

Narrare Centre for Interdisciplinary Narrative Research

Annual Report 2025

Events

Annually recurring activities

Narrare Spring and Autumn Seminars

These seminars present ongoing narrative research across Tampere University community.

- 11.2. Maria Mäkelä “Authors of the Story Economy: Narrative and Digital Capital in the 21st-Century Literary Field”
- 18.2. Nanny Jolma: "Muistelu, fiktionaalisuus ja kerronnallinen asemointi kansanedustajien muistitietohaastatteluissa"
- 11.3. Jukka Jouhki "Länsimaat Ukrainan sodan uutisissa: oksidentalistisen kerronnan tarkastelua"
- 1.4. Noora Vaakanainen "Appropriating Voices: Narratorial Overtness in Laura Lindstedt's Oneiron"
- 23.9. Elise Kraatila: Journalistic Future narratives about Finland and NATO
- 7.10. Natalya Bekhta: A short history of Ukrainian utopia: Discussion of a book project
- 4.11. Matti Hyvärinen: “Big, grand, and dominant – towards a conceptual history of master & counter-narratives”
- 18.11. Anna-Kaisa Kuusisto: “Telling Migration Stories”
- 25.11. Mari Hatavara & Eija Paavilainen: Mitä kaunokirjallisen kokemuksen analysoiminen voi tuoda lasten emotionaalisen kaltoinkohtelun tutkimukseen?

7.11. International Narrare Interdisciplinary Autumn Seminar for PhD Researchers

This seminar brings together international experts and PhD researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and gives emerging scholars an opportunity to develop and test their approaches to theory, methods and analytical tools in interdisciplinary narrative studies under the guidance of experts from the field. In addition to different faculties in Tampere University, participants came from Aalto University, Helsinki University, Turku University and University of Lapland in Finland, and Oslo, Budapest, Oxford and Carnegie Mellon Universities.

Guest lecturers and commentators: Brian Schiff, The American University of Paris and Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen, Aarhus University

Presenters and commentators:

Group 1 (chair Aura Lounasmaa, international expert Brian Schiff)

- Meeri Siukonen: *Intergenerational memories of Stalinist repression and narrative positioning* (Comments: Nanny Jolma)

- Julie Kidder: *Recognition, Refusal, and the Hermeutical Injustices of Multiraciality* (Comments: Aura Lounasmaa)
- Juulia Niiniranta: *Framing Peace in the Everyday. Visual Narratives of Everyday Capturing the Invisible and Hidden Peace.* (Comments: Elise Kraatila)
- Dóra Kocsis: *The role of self-justification in conflict narratives of healthcare professionals in the United States and Hungary. A qualitative approach for cross-cultural comparison* (Comments: Hanna Rautajoki)
- Smriti Verma: *Beyond Authenticity: Affordances of Autofictional Methodology in Contemporary British Women's Life-Writing, 2010-2022* (Comments: Maria Mäkelä)
- Jussi Eerola (Tampere) *Searching for Three Crowns: Antiquarianism shaping political narratives in 17th century Sweden* (Comments: Samuli Björninen)

Group 2 (chair Laura Piippo, international expert Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen)

- Eero Suoranta: *History not repeating: Narratives of rural China in A Que's "Farewell, Doraemon"* (Comments: Lieven Ameel)
- Michela La Grotteria: *Tales of Curiosity. Character Construction and Reader Response in Madeleine de Scudéry's Novels* (Comments: Natalya Bekhta)
- Nanna Numento: *Agency, Role-playing and Worldbuilding within an Interactive Digital Narrative: A Case Study of the Playable Character 'The Dark Urge' in Baldur's Gate 3* (Comments: Tuomas Harviainen)
- Vilja Achté: *Plushies, Characters From the End of the World* (Comments: Laura Piippo)
- *Jasmin Flinkman: "Minäkin itken, vaikken vielä tiedä mitä" Mood as an Affective and Experiential State in Katja Kettu's Kätilö* (Comments: Reetta Eiranen)
- Nea Pälä: *Levels of narrative in translated romances and manuscripts* (Comments: Anna Kuutsa)
- Ville Hämäläinen: *From Fictionality to Hindsight, from Polyphony to Posthumousness* (Comments: Mari Hatavara)

