

Narrating our pasts - the social construction of oral history

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Narrating Our Pasts: The Social Construction of Oral History

It is certainly a book which serious students of oral genres should have on their book-shelves. The argument is illustrated through a wide range of examples of memory, narration and oral tradition, including many from Europe and the Americas, and with a particular focus on oral histories from the Jao Kru of Liberia, with whom Elizabeth Tonkin has carried out extensive research. This study looks at how oral histories are constructed and how they should be interpreted, and argues for a deeper understanding of their oral and social characteristics.

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Tonkin also draws on and integrates the insights of a range of other disciplines, such as literary criticism, linguistics, history, psychology, and communication and cultural studies. Oral accounts of past events are also guides to the future, as well as being social activities in which tellers claim authority to speak to particular audiences.

Narrating Our Pasts: The Social Construction of Oral History

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It points throughout towards novel avenues of thought and interesting angles on a fascinating collection of oral and literary sources. Elizabeth Tonkin looks at how oral histories are constructed and how they should be interpreted. Seller Inventory AAV9780521484633 Book Description 1995.

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