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January 23, 2019

Dear Fellow Narratologists,

After a longer pause, we are sending you a new issue of the Newsletter to inform you about various activities of the European Narratology Network. First, we owe you an explanation for why the Newsletter is published only now – at the beginning of 2019. The main reason has to do with a pending issue that the Steering Committee of the ENN had to decide on prior to sending out a new Newsletter.

In the course of 2018, we were informed that for various reasons it was no longer feasible to hold the next ENN conference in Moscow, as announced at the end of ENN5. Unfortunately, we did not manage to find an alternative solution to the situation by the end of 2018. Our negotiations thus resulted in the decision that no annual ENN conference will be held in 2019. So the next conference will be held, with a year’s delay, only in 2020, either in Moscow or in Tartu or in Brno. The definitive name of the organizer and the conference date will be published in the next Newsletter and on the website http://narratology.net.

To address the situation, we propose three fundamental changes concerning the organization of future ENN conferences (see section I of this Newsletter). We believe that the steps proposed will facilitate the resolution of this unexpected and difficult situation and will also make the task for future organizers (at least to some degree) easier. We invite other members to step forward and signal their willingness to host one of the future biannual ENN conferences.

Although the delay is an unpleasant situation for the ENN, we believe that we will overcome it and find an optimal solution soon. We also believe that this will not have any impact on our activities and on the cooperation that forms the very core of our ENN community.

In this Newsletter, you will find news about past as well as future events, which is the best proof that the ENN is alive and has been growing. This also applies to the Steering
Committee, which has been extended with 3 co-opted ENN members. The current composition of the ENN Steering Committee is as follows:

The ENN Steering Committee:
Ondřej Sládek (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague), ennooffice01@gmail.com, sladek@ucl.cas.cz
Valerij Tjupa (Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow), v.tiupa@gmail.com
Peter Hühn (Hamburg University), huehn@uni-hamburg.de

Co-opted Members of the ENN Steering Committee:
Marina Grishakova (University of Tartu), marina.grisakova@ut.ee
Henrik Skov Nielsen, (University of Aarhus), norhn@cc.au.dk
Roy Sommer (University of Wuppertal), rsommer@uni-wuppertal.de

Best wishes and we look forward to meeting again soon!

The ENN Steering Committee
Ondřej Sládek, Peter Hühn, Valerij Tjupa
In view of the present difficulties of organizing and financing the next ENN-conference, the Steering Committee proposes a changed format for future ENN-conferences.

1. In order to ensure the future continuity of ENN activities, the steering committee should always nominate organizers for two conferences in advance, both for the next conference and already for the subsequent one.

2. To make the organization more manageable, the size of conferences will be reduced with respect both to length and number of presentations. Conferences should be limited to two days, and the number of presentations (20 minutes each with 10 minutes set aside for discussion) should not exceed 80, arranged in no more than three parallel sections. This will allow for more intensive discussions and more fruitful exchange among the participants. There should only be one keynote speech introducing the conference topic. Whether a conference is preceded by a preconference doctoral seminar is for the organizer to decide.

3. Applications for participation will be reviewed more strictly in keeping with ENN’s mission statement: The focus should clearly be on theoretical or methodological issues rather than the discussion of individual texts.
The 5th conference of the European Narratology Network entitled “Narrative and Narratology: Metamorphosing the Structures” was held from September 13 to 15 2017 in Prague (http://www.enn5.cz) and was organized under the auspices of the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences (ICL CAS) (http://www.ucl.cas.cz), in co-operation with the European Narratology Network (http://www.narratology.net) and the Czech Academy of Sciences (http://www.cas.cz).

For the Institute of Czech Literature, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2017, the ENN conference was one of the most important scholarly events of the year.

The conference, which took place at the Faculty of Architecture, Czech Technical University, Prague, was chaired by Ondřej Sládek (ICL CAS). Staff support was provided by Stanislava Fedrová (head of local organizing committee), Bohumil Fořt, Daniel Kubec, Aleš Merenus, Richard Müller, František A. Podhajský and Josef Šebek. The conference international scientific committee consisted of: Nora Berning (University of Mannheim), Hilary Duffield (University of Trier), Bohumil Fořt (ICL CAS), Stefan Iversen (Aarhus University), Karin Kukkonen (University of Oslo & ENN Executive Board), Gunther Martens (Ghent University & ENN Executive Board), and Ondřej Sládek (ICL CAS & ENN Executive Board).

The conference followed up on previous ENN conferences in Hamburg, Kolding, Paris and Ghent and aimed to bring together scholars from various disciplines to discuss recent developments in the study of narrative. Special focus areas of the conference
were history of narratology, historical poetics from a narratological perspective, cognitive narratology, transmedial narratology and the relationship of narratives and structures.

