

SANCTUARIES OF ATTENTION
With special guest MARINA WARNER
6 November 2026

2026-11-06 14:02:21 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Woot woot New York!

2026-11-06 14:02:32 From margaretwertheim to Everyone:
hi rebecca !!!!

2026-11-06 14:02:44 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Welcome Coalition, Sanctuary, and Attention Atlas friends!!

2026-11-06 14:13:01 From Mary Caputi to Everyone:
What does “thunder dunk” mean?

2026-11-06 14:13:48 From Holmes, Brooke to Everyone:
Jessica, Emily (and others!): brh226@pitt.edu

2026-11-06 14:14:03 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Replying to "What does “thunder dunk” mean?":
Just an extremely powerful dunk in basketball!

2026-11-06 14:14:11 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Just wanted to give a shout out and local thank you for nick plante for his work on creating his nyc off tech emailer . Thank you nick! nycofftech@buttondown.email

2026-11-06 14:14:12 From asú marques to Everyone:
Kathleen, I was gonna mention that I attended a weaving workshop and talked about that original art of programming 🙂

2026-11-06 14:14:15 From David Landes to Everyone:
Replying to "What does “thunder dunk” mean?":
from Zeus or Tesla

2026-11-06 14:14:44 From Kathleen Quaintance to Everyone:
Replying to "Kathleen, I was gonna mention that I attended a we...":
Yesss!!!! <3 The original binary language is warp and weft :)

2026-11-06 14:14:50 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
Very experimental, zoom-as-art-space vibe

2026-11-06 14:15:07 From Yves Citton to Everyone:
I read Marina's book Fantasmagoria when it came out in 2012 (I think), and loved it! Thanks Marina!

2026-11-06 14:18:01 From Ifeanyichukwu Sunday to Everyone:
A thunder dunk is a powerful, forceful Basketball dunk where a player jumps high and slams the ball through the hoop with great strength.

2026-11-06 14:18:32 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:
A screen sharing a screen sharing a screen!

2026-11-06 14:21:28 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Eleanor@sustainedattention.net !

2026-11-06 14:22:03 From asú marques to Everyone:
Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3 members who took part in the Att and Democracy course and will be sharing what they learned 🙂

2026-11-06 14:22:30 From Salomé Beltrán Valdés to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Asú! eu gostaria de fazer parte!

2026-11-06 14:22:32 From Ingrid to Everyone:
Educators for Attention:

https://www.schoolofattention.org/education-for-attention

2026-11-06 14:22:40 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Me manda um oi! asu8@riseup.net

2026-11-06 14:22:43 From Luisa Dantas to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Eu também!

2026-11-06 14:22:50 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Replying to "Eleanor@sustainedattention.net !":
Apply to join Study Corps NYC: https://www.schoolofattention.org/open-positions

2026-11-06 14:22:58 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Ou zap 11 991326445

2026-11-06 14:23:04 From Luan Richard Capello to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Vou mandar tbm 🙂☺️

2026-11-06 14:23:09 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next “Brazilian First Friday” will be led by 3...":
Boraaa

2026-11-06 14:24:01 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Join the Coalition!
https://www.schoolofattention.org/join-our-coalition
Chat with me: gwen@sustainedattention.net

2026-11-06 14:25:15 From margaretwertheim to Everyone:
Hi Peter in Boston. Anyone who's in Boston over next few months please visit our "Crochet Coral Reef" exhibition at MIT Museum. The Reef project is a vast global exercise in attentional practice, now with over 30,000 participants in 50+ cities worldwide - its been going for 21years.

2026-11-06 14:28:35 From Donica Bettanin (she/her) to Everyone:
Love the language of "attentional etiquette"

2026-11-06 14:29:13 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
I'm in a library!
Right now :) thank you nick plante :) even here, it's a. Bit odd being on my zoom call . it's a complex subject :)

2026-11-06 14:29:30 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "Our next "Brazilian First Friday" will be led by 3...":
Link para entrar no grupo: https://chat.whatsapp.com/BwM0uJ7kpswFIorseuaA2c?mode=gi_t

2026-11-06 14:29:55 From Amanda Huron to Everyone:
Temperance Alley garden is amazing. Please visit it if you're ever in DC…

2026-11-06 14:32:19 From Jillian Impastato to Everyone:
Not affiliated with this project, but I'm obsessed https://www.erlinghope.com/still-small-voice

2026-11-06 14:32:44 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
sanctuary@sustainedattention.net if you're working on a sanctuary, or if you want to be!

