Hindu* (Chennai edition), Op-Ed Article, June 16, 2006, p. 13, www.storytellinginstitute.org/14.pdf .

"Public Presentation of Folklore: Politics of Technology, Culture, and Discourse". In *Folklore as Discourse*, M.D. Muthukumaraswamy, ed., Chennai, National Folklore Support Centre, 2005, pp. 211-27, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/23.pdf .

"The Asian Century of Folklore Scholarship: Reflections on the Chennai Conference". Editorial in *Indian Folklife* (the Newsletter of India's National Folklore Support Centre, Chennai) Vol. 3, No. 2, (March 2004), pp. 3-6, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/16.pdf .

"Cultivating a Forest Language: Development Ideas for Kani Tribal People of Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari District", co-authored with Velmurugan Kani. In the *Proceedings of the First Annual Conference of the Kanyakumari Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Nagarcoil, 2004, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/22.pdf .

"The Public Sphere, Folklore, and Interactive Telecommunication in Rural India". In *Folklore, the Public Sphere, and Civil Society*, Molly Kaushal and M.D. Muthukumaraswamy, eds., New Delhi and Chennai: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, and National Folklore Support Centre, 2004, pp. 303-12, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/8.html .

"Book Review: Changing Tribal Life: A Socio-Philosophical Perspective", *Indian Folklore Research Journal* (Chennai), Vol. 1, No. 3 (2003): 113-118, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/8.pdf .

"Child's Play, Language Teaching and Learning, and Videoconferencing", *Madhyam: Issues in Culture, Communication, and Development*, Bangalore, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Oct. 2003): 13-19, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/6.html .

"Tamil Nadu's *Silappathikaram* (Epic of the Anklet): Ancient Story and Modern Identity". Self-published booklet, Madras, 1991, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/18.html .

(Selected) Paper Presentations, and Workshops

30 Nov 2018.

One-day Workshop on **"Using Storytelling and other Verbal Arts -- including Rhymes, Puns, and Melodic and Rhythmic Speech -- to Teach English Language"**, English Dept, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT). Photo: www.storytellinginstitute.org/87.jpg .

21 March 2017.

Workshop on **"Storytelling Therapy"**, Social Work Dept, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

20 September 2013.

"The Value of the Multi-Discipline Approach to Research", Kanyakumari Academy of Arts and Sciences, Annual Meeting. www.storytellinginstitute.org/28.pdf .

2 August 2011.

"Aspects of the Storytelling Revival in India".

Seminar on Dynamics of Religious Trajectories: Continuities and Changes, Traditions and Improvisations", at **MOV Vaishnav College for Women**, Department of Sociology, Chennai. www.storytellinginstitute.org/123.pdf .

24 June 2010.

"Methods and Options for Videoconferencing in Relation to the Tamil Language", International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil, at the **Chemmozhi Conference**, Coimbatore. www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/28.pdf .

21 April 2010.

“Educational Uses of Videoconferencing”. Conference on Embedding Information and Communication Technology in Higher Education, at **N.K.T. National College of Education for Women**, Dr Besant Road, Triplicane, Chennai.

11 February 2009.

“Storytelling and Place: The Sea-Fishing Communities of Chennai”. Conference on Regionalism and Nationalism in Literature, **University of Madras**, Department of English.

7 December 2009.

“Story and Storytelling Tourism: Kinds of Eco-Tourism”. Conference on Environmental Issues in Emerging and Advanced Economies: Canada and India. At **Gujarat University**, Ahmedabad.

16 September 2009.

“Storytelling Eco-Tourism, and the Places of Kannagi Tour”. Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability in India and Canada: Approaches and Strategies, at **University of Madras**.

5 January 2007.

“Cultural Tourism in Chennai's Fishing Villages”. Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, at **University of Madras**.

20 July 2006.

“Storytelling and Videoconferencing”. Keynote Speech, Storytelling in Higher Education Special Interest Group Pre-Conference, **USA National Storytelling Conference**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

20 June 2006.

“Ethnographic Videoconferencing”. Guest Lecture, **Stella Maris College**, Department of Sociology, Chennai. www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/44.pdf .

28 July 2005.

“Nature and Language: Nature-related Proverbs of Kanikaran Tribals”. Guest Lecture, with co-presenters, Velmurugan Kani, and Rajammal Kani. Association of British Scholars (Chennai Chapter), and Department of Tamil Language. **University of Madras**, Marina Campus Auditorium. www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/22.pdf .

21 August 2003.

“Chennai and Videoconferencing”. International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil, Chennai, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/07.html .

27 September 2002.

“Videoconferencing and the Teaching of Tamil Language and Verbal Arts”. International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (annual conference), San Francisco, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/87.html .

16 August 2000.

“The Performance Tradition of Villupattu in Rural and Urban Contexts”. Guest Lecture, **University of Madras**, Department of Tamil Literature.

10 August 2000.

“Storytelling in Different Cultures”. Guest Lecture, **University of Madras**, Department of Indian Music.

21 October 1999.

“Videoconferencing for Folklorists”. **American Folklore Society** Annual Meeting, Memphis, Tennessee, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/52.html .

Recordings

Links to recordings of 19 videoconferences co-facilitated by Dr Eric are at www.storytellinginstitute.org/av.html .

References

Regarding Dr Eric's Storytelling 8-session Workshop via Videoconference, 2019, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/22b.pdf .

Regarding Dr Eric's Storytelling Therapy Workshop at Stella Maris College (Chennai), 2018, www.storytellinginstitute.org/63a.pdf .

Regarding Dr Eric's Storytelling Therapy Course via Videoconference, 2018, www.storytellingandvideoconferencing.com/22a.pdf .

A report written by two teenage Storytelling-Instructor Trainees regarding the April 2013 WSI Storytelling Summer Camp for Children (ages 6-years-and-above) in Chennai they attended is at www.storytellinginstitute.org/63.jpg .

Additional references available upon request.

Biographical Note

Dr. Eric Miller was raised in New York City, was trained as a Folklorist in Philadelphia (at the University of Pennsylvania), and has settled in Chennai.