



SELMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



SELMA

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
OF STORYTELLING,
EXPERIENTIALITY
AND MEMORY**

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF STORYTELLING, EXPERIENTIALITY AND MEMORY

SELMA is an international hub for interdisciplinary research on the interrelations between storytelling, experientiality and cultural memory. Our research foci include life-storying, trauma narratives, trans-cultural memory and digital storytelling. We explore the intersections of narrative, experience and memory from both theoretical and historical perspectives. SELMA organises research events on both theoretical and topical social issues and is committed to interdisciplinary dialogue. It aims at crossing the borders between arts and sciences, promoting social engagement and fostering international collaboration between scholars, artists and other people outside academia.

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UNIVERSITY OF TURKU 2019



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EDITORIAL

It is time to look back at another exciting year of SELMA activities. The year 2018 was a big year for SELMA: our long-term efforts to get major funding for SELMA projects finally bore fruit, and we have succeeded in attracting talented researchers around the world to join our research community.

We secured a project funding from the Academy of Finland for a SELMA project that is part of the consortium “Instrumental Narratives: The Limits of Storytelling and New Story-Critical Narrative Theory”, which is a consortium between Tampere (PI Maria Mäkelä), Turku (PI Hanna Meretoja) and Helsinki (PI Merja Polvinen). The consortium develops ideas and analytical instruments that will equip researchers, professional groups and non-academic audiences to navigate today’s social and textual environments that are dominated by storytelling. The SELMA project is called “Identity Work: Narrative Agency, Metanarrativity and Bibliotherapy” and it focuses on exploring how metanarrative contemporary fiction – which critically reflects on the uses and abuses of narratives in our culture and society – can amplify narrative agency and how such fiction could be used in different kinds of reading groups. We have a wonderful team and international partners with whom we will closely collaborate over the four-year period.

We also received highly-competitive EU funding by a project application that was mainly written by our postdoctoral researcher Nena Močnik. “#NeverAgain: Teaching Transmis-

sion of Trauma and Remembrance Through Experiential Learning” aims to address the concealed hatreds, prejudices and normalized oppressions that are learnt through the unhealed and transmitted traumas perpetuated in our everyday lives through seemingly harmless everyday practices. The project leader is Hanna Meretoja, project coordinator Nena Močnik, and project partners are University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Regensburg (Germany), University of Vilnius (Lithuania), TPO Foundation (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Patriri (Romania), Centro per la cooperazione internazionale – osservatorio Balkani Caucaso Transeuropa (Italy) and Polskie towarzystwo badania gier.

The year 2018 was a big year for us also because SELMA became more international in terms of attracting international researchers to join our research community. In spring 2018, the Faculty of Humanities launched a new visiting professor scheme, and one of the new visiting professors is Colin Davis who is not only visiting professor of the Faculty but also the first SELMA Visiting Professor. He started his tenure with a guest lecture and also gave a trauma studies workshop in the autumn. In autumn 2018, we also heard wonderful news: the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS) selected three new researchers who will be our new SELMA researchers. Marta Laura Cenedese (from Italy, PhD from the University of Cambridge) came to work in the Academy of Finland project in autumn 2018, and works as a

postdoctoral researcher in TIAS in 2019. She will now coordinate SELMA together with Nena Močnik. Avril Tynan (from the UK, PhD from Royal Holloway) and Helena Duffy (from Poland, PhD from Oxford Brookes University) are the other two new SELMA researchers. All three of them are experts on cultural memory, particularly in relation to the French Holocaust but also beyond that. We want to wish them most welcome to SELMA and look forward to working with them. It is wonderful to see the SELMA community expand and become more diverse as it continues to attract new people from around the world.

The way towards this internationalization of our activities has been paved by SELMA's participation in coordinating the international network "Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics" (2017–2019, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers), which has gathered an impressive group of scholars around the world to explore the interconnections of narrative and memory. We are now also part of another Nordic research network, "Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics" (2018–2019, NOS-HS/Nordic Council of Ministers) which organised a workshop in Uppsala in autumn 2018 and will organise another one in Turku in August 2019.