2026-11-06 14:33:32 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
https://dgrahamburnett.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Annals-of-the-New-York-Academy-of-Sciences-2025-Burnett-Attention-sanctuaries-Social-practice-guidelines-and.pdf

2026-11-06 14:33:34 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "sanctuary@sustainedattention.net if you're working...":
Do you have or are you preparing a collection of all the examples you shared?

2026-11-06 14:33:56 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "https://dgrahamburnett.net/wp-content/uploads/2013...":
It's a great article! On spottttt

2026-11-06 14:34:01 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
Replying to "sanctuary@sustainedattention.net if you're working...":
Yes! Working on a report with a number of examples to be released Mid-December or so!

2026-11-06 14:34:43 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "sanctuary@sustainedattention.net if you're working...":
My research on designing att experiences thanks you 🙂

2026-11-06 14:35:19 From Donica Bettanin (she/her) to Everyone:
billionaires come thru!!!

2026-11-06 14:35:36 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
(Also if you are a billionaire, I have a mortgage…just sayin…) 🙂

2026-11-06 14:35:40 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:
"Not all billionaires..."

2026-11-06 14:35:46 From Yves Citton to Everyone:
Replying to "https://dgrahamburnett.net/wp-content/uploads/2013...":
French translation of the article on Attention sanctuaries (now paying, but free open access in a few months: https://shs.cairn.info/revue-multitudes-2026-2-page-90?lang=fr

2026-11-06 14:36:01 From Jovi de la Jara to Everyone:
Replying to "(Also if you are a billionaire, I have a mortgage……":
I need new shoes too

2026-11-06 14:36:07 From Ana Cristina (Tininha) to Everyone:
Asú, would you send your message about the group again, please? I missed it as I lost connection for a couple of minutes, but I'd love to read about it. Obrigada!

2026-11-06 14:36:20 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
Replying to "sanctuary@sustainedattention.net if you're working...":
@asú marques sweet! Email me and we'll talk more abt it

2026-11-06 14:36:21 From asú marques to Everyone:
Replying to "Asú, would you send your message about the group a...":
https://chat.whatsapp.com/BwM0uJ7kpswFIorseuaA2c?mode=gi_t ;)

2026-11-06 14:36:32 From Ingrid to Everyone:
For any and all billionaires and friends of billionaires (and attention activists connected with fundraising) reach out to me at Ingrid@sustainedattention.net !

WARMUP EXERCISE

2026-11-06 14:40:05 From Nisha Waghmare to Everyone:
I have my dog sitting next to me, and made me emotional NOTICING that we both are sharing this space in time.

2026-11-06 14:40:07 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
I'm In a room full of boxes and chaos (just got to a new apartment)—but it suddenly felt very serene and connective to be here during this

2026-11-06 14:40:10 From Ron Broglio to Everyone:
Note to arrange furniture to be hospitable to others.

2026-11-06 14:40:12 From Eno to Everyone:
Grateful to have a roof over my head on this rainy night and food in the fridge!

2026-11-06 14:40:20 From Kathleen Quaintance to Everyone:
It feels good to recognize the others that make my space possible!

2026-11-06 14:40:28 From Ateliers Jardin des Muses to Everyone:
I see Dorottya talking with Kashif and its a lovely sight

2026-11-06 14:40:33 From Amelia to Everyone:
Walking across NYC in rain listening attentively to Zoom while also flitting visual attention everywhere. Can they both exist simultaneously? Is that possible?

2026-11-06 14:40:35 From Emily Zeamer to Everyone:

That clutter (busy, cozy, distracting) makes me remember how sanctuary must be tended.

2026-11-06 14:40:36 From Reva Baste-Bania to Everyone:
I'm struggling with how to bring the people I live with into my own attention practice, and how to help them commit to it fully.