The conference drew more than 160 lecturers from no less than 30 countries, reaching far beyond the European borders and bringing together narratologists not only from many corners of Europe, but also from the United States, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. The lecturers presented an impressive variety of papers whose scope and originality explored nearly every aspect of the conference’s theme.

The topic of the conference was defined as “Narrative and Narratology: Metamorphosing the Structures”. The title “Metamorphosing of Structures” was primarily meant to refer to the roots of narratology – to structuralism and its transformations, to the changing approaches to the study as well as the theory of narrative, generally to the changing of the discipline.

The history of the notion of “structure” in the humanities and social sciences is long and rich. And, especially since the French structuralist revolution, it has developed into a fully-fledged methodological apparatus and has become strongly connected to the inquiry of narratives. Nevertheless, both the scholarly view of structures and the structures of narratives themselves are subject to historical development and change. Therefore, the approaches of “classical narratology”, based on structuralist analyses of narratives, have been replaced by approaches of “post-classical narratologies”, which are primarily focused on general cultural interpretation, interdisciplinarity, and historical and diachronic studies of narratives and narrativity. However, recent critical voices have called the contributions of postclassical narratologies into question and turned scholarly attention to the potential of classical narratology once more. Thus, in the pursuit of this endeavour, classical narratology needs to undergo a thorough revision and discussion in order to show the potential of structuralist classics for further investigation of narratives and narrativity.

The main topic of the conference was further specified by these particular topics:
1. **Theory and methodology of the study of narrative from pre-narratology to post-narratology**

Over time narratology has developed a large number of methodological and analytical strategies, which are widely used for solving specific problems of the study of narratives. Particular methods, approaches and attitudes deserve our attention, their predecessors and successors, as well as their detailed analyses and mutual comparisons.

2. **Historical poetics from a narratological perspective**

Historical poetics is currently considered a fully emancipated and developed scholarly discipline. Nevertheless, modern narratology can, as we believe, by its detailed analyses of narratives and narrating, substantially contribute to furthering our knowledge of the arts from a diachronic perspective.

3. **Cognitive narratology today: possibilities and frontiers**

Since the “cognitive turn”, narratology is no longer what it used to be: it has implemented new ideas, approaches and methods based on this very influential turn. Can we, presently, map all the consequences of this change, trace them and analyze them in the wide context of today’s narratology?

4. **Current problems of transmedial narratology**

Mediality and transmediality have been part and parcel of narratological studies for decades. Nevertheless, the rapid development of the media and their enhanced potential of delivering narrative information seem to be a challenge for an extensive group of contemporary scholars.

5. **Structures and narratives**

Undoubtedly, structuralist thought essentially contributed to the foundation of narratology as a scholarly discipline and also to its further development. In addition, narratives can be viewed, first of all, as complex structures with specific designs. They help us better explore the structuralist heritage in modern narratology as well as the structural part of narratives and their studies.
The aim of the conference was to offer space for this revision, for the discussion of the metamorphoses of the study of narrative, of its further potentials and boundaries, but also of older and current conceptions of narratological studies. Conference keynote addresses were focused on the questions of the relationship of narrative and structure from the historical point of view as well as on questions of visualizing narratives by diagrams and “dual narrative movement”. The keynote speakers were Prof. Wolf Schmid, Universität Hamburg (The Slavic cradle of narratology: From Shklovsky’s “defamiliarization” to Mukařovský’s “semantic gesture”), Dr. Marie-Laure Ryan, independent scholar (Visualizing the narrative engine: What diagrams can tell us about the functioning of narrative; a revised version of the speech was delivered with the title: On the Material Turn in Contemporary Fiction: Towards an Object-Oriented Narratology), Prof. Marina Grishakova, University of Tartu (Narrative and dynamic structures), Prof. Dan Shen, Peking [Beijing] University (How dual narrative movement can metamorphose or extend narratology).

In total, 157 speakers gave a talk at the conference. Conference talks were delivered in five parallel sections over three days (the programme of the conference can be found here: http://www.narratology.net/sites/default/files/Programme-2017-Prague.pdf). Some of the sections were set up with pre-defined panels in mind – there were 12 conference panels in all. There was also space for a poster section (with 13 posters registered). All abstracts of the conference contributions (keynote speakers, panel overview, oral presentations, posters) can be found here: http://www.narratology.net/sites/default/files/Guide_and_abstracts-2017-Prague.pdf

The conference was jointly opened by Ondřej Sládek (chair of the conference), Gunther Martens (chair of the ENN) and Pavel Janáček (director of the ICL CAS). A joint conference dinner was held at the Art Restaurant Mánes on the second conference day (Wednesday, September 14).

