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**The Stories Then, the Stories Now, and the Next Stories: An Auto-ethnographic Exploration of Personally Motivated Narrative Research**

Once upon a time, the researcher, who was a parent to adolescents, deeply desired to find and implement methods that would support her adolescents in their transition into adulthood. An approach adopted by the researcher, borrowed from her professional experiences with hundreds of adults, professed the intention of supporting the growth and development of adolescents through a process of meaning formulation through the appreciative reflection upon, and curious inquiry into, the adolescents' stories. The propositions undergirding the approach addressed a hope that the adolescent would deepen his/her self-trust, becoming self-sufficient and able to know what is right for him/her through processes that were espoused to be affirmative, communal, and ongoing. In her search and research, the author utilized a narrative approach to attempt to realize these objectives, as well as to codify an approach that could be taken by adults as they helped adolescents take the events in their lives and relate them to self-determined goals. The narrative approach was formally examined for its feasibility through the explication and demonstration of the method before a group of 46 women. The participants of the study were attending a conference sponsored by the Hazelden Foundation and the Betty Ford Center for women in recovery from alcohol dependency and other addictions. The site for the original study was selected due to congruence between the intent of the study and one of the intentions of the conference: fostering developmental relationships. The auto-ethnographic study reported herein, undertaken fourteen years after the original study, delves into the stories of the researcher, as opposed to the stories of others, as a means of excavating meaning and laying bare the next stories.