Other activities

Open guest lectures

- 3.2. "Entering Through the Right Ear: Narrative and the Mind", Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar, Groningen University
- 18.6. "Big Stories and Grand-scale Systems Thinking in Fiction and Nonfiction", Elise Kraatila
- 18.6. "The Political Ramifications of Big Stories", Jan Alber (Justus-Liebig-Universität, Giessen)
- 18.6. "Reimagining small stories as formatted narratives in the postdigital era", Alexandra Georgakopoulou (Kings College London)
- 18.6. "Telling Difficult Stories: Small Stories and the Limits of Sense-Making", Jarmila Mildorf (University of Paderborn)

- 7.11. "Conspiracy Narratives", Brian Schiff, American University of Paris
- 7.11. "Fictionality and the Rise of Fiction: Why Fictionality was Always there, but the Novel is Rather Novel", Simona Zetterberg-Nielsen, Aarhus University

Seminars, symposia and conferences

29.1. Cross-disciplinary approaches to restorative Narratives

Hybrid seminar in collaboration with University of Macerata. Speakers:

Speakers: Silvia Pierosara, Veronica Guardabassi, Mari Hatavara, Jari Stenvall and Sanni Pöntinen, Saija Isomaa, Aura Lounasmaa, Lieven Ameel, Laura Piippo and Hanna-Riikka Roine, Sanna Turoma.

3.6. Seminar "Ukrainian war discourse: An idea-turned-effect analysis"

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Natalya Izotova, Head of Department, English Philology and Philosophy of Language, Kyiv Linguistic University, Prof. Dr. Serhiy Potapenko, English Philology and Philosophy of Language, Kyiv Linguistic University.

organised in collaboration with Natalya Bekhta and the research project "[Utopia and Eastern European Literature after 1989](#)"

18.-19.6. Symposium: Big & Small Stories

Keynotes: Jan Alber, Alex Georgakopoulou, Elise Kraatila, Jarmila Mildorf

Other speakers: Mari Hatavara, Markus Laukkanen & Riikka Pirinen, Aura Lounasmaa, Anna Kuutsa, chair Laura Piippo.

The symposium is organized in the context of the project Age of Uncertainty: Speculative Narratives in 21st-century Fiction and Nonfiction (PI Elise Kraatila, Tampere Institute for Advanced Study) in collaboration with Narrare.

Book and special issue launches

3.2. Applied Narratology and Political Counter-Narratives: launch of two special issues

Special issue "Applied Narratology". Ed. Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar, Laura Karttunen & Anna Ovaska. *Narrative Inquiry* 24:2, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ni.34.2>

Special Issue "Considering Political Counter-Narratives." Ed. Matti Hyvärinen & Samuli Björninen. *Narrative Works* 13:1, 2024. <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/NW/issue/view/2362>

Speakers: Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar (University of Groningen), Laura Karttunen, Hanna Rautajoki and Samuli Björninen (University of Turku). Chair: Anna Ovaska.

Organised jointly with the research projects Words for Care: Literature, Healthcare and Democracy; Political Temporalities; Authors of the Story Economy: Narrative and Digital Capital in the 21st-Century Literary Field; Arts, Narrative and Cognition theme group (Groningen).

21.5. Book launch: [Narrative Research: Research Methods](#) (Bloomsbury)

Speakers Mark Davis, Lars-Christer Hydén, Corinne Squire, Aura Lounasmaa and Molly Andrews and commentator Matti Hyvärinen.

Organised jointly with the [Association for Narrative Research and Practice](#) (ANRP)

2.12. Book launch: [Speculative Mimesis in Fantasy Literature: Rethinking Relations Between Fiction and Reality](#). Elise Kraatila (Bloomsbury)

Speakers: Jyrki Korpua and Samuli Björninen.

The book is available open access.

PhD Defences

28.11. Markus Laukkanen: Co-Opting Game of Thrones with Digital Paratext Narratives : Interactivity, authorship, and affordances in the storytelling environment of the internet

Opponent: Stefan Iversen, University of Aarhus

Chair: Sari Kivistö

Networking events

17.9. Evening with Narrare: Networking, Socialising & Sauna. Introduction to new Narrare members and PhD researchers to the Narrare community.

Most of the events were streamed online.

People: Director: Laura Piippo; Vice Director: Aura Lounasmaa; coordinator: Markus Laukkanen

Executive Board: Mari Hatavara, Matti Hyvärinen, Samuli Björninen, Tuomas Harviainen, Jussi Lahtinen, Aura Lounasmaa, Maria Mäkelä, Jari Stenvall, Sanna Turoma, Arto Laitinen, Saija Isomaa, Reetta Eiranen, Hanna Rautajoki, Elise Kraatila, Maiju Kinossalo. Jussi Backman