Our involvement in various international projects means that we have inspiring challenges ahead of us: we will organise several international events in 2019 and 2020, starting with the international symposium "Uses and Abuses of Storytelling: Theorizing the Intersections of Narrative, Memory, and Identity" (February 2019), continuing with the international conference of the #NeverAgain project: "Remembrance, Trauma Transmission and Experiential Learning" (May 2019) and culminating in the IABA World Conference in June 2020, hosted by SELMA in Turku.

Overall, the SELMA programme in 2018 was rich and varied, with workshops, seminars and symposia ranging from Knausgård, trauma and racism to the relationship between life and fiction. We look forward to our exciting programme for 2019 and to the further international collaborations that our new project fundings make possible.

Hanna Meretoja, Director
Professor of Comparative Literature

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Vice Director
Senior Lecturer, Adjunct Professor of Cultural History



GUEST LECTURES

15 February 2018

THE AFTERLIFE OF HOPE: CULTURAL MEMORY BEYOND THE TRAUMATIC

Ann Rigney (University of Utrecht)

In this paper, which is part of a larger project on the cultural memory of protest, prof. Rigney challenged the primacy of the traumatic paradigm in cultural memory studies by highlighting the role played by memory in social movements and in the transmission of hope for a better future. She made her argument with special reference to the long-term commemoration of the Paris Commune of 1871, particularly in the decades following its defeat.

16 February 2018

FOUR SHEETS OF TEXT/STORIES: VISUALISATION AS AN EMBODIED EXERCISE IN RESEARCH PEDAGOGY

Libora Oates-Indruchová, University of Graz

The lecturer presented a series of photographs that was created as a result of the search for a productive method of analysing and representing research data from a project on a politically and emotionally sensitive topic. The project concerned scholarly censorship, self-censorship and publishing under the repressive conditions of Central European state socialism between 1969 and 1989. The resulting presentation accompanied by the photographs, consisted of dramatized “imagined conversations” structured loosely as a quest narrative that tells the story of a research “quest” to understand the intricacies and dilemmas of individual academic lives under state socialism through the haze of memory, pain and vested interests.

13 September 2018

BUT IS IT ART? HEIDEGGER, THE INTERPRETATION OF (MOVING) IMAGES, AND EARLY FILM NARRATIVE

Colin Davis, Royal Holloway, University of London & University of Turku

In this lecture, Davis discussed film narrative in relation to Martin Heidegger’s theory of art. He showed how behind the question ‘But is it art?’ lie other questions: what values, prejudices and cultural norms do we bring to play when we distin-

guish between art and non-art, or high art and low art, good art and bad art? What does it matter, what is at stake when we throw doubt on a work’s artistic status or worth? Davis discussed how Heidegger’s essay ‘The Origin of the Work of Art’ epitomises a deeply-rooted Western respect for major art works whilst also formulating an exceptionally strong version of that respect. For Heidegger, great art *speaks*, if we know how to listen to it; and what it reveals when it speaks is *truth*. Art, and pre-eminently poetry, turn out to be comparable in standing to the highest achievements of thought. In a Heideggerian perspective, can a film aspire to rank alongside the greatest works of art and poetry? Davis pointed out that according to a Heideggerian approach, as a technological innovation film does not seem to share the qualities which Heidegger finds in great art. Davis questioned this Heideggerian view through an analysis of a sequence from an early film directed by Jean Renoir, showing how it offers its own response to Heidegger’s implicit critique.



24 September 2018

NARRATING TRAUMA – GENRE & THE QUESTION OF TIME

Anne Freadman, University of Melbourne

The lecture was drawn from a long-term study of diaries written in the period of the Holocaust, by French Jews living under the Nazi Occupation. The narrative time of a diary is highly specific: fragmentary and discontinuous, written *au jour le jour*, with no capacity for foreseeing the future or for constructing the experience retrospectively. It contrasts most notably with memoirs and autobiography. What effect does this have on our understanding of trauma? Is genre epiphenomenal, or does it go to the heart of the matter?

WORKSHOPS

23 March 2018

ON KNAUSGÅRD

The workshop on Karl-Ove Knausgård's autobiographical series *My struggle* aimed to reflect the multidisciplinary research possibilities that the book series offers. Literary scholar and bibliotherapist Päivi Kosonen gave a talk on the book in the context of the tradition of Western autobiographical literature and discussed how Knausgård both continues these traditions and renews them. After her presentation, the group of about ten participants from different disciplines had a writing assignment and discussed the various thoughts and emotions Knausgård's writing invites, and how these various perspectives could be developed into a joint research project or publication.