2026-11-06 14:40:38 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
suddenly Marie Kondo's invitation to "does this spark joy?" felt a bit more accessible !

2026-11-06 14:40:47 From David Landes to Everyone:
I need to fix this icy AC for others!

2026-11-06 14:40:51 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
I did indeed have an intense experience — we live up on a roof in Manhattan, and on Monday of this week, a man made it up here to jump, and Alyssa, my partner, talked him off the wall...

2026-11-06 14:40:57 From Donica Bettanin (she/her) to Everyone:
Moved to realize what changes when I think about opening instead of containing. Grateful for all that I have, and have to offer

2026-11-06 14:40:57 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
It was kinda overwhelming...

2026-11-06 14:40:58 From Brian Hosmer to Everyone:
Turned off lights, petted my dog. Considered how this space, my workspace, is a sanctuary for me that can be open to others.

2026-11-06 14:40:59 From Jillian Impastato to Everyone:
I am at my desk in a bigger office where students and faculty come and go throughout the day. My desk is the bigger space but I am facing my boss's desk who is in a smaller room but with a window (kind of like a radio recording booth). It is a welcoming space because we have a lot of student art on the walls (I work at an art school).

2026-11-06 14:41:01 From Marina Warner to Everyone:
I am in a college which Is hard to belong to. A worrying aspect of my sancctuary- who to open doors.

2026-11-06 14:41:05 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
And I imagined people coming over and digging through the various odd books i've collected…

2026-11-06 14:41:08 From Mary Caputi to Everyone:
I'm in a bedroom cum study with lots of books. It will become a guest room again when my daughter arrives at Christmas. I want it to be a homey space for her, not just a scholarly space.

2026-11-06 14:41:12 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
Our place was "not for him" — in a way that really cut...

2026-11-06 14:41:14 From Ben F to Everyone:
interesting that all the elements of the space which felt like sanctuary for me or others were temporary elements of the space: decorations, posters, photos, etc.

2026-11-06 14:41:15 From Salomé Beltrán Valdés to Everyone:
I've been putting off turning my studio into a more pleasant space for years, but the idea of turning it into a sanctuary for mindfulness just clicked for me

2026-11-06 14:41:22 From Max Wix to Everyone:

I imagined people hanging out on the floor, I'd like to get some floor pillows

2026-11-06 14:41:27 From Luan Richard Capello to Everyone:
Senti paz e segurança no meu espaço de trabalho e ver minhas colegas nele me encheu de compaixão

2026-11-06 14:41:29 From Yves Citton to Everyone:
It sometimes seems easier to share a sanctuary with domesticated four-legged friends then with two-legged featherless critters...

2026-11-06 14:41:30 From Jovi de la Jara to Everyone:
I'm currently traveling by bike from Alaska to Chile with Miño (a dog), and I've been hosted several times during my trip. I've been thinking and talking a lot about hospitality. Now I'm in Vancouver Island in Gordon's house, a teacher that opened his house to me and I'm making the connection between hospitality and attention, and how every person who has opened their house for me has created a special sanctuary for Miño and me

2026-11-06 14:41:36 From CJ The X to Everyone:
Noticing if I cook nice meals for myself I will cook nice meals for others. If not a sanctuary for self then it's not really a sanctuary for others. Has to be both. Just consuming for self doesn't a sanctuary make. Has to be very caring within to be so without

2026-11-06 14:41:36 From Sara McCrea to Everyone:
Thinking about how rain outside makes the inside become a specific kind of sanctuary

2026-11-06 14:41:38 From margaretwertheim to Everyone:
i see the beauty of my delicate crystalline new apartment where i feel so at home in my self. And with my Cat - spirit being of my heart.

2026-11-06 14:41:45 From Renee Bryant to Everyone:
thinking about my space as a sanctuary for others gives me a deep feeling of excitement for connection and hosting

2026-11-06 14:42:01 From Jovi de la Jara to Everyone:
Replying to "It sometimes seems easier to share a sanctuary wit...":
I was just looking at my dog and thinking about that!

