

Narrative as the Means to Spinozist Freedom

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The enclosed paper is a draft that has emerged out of work I've recently been doing on a book about Spinoza's political philosophy, and is in some ways the companion of another paper, ['Democracy and the Good Life in Spinoza's Philosophy'](#), which was published last year in *Interpreting Spinoza* ed. Charlie Huenemann (CUP). Both pieces are about Spinoza's analysis of the relation between reason and imagination, a topic widely discussed in the secondary literature. Among the many commentators who have shaped my own view of it, I'm particularly indebted to Moira Gatens and Genevieve Lloyd. Their book, *Collective Imaginings: Spinoza past and Present*, opens up numerous fruitful lines of thought, and discusses the question with which my paper for the seminar is concerned.