17 April 2018

MUISTIN TUTKIMUS–MUISTITIETUTKIMUS– OMAELÄMÄKERRALLISUUS

(Memory Studies – Oral History –
Autobiography Studies)

The half-day workshop organised by Anne Heimo, hosted 21 participants. It consisted of one keynote and discussions concerning the different trajectories of these three research fields and what could be learned from combining them. In her keynote “Omakohtaista ja jaettua – Metodologisia pohdintoja muistitiedon ja kulttuurisen muistin tutkimuksesta”, Ulla Savolainen (The Academy of Finland, University of Helsinki) addressed methodological issues in oral history and cultural memory studies and how these are present in her study of internment memories.

30 October 2018

THE COST OF BEARING WITNESS: SECONDARY TRAUMA & SELF-CARE IN FIELD-BASED SOCIAL RESEARCH

Co-organised with the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies

The workshop addressed the emotional and psychological impact of conducting field research in contexts that go “under the skin” of a researcher,

because they come so very close to one's own difficult experiences, or they involve severely traumatized participants. Participants discussed how recording and analysing such evidence may be traumatizing and have adverse effects upon the mental health of researchers in social research. As opposed to clinicians (psychotherapists, social workers) and personnel professionally trained in coping with trauma, field researchers in social/anthropological research are rather poorly equipped to cope with the overwhelming traumatic narratives from their research group. This workshop brought together various experts, scholars and practitioners with a background in social and anthropological research to share first-hand experiences from the field and to brainstorm and collect ideas, and suggestions to develop techniques to assist in preventing or minimizing the trauma transfer. In addition to the workshop, a proposal of nine articles on the topic was composed and is in the process of being published by *Social Epistemology Journal* in Spring 2019.

7 November 2018

TRAUMA STUDIES WORKSHOP

Colin Davis, Royal Holloway, University of London & University of Turku

While ‘trauma’ once referred to a physical wound requiring medical treatment, the term has now mutated and spread so that our entire global culture is sometimes characterized as traumatic or post-traumatic. Modern trauma theory grew out of the medical and legal concerns of the nineteenth-century industrial revolution, but in the twentieth century it became increasingly psychological as trauma was theorized in response to the experiences of soldiers returning from the two World Wars and the Vietnam War. In the humanities, trauma theory is linked to the effort of literary critics and theorists, such as Cathy Caruth and Shoshana Felman, to show that poststructuralist and psychoanalytic practices could elucidate experiences and works which are of the most raw ethical importance, such as those referring to the Holocaust or other cases of terrible historical suffering. There is, though, no easy consensus

about the history, causes, meaning and applicability of the theory of trauma.

This workshop addressed some of the questions that trauma studies currently faces from different directions. For example, trauma studies has been accused of focussing on the impasse of the individual psyche in ways that risk entailing a withdrawal from the social field; by its focus on catastrophic events, much of trauma theory seems to ignore the traumatizing processes and structures to which women, various ethnic groups and other underprivileged people are subjected to on a daily basis; by stressing the unspeakability of the traumatic it may devalue the endeavors of those who have an urgent story to tell and overlook the possibility of empathy. The workshop explored the

current state of trauma studies, its challenges and its potential, and its future directions, in dialogue with other interdisciplinary fields of research such as cultural memory studies and narrative studies. The introductory lecture by Colin Davis was open to everyone, after which the registered participants discussed one another's papers.



SEMINARS

18 January

INTERSECTIONS OF NARRATIVE STUDIES AND URBAN STUDIES

This seminar presented two speakers with links to the Centre who work in this interdisciplinary area, and on the frontier dividing academic and extra-academic social analysis. Jason Finch's paper reported on research into English cities often seen since the mid-twentieth century as being in post-industrial decline or crisis. The contemporary United Kingdom is characterized by extreme inequality of regions, reflected in public health statistics and voting patterns. Public housing is most often now viewed as a space of failure, whether design flaws or politicized neglect are blamed. But it could be rethought via the interaction between literary and urban studies as the heart of a rejuvenated city. The focus was on two different periods: both immediately preceding and immediately succeeding that of mass council housing in the UK (1970s-2000s). The author negotiated boundaries and trajectories both historical and topographical, bridging the gulf between top-down and bottom-up views of the city. Lieven Ameel presented the research project he is embarking on at the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (2018-2020). The project analyses narratives of the post-industrial urban waterfront from two distinct, but intermingling perspectives. The first point of focus is on how narrative fiction frames the experience of the waterfront in transformation, and how literature presents possible futures and alternative courses of action in the face of crises. Second, the project analyses how, in planning and policy documents of the waterfront, the simultaneous possibility of alternative storyworlds structures the way planning narratives are shaped.