2026-11-06 14:42:01 From asú marques to Everyone:
It brought tears to my eyes to consider all the little things that make my room also my sanctuary. As for others, its made me think of how in fact I am or am not opened to having others in such intimate connection

2026-11-06 14:42:27 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
Replying to "It sometimes seems easier to share a sanctuary wit...":
Same, but: cat.

2026-11-06 14:42:45 From Ana Cristina (Tininha) to Everyone:
I felt grateful and hopeful. Imaging the space we, fortunately, live in as a possible sanctuary of attention to us (the family) and friends made me feel happy.

2026-11-06 14:43:20 From Luan Richard Capello to Everyone:
Replying to "thinking about my space as a sanctuary for others ...":
I got that feeling too, sharing this peace with others is invigorating

2026-11-06 14:44:30 From Ana Cristina (Tininha) to Everyone:
Replying to "It sometimes seems easier to share a sanctuary wit...":

Felt the same as I took a moment looking at my dog, peacefully napping. She has no access to a phone :)

2026-11-06 14:45:23 From margaretwertheim to Everyone:
Hi Marina - long time no see! I recall our lovely discussion on a plane from AbuDhabi to London.

2026-11-06 14:45:25 From Luisa Dantas to Everyone:
Replying to "It sometimes seems easier to share a sanctuary wit...":
I also looked at the pooches and felt their contentment (they're passed out on the couch)

2026-11-06 14:53:13 From Luisa Dantas to Everyone:
I'm so sorry to have to leave during this illuminating presentation. Thank you Marina and thank you all for the much-needed sanctuary.

2026-11-06 14:54:49 From Jillian Impastato to Everyone:
I'm thinking about the "safe space" trend in the 20teens which seemed to devolve into "brave spaces" and other similar designations

2026-11-06 14:55:05 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
^^^ interesting....

2026-11-06 14:57:30 From CJ The X to Everyone:
Wowie very rich many notes

2026-11-06 14:57:36 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
THANK YOU!

2026-11-06 14:57:51 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Thank you, Marina!!

2026-11-06 14:58:01 From Parker to Everyone:
Thank you, Marina!

2026-11-06 14:58:15 From asú marques to Everyone:
Us refugees of attention economy/surveillance capitalism

2026-11-06 14:58:18 From Luan Richard Capello to Everyone:
Thank you Marina for the enriching stories👏🏽👏🏽👏🏽

BREAKOUT

2026-11-06 14:58:20 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
How can story-telling contribute to the creation of "attention sanctuaries"

2026-11-06 14:58:56 From Renee Bryant to Everyone:
Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on play 🙂 I am a play researcher and my work is in play

2026-11-06 14:59:09 From Ana Cristina (Tininha) to Everyone:
Thank you, Marina. So wonderful and inspiring. And thank you for the work you do.

2026-11-06 14:59:24 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Please choose a rapporteur and bring the notes back. Take them outside the chat though so you don't lose them!

2026-11-06 14:59:33 From Ana Cristina (Tininha) to Everyone:
Replying to "Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on pla...":
I was too curious about the book she mentioned

2026-11-06 14:59:38 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Here's the question again:

How can story-telling contribute to the creation of "attention sanctuaries"?

2026-11-06 15:09:42 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
A great meta story about human and technology shifting together : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Henry_(folklore)

2026-11-06 15:10:05 From Donica Bettanin (she/her) to Everyone:
love being cut off because it's all so interestingggg

2026-11-06 15:10:10 From etienneturpin to Everyone:
So Intense! I missed a few sessions and I forgot how amazing these conversations are!

2026-11-06 15:10:20 From Nick Plante to Everyone:
Yves—one way to understand the question would be to say "THE TELLING OF THE STORY IS THE SANCTUARY." It creates an attentional structure that pushes you in the same direction together

Story as an "infrastructure of attention."

Commented [DB1]: Oh! Love this!!

Barbara—new cultural center in Zagreb is opening, and she's going to run an Attention Activism group there. How can she draw on the history of the place to foreground a sense of Sanctuary?

Ana—getting folks in Mexico to feel interested in and dedicated to the work—what is a way they can see themselves in it? What narratives can engender more CARE?