There were 6 plenary sessions during the conference. Four of them were reserved for keynote speakers’ talks; the other two were general meetings. Both general meetings were opened by Gunther Martens, who also presented a detailed report on the
activities of the Steering Committee of the ENN in 2016–2017. The ENN Steering Committee had the following members in the said period:

Gunther Martens (Ghent University) Chair, Karin Kukkonen (University of Oslo), Ondřej Sládek (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague). The Steering Committee had also co-opted three ENN members: Nora Berning (University Of Mannheim), Hilary Duffield (University of Trier), Stefan Iversen (Aarhus University).

In the first general meeting, Karin Kukkonen informed about the discussions and a survey among ENN members as to whether they agree with the idea that ENN could be transformed from a network into a society with membership fees and a more extended organisational infrastructure (for this issue see next section). The aforementioned issues were discussed also during the second general meeting, which was primarily aimed at voting on the change of Section 3 of the ENN Constitution (remote electronic voting) and election of a new Steering Committee.

The approved change in the Constitution concerns Section 3 (Voting), which has been amended by one sentence (highlighted in bold):

§ 3 Voting
Each Individual Member of the ENN is entitled to one (1) vote. Votes may be cast in person at a General Meeting or by a written and signed proxy forwarded to a Member who attends the Meeting; no Member shall be allowed to accept more than two (2) proxies. **It is also possible to arrange for a remote electronic vote outside the General Meeting.**

After the three candidates had presented themselves, the new Steering Committee was elected with the following members for the 2017–2019 period:

Ondřej Sládek (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague)
Valerij Tjupa (Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow)
Peter Hühn (Hamburg University)
In conjunction with the 5th International Conference of the European Narratology Network, a preconference doctoral seminar on cognitive narratology was held: **Preconference Doctoral Seminar. Cognitive Narratology Today** (Prague, September 11–12, 2017). The doctoral seminar was primarily devoted to the topics connected with general narratological and poetological concepts such as Fictional Characters and Their Minds, Time and Temporality, and Reader, Reading and Interpretation as viewed from the cognitive perspective. The doctoral seminar was intended for students of Ph.D. programmes who have a general interest in narratology or directly employ the concepts of cognitive narratology in their research.

The coordinator of this seminar was Bohumil Fořt (ICL CAS) and the seminar leader and main speaker was Prof. Monika Fludernik (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg). The two-day seminar was divided into four thematic sections, which were, in addition to Prof. Fludernik, led by Anežka Kuzmičová (University of Stockholm), Richard Müller (ICL CAS), Michael Sinding (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) and Marco Caracciolo (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg). Each of them chaired one section that thematically focused on specific research issues. Each participant received a certificate of seminar completion, including 6 ECTS credits. There were altogether 22 doctoral students from various countries and universities from around the world who took part in the seminar ([see](http://www.narratology.net/sites/default/files/Guide_and_abstracts-2017-Prague.pdf)).

The conference and the preconference doctoral seminar was made possible by the financial support of the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Czech Academy of Sciences, the City of Prague, The Czech-German Fund for the Future and the State Fund of Culture. We wish to thank these institutions for their support. We extend our gratitude to AMCA – Academic and Medical Conference Agency, which managed the secretariat of the conference, for their great help in arranging the conference. The conference was held under the auspices of Professor Eva Zažímalová, the President of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Jan Wolf, Prague City Councillor for Culture.
II.2: Conference Publication

During the conference, several separate sessions of the ENN Steering Committee were held, dealing with the future direction of the ENN as well as its publishing activities and conference publications. These sessions were attended also by representatives of the Walter de Gruyter publishing house, which publishes the *Narratologia* series and the *Frontiers of Narrative Studies* journal (see https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/fns).

It was agreed that one of the publication outputs of the conference and the doctoral preconference would be a special issue of *Frontiers of Narrative Studies* to be published in 2018. (It has already been published; see S. Iversen, K. Kukkonen, G. Martens (eds.), *ENN5 Special Issue of Frontiers of Narrative Studies*, 2018, Vol. 4, s1; see: https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/fns.2018.4.issue-s1/fns-2018-0040/fns-2018-0040.xml?format=INT)

A thematic monograph titled *Narrative and Narratology: Metamorphosing the Structures* (to be edited by Ondřej Sládek et al.), which will contain selected papers, is to be published in 2021. The deadline for the submission of manuscripts was set for mid-2019; participating authors have been/will be informed about this. We intend to publish the studies not selected for the thematic issue of the journal or the monograph in *Amsterdam Journal for Cultural Narratology*. The edition of the ENN 4 proceedings is also still under way.