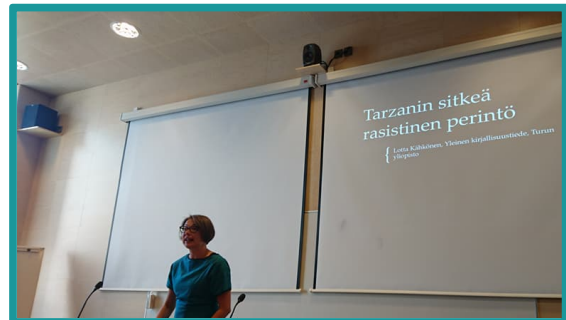


28 May 2018

MILLOIN KIRJA ON RASISTINEN? (*When is a book racist?*)



Writer and philosopher Heikki A. Kovalainen, SELMA and the Argumenta project *The Long Shadow of Hatred* organised a multidisciplinary seminar that focused on the issue of racism primarily in fiction and made statements about the alleged racism of and against exemplary works. The intention was to bring out concrete and literary examples and to create a shared and topical debate. The seminar was opened by Kovalainen, who discussed racism as an ideology and the question of when a book can be considered racist. Hanna Meretoja, Director of SELMA, discussed National Socialism in Jonathan Littell's *Les Bienveillantes* (2006, *The Kindly Ones*). Other lecturers approached the theme for example from human rights and historical perspectives. The seminar was open to everyone, and there was a nice amount of people listening and joining the conversation.



SYMPOSIA

8-11 March 2018, University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

FICTION AND FACTS IN NARRATIVES OF POLITICAL CONFLICT

This symposium explored how historical events are recounted in witness accounts and literary narratives. Constructing narratives is a common enterprise for authors of fiction and informants who offer their lived experience in oral or written accounts. Both fictional and non-fictional narratives rely on conventions and patterns which they imitate, reconstruct, or destabilize. Participants explored the complex relation between different types of political narratives and critically reflected on the relationship between fact and fiction. The symposium was part of the research network Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics, supported by the Nordic Summer University, an international research initiative funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

16–17 March

COMICS & SOCIETY

The interdisciplinary symposium explored how comics take part in making sense of societies, social phenomena, and societal changes in the Nordic region and beyond. The symposium included a keynote lecture, academic presentations, and an artist round table with Finnish comics artists at the city library.

11 May

STORYTELLING & ETHICS

In collaboration with the Centre for Narrative Research (University of East London) and the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention (The American University of Paris).

SELMA co-organised this symposium at the Centre for Narrative Research (CNR), University of East London. The symposium was inspired by six recent books on storytelling and ethics. From war photography to literature, to everyday lived experience, to Holocaust testimony, each of these books deals with questions of the relationship between ethics and storytelling, be it in real or

fictional contexts. Analysing how narratives enlarge or diminish the spaces of possibilities in which we act, think, and re-imagine the world together with others, these books explore the ethical potential and risks of storytelling. The books discussed in the symposium were: Jakob Lothe, ed. (2017): *Time's Witnesses: Women's voices from the Holocaust* (Fledgling Press); Hanna Meretoja (2018): *The Ethics of Storytelling: Narrative Hermeneutics, History, and the Possible* (Oxford University Press); Hanna Meretoja & Colin Davis, eds (2018): *Storytelling and Ethics: Literature, Visual Arts and the Power of Narrative* (Routledge); Louie Palu (2017): *Front Towards Enemy* (Yoffy Press); Brian Schiff (2017): *A New Narrative for Psychology* (Oxford University Press); Brian Schiff, A. Elizabeth McKim & Sylvie Patron, eds (2017): *Life and Narrative: The Risks and Responsibilities of Storying Experience* (Oxford University Press). The symposium programme combined panel presentations, author Q & A, and open discussion. It also provided a great opportunity to plan further collaboration between SELMA and the Centre for Narrative Research (University of East London).