Rebecca—site of new constitutional court is a transformed jail: turning around the history of a space. Turning what was a dark place into a legal sanctuary

Nick—thinking about our work (talking about the frackers, attention economy) … we in the FoA are developing this META NARRATIVE through which people can join forces in a shared resistance

2026-11-06 15:10:38 From Kathleen Quaintance to Everyone:
Sanctuaries require agreements - they could be called civics, or they could be called superstition, but they all rely on these shared narratives of expected behavior
Creating sanctuary is very tied to world-building, you need a collective story to do that
Most people exist in a description of the world rather than the world as it is - we often live at the level of description
Sanctuaries often carry stories or histories within their very architecture or decoration - furniture from friends, art and crafts made by visitors to the sanctuary/students who have taken classes there, records of the past (thinking of the cave with all of the human handprints from paleohistory as a sanctuary for the past)
Amanda does a lovely job managing the actual physical sanctuary space of the School of Attention and she helps to create narratives around how visitors can help participate and maintain it

Commented [DB3]: Real! And we all need to think about the ways that we talk about our space -- the stories we tell about what we are trying to do and make and change there -- can really CREATE SANCTURY. I take this to be a really powerful part of Marina's overall reminder in this new book...

2026-11-06 15:10:39 From Samvit Sengupta to Everyone:
Replying to "Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on pla...":
Same here! I am a game researcher!

2026-11-06 15:10:40 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:

Luan, Lucy, Molly, Gwen
Part I
Luan: Question reminded me we make a campfire and tell stories and listen to music, in the space, with children, we can connect and talk. Stories have this unconscious aspect - can charge us with the significance of the moment. And what it means to be talking and reunited. It's a lot of power - there is hope for the people who are there. A powerful way to connect

Lucy: Something magical about gathering around a fire. That it's something that's the case in so many cultural contexts. There's something around coming together around a meal, a heat source that's so embodied. Thinking about the question about storytelling in particular - the act is dependent on listeners and the gift of the storyteller to the listeners and they are dependent on the presence of ears. What is it about the structure of the story, in the anglophone tradition

Commented [DB4]: Original root-sense of "focus"!

2026-11-06 15:10:49 From Renee Bryant to Everyone:
Group: Ben, Renee, Etienneturpin, Nisha

Renee: imagination can be a playground for surrendering to creative process

Etienneturpin: Sharable ritual challenges: trust, reciprocity, faith in the space. Seen spaces lean into story that becomes attention competition. Capitalistic extraction goes deeper than we realize. How to create vulnerable bonds?

Process and narrate climate trauma
Context of the process needs to push out the problems that get in the way of attention
To surrender to a story, you are up against a powerful force extracting attention- the idea of a storytelling ritual can be hard to choose.

Stories are used by corporations, influencers, artists- how to avoid repeating commercialized stories???

Nisha: INTENTION vs ACTION is so important for this process

2026-11-06 15:11:08 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Replying to "Luan, Lucy, Molly, Gwen Part I Luan: Question remi...":
Part II
- "once upon a time", there's an opening phrase that separates the beginning of the story from the rest of everyday language. It's almost like a magic word opening a door to different terrain or a portal
Molly: Appreciate description of the process as the balance between the giving and receiving, the telling and receiving. The receiving is just as important and it's a gift to the teller. Thinking about the role of storytelling in sanctuaries…it feels like there's not as much history here, we don't have those old buildings with storytelling lineage attached to it. I'm wondering about how that same transportative language, like once upon time…can it be created when it's something that's newer, not something that's been told for centuries. It's the first time I've considered the connection between storytelling and place

2026-11-06 15:11:12 From Luan Richard Capello to Everyone:
I felt shy but then connected too, being able to talk to people I didn't know and that are linked to me by the same prompt. LOVED IT

2026-11-06 15:11:14 From Sara McCrea to Everyone:
Every religion has their story, but they each choose a different venue / platform / gathering place in which to tell the story. The environment in which a story is told is designed to prioritize certain aspects of narrative, which then in some form dictates which stories get to be told and which stories get crowded out. If our platforms / environments accentuate the narrative element of conflict, then more relational elements of narrative might be endangered. However, the stories we tell can shape the tenor / rules of the storytelling environments / platforms / sanctuaries themselves, so the narrative and the environment in which it is told are always in a mutual relationship.

