

27 April 2008

PRESS RELEASE

SHARE YOUR LIFE STORIES AS SUSSEX CELEBRATES GLOBAL LIFE STORY DAY

Come and share your life stories and join a global story-telling chain when the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research at Sussex celebrates the inaugural annual International Day for Sharing Life Stories from 12 noon until 2pm on Friday, 16 May at the university's Library Square.

Events to share and gather life stories will take place in Africa, Australia, Europe, India and in North and South America. More than 200 individuals and organizations, including the British Oral History Society and Studs Terkel, have endorsed the establishment of the International Day for Sharing Life Stories. You can add your support at internacional@museudapessoa.net.

"Life story-telling is more and more popular and increasingly being recognised as central to personal and community wellbeing," says Margaretta Jolly, co-director of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research at Sussex.

"Sussex has an exceptionally strong tradition of life history research, including our unique autobiographical research project at the Mass Observation Archive.

"We'll showcase our work and invite everyone to find out more about telling their lives in a variety of ways on the day.

"Community oral histories, autobiographical or biographical writings, family albums, health stories, blogging and digital networks are tools for collective memory-making and popular representation. We believe that they can be a powerful way for communities and groups to find identities and to educate or lobby for social change."

The International Day for Sharing Life Stories was launched by The Museum of the Person International Network (Brazil, Portugal, USA and Canada) and the Center for Digital Storytelling (USA).

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NOTES TO EDITORS: The campaign to create an International Day for Sharing Life Stories was launched by The Museum of the Person International Network (Brazil, Portugal, USA and Canada) and the Center for Digital Storytelling (USA) and has already gathered the support of a wide range of organisations and individuals, including the British Oral History Society, PANOS Oral History, the Indian Dreamcatchers Association, SHANDS Arts in Medicine, the Kenya Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health, Paul Thompson, Dave Eggers and Studs Terkel.