II.3: Discussion on Fees

At the general meeting concluding the 2017 ENN Conference in Prague (Friday 15 September), a report was given by Karin Kukkonen on the results of an explorative survey which the steering group had conducted concerning the question whether the network should be turned into a society with a membership fee. Out of the total number of more than 1000 ENN members a mere 73 had returned the questionnaire, of which 47 (against 26) had voted in favour of introducing a membership fee, an altogether inconclusive result. In the subsequent debate, both the introduction of fees and their use were discussed controversially. It was finally suggested that the question of
introducing a fee should be put to the vote by all ENN members on a much broader basis.

In response to that suggestion, the present steering committee will call for an electronic vote among ENN members on the introduction of a fee during the coming months. In order to make the vote conclusive a quorum of 60 percent of returned votes (out of the total number of current ENN members) will be required.

Ondřej Sládek, Peter Hühn

III. Upcoming Events and CfPs

Summer Course in Narrative Studies 2019 (Aarhus University)

The Summer Course in Narrative Studies (SINS) is an intensive PhD-level course that brings together PhD students, postdoctoral students, faculty members and leading scholars in a multi-disciplinary, international discussion of existing and emerging concepts and approaches in the broad field of narrative study.
The course is hosted by Aarhus University and it takes place at the Sandbjerg Estate, Denmark, July 28 – August 2, 2019. Through a combination of keynote lectures, participant papers, workshops and master classes the summer course covers the state of the art of current approaches as well as provides the participants with outstanding possibilities of getting feedback on their own work. Key note lecturers and workshop leaders in 2019 include Mieke Bal, Richard Walsh, Brian Schiff, and Eva von Contzen.

The institute welcomes scholars working with any and all type of narrative form or function, be that verbal or non-verbal, fictive or non-fictive, spontaneous or artificial, and presents researchers from fields such as postclassical narratology, narrative inquiry, rhetorical narrative theory, and transmedial approaches.
Séminaire “Hasard, causalité, contingence dans le récit”
Centre de recherches sur les arts et le langage (CNRS/EHESS)
Séminaire « Recherches contemporaines en narratologie »
2018-2019

Le séminaire se réunit tous les quinze jours, les 1er, 3e et 5e mardi du mois, de 15h à
17h
105, Boulevard Raspail – 75006 Paris / Salle 7
http://narratologie.ehess.fr

Philippe Roussin (CNRS, CRAL), organisateur, avec la collaboration de :
Olivier Caïra (IUT Evry et EHESS), Anne Duprat (Université d'Amiens et IUF), Annick
Louis (Université de Reims et CRAL), John Pier (Université de Tours et CRAL)

Hasard, causalité, contingence dans le récit
Le hasard intéresse le récit, système non linéaire par excellence et modèle possible
pour penser la complexité.

Existe-t-il une pensée, une technique, une pratique, une modélisation de la
contingence qui soient propres au récit ? L'intrusion du hasard dans une histoire
racontée est le signe d'un jeu mais pas toujours d'un trouble dans l'enchaînement des
causes et des effets, puisqu'elle y reproduit les défauts de notre perception du réel.
C'est bien pourquoi l'événement fortuit, l'acte aberrant, la rencontre improbable, la
conséquence déplacée, la torsion imprévue de l'intrigue sont les outils de travail de la
création narrative littéraire, depuis la recherche systématique de l'extraordinaire dans
les premiers romans grecs jusqu'à la déconstruction de la causalité dans les récits des
XXe et XXIe siècles, dans tous les média, en passant, entre autres, par l’intuition qui fonde le réalisme de Balzac : « Le hasard est le plus grand romancier du monde ».

En signalant un défaut de la logique qui organise le récit, l’intervention du hasard confirme et prolonge la fonction esthétique de celui-ci : elle met en évidence la complexité propre au récit comme système, sa capacité à faire émerger du nouveau et à modéliser différemment le monde.

C’est cette capacité que le séminaire propose d’explorer, en se consacrant aux relations entre hasard, causalité et contingence dans le fonctionnement du récit.

**Chance, Causality, Contingency in Narrative**

Chance concerns narrative, a non-linear system par excellence and a possible model for thinking about complexity.