2026-11-06 15:11:18 From Max Wix to Everyone:
People crave narrative. Stories and narratives are what open and change hearts. They make people want to stay
The commons of wonder and the shared experience of wonder delighted something in my heart
Lean into the stories we want to tell and create together
When I share stories I am giving back to people, telling the same stories over and over with different people are my way of contributing to a sanctuary
Stories connect us when in shared spaces
Shared stories create a sense of safety
when we travel and meet other travelers we share stories and they provide us with a sense of trust and security of what is ahead
What are good questions to ask in a sanctuary so that there is a reciprocal safety
Dancing in a sanctuary is like story telling with our bodies, it is easier to talk with my body - so I tell stories through movement.

2026-11-06 15:11:24 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Replying to "Luan, Lucy, Molly, Gwen Part I Luan: Question remi...":
Part III
Luan: Here in Brazil we have this talking about the street and places with something in between - we refer to it by connection to people. People to places connection. It connected to what is in the book. Can take into the story the process of change. We can incorporate that change into the stories we tell of place. It was like this, and then something happened, and now it is like this

Molly - so telling the story of the transition.
Lucy - and incorporating the mundane. My friends and I used to all get together for a beer after work, but we were storytelling. There were listeners and sharing. And storytelling in therapeutic spaces - like even al anon, AA, …

2026-11-06 15:11:31 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
Her new Morrison book is AMAZING

2026-11-06 15:11:34 From Ingrid to Everyone:
Group: Jillian, Amanda, Donica, Ingrid

Jillian: shared trust, integrates with history. Quaker meetings - shared groups, shared understanding
Donica: "the aura" consensus of the people use sanctuary....storytelling to create aura
Ingrid: mapping as a project of reclaiming territory/narrative
Amanda: teaching a college class on attending to attention....final project with ARC-GIS -- students have to create a story map -- students put an attention sanctuary based on a series of parameters that they choose/elevate as important.
Place-based stores are really powerful

Reflecting on sanctuary projects....'attention etiquette' -- she uses 'shared understanding', Marina uses 'mutual consensus'
Stories with morals/traditions attached to them

Thinking of the essay Turing Complete User
https://contemporary-home-computing.org/turing-complete-user/

On how design status quo has broken the link between self-awarenece/agency and place online (in addition to a bunch of other things)

2026-11-06 15:12:01 From Reva Baste-Bania to Everyone:

Commented [DB5]: This feels like food for thought for me....

Commented [DB6]: Was not aware of this. Super interesting.

stories work with memory: memory IS belonging, stories are holders of memory, knowing the duration of experience creates rootedness

stories inspire: they give a common undersatnding of social environment, learning about work done by activists empowers and inspires people today

stories expand free speech: telling stories fights against the restriction of free speech plaguing us today. "publically acceptable" stories are becoming flatter, and are based on engagement. we need attention and togetherness created by sanctuary to take in new kinds of stories.

2026-11-06 15:12:04 From asú marques to Everyone:
that's how we've always done, sitting around the fire and helping new generations survive! telling stories of us to others and also myth creation.

storytelling as connection and community building tools. our brains have this need for novelty and surprise, and when we hear stories we can have that. the digital world coopts that need for novelty

do we frame ourselves as refugees of the att economy?

if sanctuaries are made of up people from very different people, what is our common narrative so that we can protect ourselves in sanctuaries? narrative against something x narrative for something x other options??

we can tell stories that go beyond the instagram post. DISOBEY THE FRAME! ig cant fit a good story albeit how much they want to steal the narrative

who's going to guard the sanctuary doors? where do we point to? that's also narrative!

2026-11-06 15:12:11 From CJ The X to Everyone:
Replying to "Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on pla...":
Yes I missed that too, I study the philosophy of games x the sacred

2026-11-06 15:12:36 From Marina Warner to Everyone:
Replying to "Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on pla...":
Roger callois - Les Jeux et les hommes but it is is translated

2026-11-06 15:12:46 From CJ The X to Everyone:
Replying to "Marina-- so curious what book you mentioned on pla...":
Thank you!!!