28 July–5 August 2018

Fårö, Sweden

REIMAGINING AND REMEMBERING THE OTHER: NARRATIVE EMPATHY AND ITS LIMITATIONS

This fourth symposium of the network “Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics” was part of the Nordic Summer University’s summer session that took place in Fårö (Sweden). The main organisers of the symposium were Hanna Meretoja and Eneken Laanes who together run

the network. Reimagining the other is integral to the power of narrative to move us and to elicit social change and it is arguably one of the central ways in which fiction and other forms of art contribute to the shaping of cultural memory. The symposium explored narrative strategies that different narrative forms employ in processes of reimagining others. Key questions discussed over the symposium week included the following: What ethical and aesthetic concerns arise when the other is a victim, a perpetrator or employs a subject position that these categories fail to capture? What kind of ethical potential does the power of imagination entail? Wherein do the limits of imagining and empathy reside?



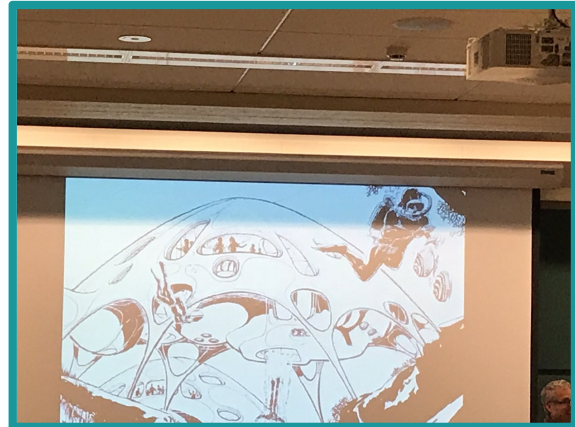
27–29 August 2018 (Turku, Finland)
WELL-BEING IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY – FIGHTING INEQUALITIES

WIS 2018 looks for innovations and fresh ideas in the cross-section of urban living, information society and health as understood in a wide sense. Starting in 2006, this was the seventh conference in its series. The overarching theme of the WIS 2018 conference was “Fighting inequalities”. Our SELMA postdoctoral researcher Nena Močnik organised a workshop as part of this conference.

19 November
IMAGINING CITY FUTURES ACROSS DISCIPLINES
Co-organised with the Turku Institute for Advanced Studies

This one-day symposium, organised in cooperation with SELMA and with the Association for Literary Urban Studies, brought together researchers of future narratives from across disciplines. It focused on representations of city fu-

tures across a range of genres, from literary fiction to futures scenarios, policy, and urban planning. During the symposium, presenters examined the language, narrative frames, and metaphors with which future cities are told, and the implications of such discursive strategies. The keynote speaker was Paul Dobraszczyk, a teaching fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture in London.



22 November
ELAMÄ JA FIKTIO (Life and Fiction)

The symposium was organised in the premises of Aurinkobaletti dance theatre, and the audience consisted mainly of students and researchers. In their presentations, scholars and artists asked how to make fiction out of life and what are the challenges when using past lives in making art in theatre, literature and other artistic performances. In her opening words, cultural historian and organiser of the symposium Maarit Leskelä-Kärki discussed the recent boom of biographical and autobiographical literature and art, and particularly pointed out the ethical challenges in using past lives to make art. On the other hand, it is interesting to ponder how much we tell about ourselves when we recount the lives of others. Playwright Seppo Parkkinen talked about the process of making theatre based on the life of Minna Canth and her contemporaries. Artist and researcher Elina Saloranta discussed her artistic work based on epistolary documents of the singer Elli Rozentals a hundred years ago. Literary scholar and therapist Päivi Kosonen discussed autofiction in the context of Karl-Ove Knausgård’s work *My Struggle*. Writer Pirkko Soininen and biographer Hanna-Reetta Schreck discussed the life of Ellen Thesleff, and their processes of writing biofiction and biog-

raphy on this artist. Finally, violinist and cultural historian Laura Kokko told how she had used the correspondence of writer Volter Kilpi and his wife Hilja Kilpi in order to make a musical drama about their life. The symposium ended with a

performance by Ooppera Skaala *Vierge Moderne* that tells about the life and work of the power Edith Södergran in the form of an electronic opera.



