



Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics

A Journal of Qualitative Research

Call for Stories

Living with Mental Health Challenges: Personal Stories of Recovery from Across the Globe

Symposium Editor Melis Alkin, PsyD, MA

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics will publish a collection of personal stories from individuals who live with serious mental health challenges that are sometimes diagnosed as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other conditions. Such challenges are often persistent, lead to stigma and discrimination, and can deeply affect quality of life. Serious mental health challenges are frequently approached as life-long medical conditions, given a diagnosis, and treated with medications. However, some pursue non-medical treatments, peer support, use diet and exercise to promote wellness, embrace models of recovery, and function well even when symptoms persist. Approaches often differ across nations, depending upon their resources and philosophy of mental health challenges.

We want true, personal stories from people living with mental health challenges. We want to represent a wide variety of experiences and approaches. **Please share this invitation and guide sheet with appropriate individuals.**

In writing your story, please consider these questions:

- What sort of mental health challenges have you experienced, and how have they affected your life?
- How have you approached living with or recovering from mental health challenges? What has worked well for you? What has not worked well?
- Have you experienced stigma or bias due to your mental health challenges? How has this affected your well-being?
- What advice would you give to someone who is experiencing serious mental health challenges for the first time in their life? What advice would you give to their family, friends, and healthcare providers?

You do not need to address each of these questions—write on the issues that you think are most important to share with others. If you are not a writer, tell your story in your own words and our editorial staff will help you.

If you are interested in submitting a story, we ask you first to submit a 300-word proposal—a short description of the story you want to tell. Inquiries or proposals should be sent to the editorial office via email: narrativebioethics@gmail.com. We will give preference to proposals received by **March 17th, 2021**. If your story is invited, we will ask you to submit it within 6 weeks of the invitation. Final stories are 4 – 10 double-spaced pages or 800 – 2000 words.

For more information about the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*, the guidelines for authors, and privacy policies, visit our webpage at <https://nibjournal.org/submit/guidelines/#symposia>

We plan to publish 12 stories on this topic in our print edition; additional stories may be published as online-only supplemental material. We also publish 2 – 4 commentary articles that discuss the stories that are published in the journal. To see a finished symposium, please visit *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics'* page on [Project MUSE](#) and click on the unlocked, open-access issue.

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