2026-11-06 15:13:08 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
David: from teaching, anytime students are flagging, I go into story mode. Info, info is flattening, but the minute I bring in a story from the other day, i/they wake up. and "story mode" comes before the story. Goes beyond teaching, story mode has its own galvanizing presencing, even if I dont tell the story. The silence of listening to a story, the beginning of stories is its own space

Brian: as a teacher - the ubiquity of storytelling, fundamentality to our species. The desire to tell stories, but also to draw people into them. That is a kind of basic an fundamental of being human, the interest and desire to tell stories.

David: also splits time into t two. Information mode is the brutality of the present. Story mode is present and past, or getting to be more playful with time. Thickening the present

Commented [DB7]: This hits hard.

2026-11-06 15:13:20 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Replying to "David: from teaching, anytime students are flaggin...":

Carla: I am a historian, and most of my work right now, my practice is in poetry and short creative non-fiction, fiction… storying and story telling is at the heart of what I do. Very interested in how storytelling is used in classes. Vulnerability as central. Story is a space that matters to us — why this story, why tell it? It pulls us. It's not only a sanctuary FROM, but also something that happens within that encourages a kind of vulnerability where the actual stuff happens. It's how we connect, how we take the chance to be open to other people, let them know that something matters to us

David: if you want to punish a kid —> "no story time!"

Brian: also how we organize our thoughts. We place them in narrative

Carla: and the neurodivergent experience of relating and relaying information, and story happening outside or narrative. Different ways of occupying time and space that don't follow a sequence, not necessarily organized

2026-11-06 15:13:32 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Replying to "David: from teaching, anytime students are flaggin...":
Eleanor: just read Dolven's piece on the end of the sentence for writing attention class at SoRA. thinking about the relationship between thinking, memory and the sentence. How in writing and reading, we exteriorize "ourselves," we put ourselves in conversation with ourselves. And that in making the sentence the central relational tool for communication (putting words in relationship with each other), that has organized how we think, how we speak. Ofc a neurotypical frame, but thinking about the way the sentence is in reciprocal relationship with us, shaping our thoughts, and how these chat bots might change our thinking, with restructuring information (bolded headers, bullet points, new page structures, etc).

Carla: lutz piece, too! "The sentence is a lonely place." the page as altar space, the work the sentence or the paragraph can do as a device or technology of conjuring — spell craft!

2026-11-06 15:13:33 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Replying to "David: from teaching, anytime students are flaggin...":
David: teaches attention lab — teaching it and doing it all at once.

Carla: tell your students just to write a sentence! Sometimes its rooted in what we are reading, sometimes it just "it's week one," just write a sentence

2026-11-06 15:13:33 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
Dude everyone should read Namwali's new book:
https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/752344/on-morrison-by-namwali-serpell/

2026-11-06 15:13:45 From Brian Rosen to Everyone:
How does storytelling create sanctuary?

The topic has two modalities: stories as sanctuary (the telling of a story creates a sanctuary for all involved), and stories as 'ads' for sanctuaries (stories that encourage the creation of sanctuaries)

Role playing games create a sanctuary. One in particular which was entirely text based and magical (Alice Is Missing?)

Video games can separate and isolate, as opposed to in person role playing games, which do a much better job of connecting and creating a shared space.

In some cultures (Apache?) places are named based on the stories that have happened there. So "The river where this person drowned".

Places have purpose, and if there's a story associated with a place, how does that change the purpose?

2026-11-06 15:13:52 From Sara McCrea to Everyone:
TONI MORRISON PASSAGE: “The Dancing Mind”
The reader disabled by an absence of solitude; the writer imperiled by the absence of a hospitable
community. Both stories fuse and underscore for me the seriousness of the industry whose sole purpose is the publication of writers for readers. It is a business, of course, in which there is feasting, and even some coin; there is drama and high, high spirits. There is celebration and anguish, there are flukes and errors in judgment; there is brilliance and unbridled ego. But that is the costume. Underneath the cut of bright and dazzling cloth, pulsing beneath the jewelry, the life of the book world is quite serious. Its real life is about creating and producing and distributing knowledge; about making it possible for the entitled as well as the dispossessed to experience one’s own mind dancing with another’s; about making sure that the environment in which this work is done is welcoming, supportive.

