Why?

• Why use science to study art?
• What is a story?
• Is fiction real?
• Is fiction true?

Narrative Fiction as Simulation

The Function of Fiction

“… include[s] the recording, abstraction, and communication of complex social information in a manner that offers personal enactments of experience, rendering it more comprehensible than usual”

Social Correlates

• Neuroscience evidence
• Bookworms versus Nerds
  – Preschoolers
Social Surrogacy

- Daydreaming
- Favourite Television Characters
  - Re-reading

Changing Minds

- Persuasion
- Inter-group relations
- Personal growth

Individual Differences

- Prior experience
  - Absorption/Transportation
  - Persuasion
  - Trauma
- Child-Caregiver attachments

Acknowledgments

Dr. Jordan B. Peterson (Toronto)
Dr. Keith Oatley (Toronto)
Dr. Maja Djikic (Toronto)
Dr. Jennifer L. Tackett (Toronto)
Dr. Chris Moore (Dalhousie)
Dr. Shira Gabriel (Buffalo)
Jacob Hirsh (Toronto)
Jennifer dela Paz (Toronto)
Marina Rain (York)
Ariana Young (Buffalo)

onfiction.ca

yorku.ca/mar | mar@yorku.ca