Does there exist an idea, a technique, a practice, a modeling of contingency that might be peculiar to narrative? The intrusion of chance in a narrated story is a sign of play but not always a disturbance in the chain of causes and events, since it reproduces our perception of the real. This is why a fortuitous event, an aberrant act, an improbable meeting, an incongruous consequence, an unforeseen twist in the plot have been the work things of literary narrative starting with the systematic search for the extraordinary in the earliest Greek novels up to the deconstruction of causality in twentieth- and twenty-first century narratives in the full array of media, not to overlook, among other things, the intuition underlying Balzac’s realism: “The greatest novelist in the world is chance.”

By pointing out the lack of logic that organizes narrative, the intervention of chance confirms and extends the aesthetic function of chance: this function lays open the very complexity of narrative as system, its capacity for causing something new to emerge and modelling the world differently.

It is this capacity that the seminar seeks to discover by taking up the relations between chance, causality and contingency in the workings of narrative.

Mardi 6 novembre
Anne Duprat

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« Contingence/conséquence : le hasard et le récit »

Mardi 20 novembre
John Pier
(Université de Tours et CRAL)
« Instabilités narratives »

Mardi 4 décembre
Gregory Currie
(University of York)
« Agency and Cause in Stories »

Mardi 18 décembre
Carsten Meiner
(Université de Copenhague)
« Topologie, convention et contingence »

Mardi 15 janvier
Olivier Caïra
(IUT Evry et EHESS)
« Scénariser et improviser face au hasard : narratologie de l'interactivité »

Mardi 29 janvier
Raphaël Baroni
(Université de Lausanne)
« Contingences diégétiques, lectoriales et auctoriales : pour une narratologie sans planification »

Mardi 5 février
Cristina Viano (Centre Léon Robin – CNRS Paris-Sorbonne)
« Chaînes causales et fictions chez Aristote »
Mardi 19 février
Olivier Guerrier
(Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès)
« ‘Pour tant faut-il avoir les yeux ouverts aux commencements’ (Essais, III, 10) : Montaigne et la question du récit rétrospectif »

Mardi 5 mars
Claude Calame
(EHESS)
« Hasard et agentivité dans la tragédie grecque : la triple motivation de l’action héroïque dans l’Œdipe-Roi de Sophocle »

Mardi 19 mars
Marina Grishakova
(Université de Tartu)
« Predictive Mind and Narrative Uncertainty »

Mardi 2 avril
John D. Lyons
(Commonwealth Professor of French at the University of Virginia)
« Tragédie et probabilité paradoxale au XVIIe siècle »

Mardi 16 avril
Elie During
(Université Paris Nanterre)
« À quoi reconnaît-on un récit bergsonien ? La poétique de la durée à l’épreuve du simultané »

Mardi 7 mai
Richard Walsh
(University of York)

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« Creativity and the Recalcitrance of Narrative Cognition »

Mardi 21 mai
Philippe Roussin
(CNRS, CRAL)
« Pensée de la narration et causalité, de Robert Musil à Yan Lianke »

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4th International Colloquium on Narratology – On Beginning

The Department of Literary Theory of the Institute for Literary Studies (Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest) will have its 4th international colloquium of narratology, January 29–30, 2019 in Budapest.

The topic of the conference is beginning; the starting, introduction, first words, sentences or parts of the narrative work; the issue of how these segment(s) will determine the following parts of the text, the whole narrative work, the narration, time, space etc. Is it somehow true that the way things start is significantly more than just a chance episode in any sequence of events? Is it true that the way things end is necessarily encoded in the way they begin? Do the beginning of a narrative text and the beginning of the story narrated in the text shape each other? Are they of equal importance? If not, which will dominate the other? What does the arrangement of the episodes say about the story narrated? What counts as a true beginning if there is, in the narrative, not one central character but more than one protagonist?
As per previous consultations, it seems to be desirable to extend the topics to film; thus, one section (three or four lectures) will be reserved for narratological approaches to film.

Papers (of 15-20 minutes) will be presented in English or Hungarian. Programme of the conference: https://iti.btk.mta.hu/images/narratologia-konf-4.pdf

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Péter Hajdu  
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Válogatott bibliográfia / Selected bibliography:  
http://iti.btk.mta.hu/images/narratologia-kezdet1.pdf

IV. New Publications

ENN members are asked to send in announcements of recently or soon-to-be-published monographs and anthologies together with the standard bibliographical information (NB: intended for this heading are books, not articles). This information, which will be included in each upcoming Newsletter, should be sent to Ondřej Sládek, at ennooffice01@gmail.com. ENN members may also add new publication announcements (any type) via the website directly by following this link: http://www.narratology.net/node/add/biblio


Depretto, Catherine & Pier, John & Roussin, Philippe (eds.). *Le formalisme russe cent ans après*, *Communications*, 2018/2, No. 103.


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