2026-11-06 15:13:54 From Sara McCrea to Everyone:
(Cont): It is making sure that no encroachment of
private wealth, government control, or cultural expediency can interfere with what gets written or published. That no conglomerate or political wing uses its force to still inquiry or to reaffirm rule. Securing that kind of peace—the peace of the dancing mind–is our work

2026-11-06 15:14:11 From eleanor (she/her) to Everyone:
Replying to "David: from teaching, anytime students are flaggin...":
Sorry for any/all typos! Amazing convo, big love and gratitude to my awesome group <3 <3 <3

2026-11-06 15:16:05 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
What about the universities ,. The big ones the established , themselves being part of the industrial attention fracking complex, by their implicit abdication if not embrace of the essentially commercial culture big tech. …..and hiding behind the ‘non-profit’ status , while they are fundamentally institutional. It’s hard for them. I empathize but it’s a discussion to consider when BUILDING something new for the attention movement

Commented [DB8]: Really important -- feel like this is a both/and thing. YES, the universities have "betrayed" much of what I take to be their "birthright" and mission. But that fact is part of a much larger story/dynamic. Chris Newfield's trilogy on this is invaluable. I have myself written on the issue a bit, most recently on our substack, The Empty Cup, in a piece with Anthony Grafton on "The Liberal Arts as the Arts of Attention"

2026-11-06 15:16:14 From Holmes, Brooke to Everyone:
Thomas Moore
Houses used to be very plain – just to be protected from everything else
‘Themenos’ as the narrative to recreate that special place
Intentional cultivation, giving space to some things and not others
Identification based on characters in stories
Being open to other narratives, not just one dominant narrative
The Friends talk about getting away from this narrative of individual willpower, depersonalization
We need to coalesce to create an organic pull of attention together
Attention activism has to be centered on a shared story about what is happening and what needs to be done or thought about
What is the narrative we are sharing about technology and how technology has affected attention?
Attensity! talks about one dominant narrative about attention just being this narrow thing about focusing and completing a task
What’s the counternarrative we are sharing?
What narratives guide how we create space of freedom?

2026-11-06 15:16:28 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
I went to a fancy pants grad school. So perhaps I’m biassed to an extent about how institutions themselves use MASKS.

2026-11-06 15:16:34 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
:)

2026-11-06 15:16:35 From Carla Nappi to Everyone:
I love me some Le Guin

2026-11-06 15:16:43 From Ingrid to Everyone:
Shout out to our Academic Dean Henry Kramer's "Radical Imagination" class, mentioned in NYT Hard Fork's podcast!

2026-11-06 15:16:46 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Thank you marina! And thanks everyone ;)

2026-11-06 15:16:57 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
Thank you, Marina!!

2026-11-06 15:16:59 From Amanda Nesci to Everyone:
Thank you, Marina!!

2026-11-06 15:17:01 From Gwen Olton to Everyone:
It's not until 2027 I think

2026-11-06 15:17:20 From Donica Bettanin (she/her) to Everyone:
Thank you Marina, and all! This was really special!

2026-11-06 15:17:25 From Renee Bryant to Everyone:
feel free for anyone to join me on an imagination journey I'm hosting tomorrow morning at 11am PST
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86533837947?pwd=RmEEGkToIhINlazF7aUNWunde6bKNE.1

2026-11-06 15:17:33 From Lucy Alford to Everyone:
Thank you so much, Marina — and thank you so much Graham and organizers and all <3

2026-11-06 15:17:36 From Ron Broglio to Everyone:
Thank you, everyone esp Marina!

2026-11-06 15:17:56 From Mary Caputi to Everyone:
Thank you, Graham and Marina! Great session!

2026-11-06 15:19:05 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Thank you guys :) can't talk!

2026-11-06 15:19:08 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
From a library

2026-11-06 15:19:14 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
nyc

2026-11-06 15:19:19 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Jefferson market library west village

2026-11-06 15:19:29 From Zeev Kirsh to Everyone:
Hi everyone pleasure thanks so much for organizing this