



JOHN MCKENDY MEMORIAL
LECTURE ON NARRATIVE

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KINSELLA AUDITORIUM
MCCAIN HALL

HOW TO COUNTER A COUNTERSTORY (And Keep Those People in Their Place)

“A counterstory is a story that is told for the purpose of resisting a socially shared narrative that purports to justify the oppression of a social group. The socially shared story—I call them master narratives—enters the tissue of stories that constitute the group’s identity, damaging that identity and so constricting group members’ access to the goods on offer in their society. I will explore some of the difficulties that arise when a counterstory sets out to repair that identity, and why the master narratives are so difficult to uproot.”

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