PROJECTS

IDENTITY WORK: NARRATIVE AGENCY, METANARRATIVITY AND BIBLIOTHERAPY (PART OF THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND CONSORTIUM INSTRUMENTAL NARRATIVES, 2018–2022, CONSORTIUM WITH TAMPERE AND HELSINKI)

In 2018–2022, SELMA hosts a project that is part of the new Academy of Finland consortium “Instrumental Narratives: The Limits of Storytelling and New Story-Critical Narrative Theory” (PI of the Tampere team: Maria Mäkelä; PI of the Turku team: Hanna Meretoja; PI of the Helsinki team: Merja Polvinen). The consortium develops ideas and analytical instruments that will equip researchers, professional groups and non-academic audiences to navigate today’s social and textual environments that are dominated by storytelling. We put contemporary literary fiction in dialogue with the manipulative stories that spread around the internet, in order to reveal the dubious relationship that some narratives have with identity, truth, politics, and complex systems such as climate change. In order to confront these issues, we reveal the sophisticated story-critical ideas and techniques offered by works of contemporary fiction. The consortium brings together the nationally leading and internationally renowned scholars of narrative at the Universities of Tampere, Turku and Helsinki.

The Turku team focuses particularly on the uses and abuses of literature for identity work and on exploring how metanarrative contemporary fiction – which critically reflects on the uses and abuses of narratives in our culture and society – can amplify narrative agency and how such fiction could be used in different kinds of reading groups. The research team includes Hanna Meretoja (project leader), Marta Cenedese, Colin Davis, Johanna Kaakinen, Päivi Kosonen, Anu Laukkanen, Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Nena Močnik, and Jouni Teittinen (who gets his funding as part of the Helsinki team), and we work together with our international partners.



The iNarr team

The launch event of the project hosted by SELMA took place on 6 November 2018. The PI of the Turku team, Hanna Meretoja, presented the overall aims of the project, her co-PIs, Maria Mäkelä and Merja Polvinen, presented the plans of the Tampere and Helsinki teams, and then the members of the Turku team, including our visiting professor Colin Davis, presented their plans for the research they will conduct in the project. The launch event gave us the chance to get feedback from the audience and to respond to their questions and suggestions as well as to plan together future collaborations.

#NEVERAGAIN: TEACHING TRANSMISSION OF TRAUMA AND REMEMBRANCE THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
(European Commission, Europe for Citizens 2018–2019)

The project aims to address the concealed hatreds, prejudices and normalized oppressions that are learnt through the unhealed and transmitted traumas perpetuated in our everyday lives through seemingly harmless everyday practices. In the next 18 months partners will develop and deliver 4 clusters of local events within their communities to test experiential learning tools (ELT) in order to experience the harmful effects of transmitted collective traumas and how they impact the continuation of hatreds and vengeance today. Events will bring together around 450 students, teachers and citizens and an additional 500 community members as invited audience, and will influence numerous other individuals by using event hashtags on social media and online platforms.

The processes and outcomes will be presented “#NeverAgain: Teaching Transmission of Trauma and Remembrance through Experiential Learning”, a workshop-based conference in May 2019, hosted by the University of Turku. In the dissemination phase, a transnational blended education platform will be developed, offering different in-class experiential didactic methods and online webinars and didactic videogames. The project leader is Hanna Meretoja, the project coordinator Nena Močnik, and project partners are University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Regensburg (Germany), University of Vilnius (Lithuania), TPO Foundation (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Patriri (Romania), Centro per la cooperazione internazionale – osservatorio Balkani Caucaso Transeuropa (Italy) and Polskie towarzystwo badania gier.

The kick-off event of the project took place in Turku 26–28 September 2018. All the project partners participated, planned the local events together, and we also organised a press conference where local media participated.



MOBILITIES

In **January**, **Nena Močnik** presented a paper, “The Necessity of Teaching the Dialogue: Social Justice and Critical Performative Pedagogies”, at Symposium Jean-Paul Dionne, University of Ottawa, Canada.

In **March**, several members of SELMA, including **Hanna Meretoja**, **Molly Andrews**, **Colin Davis**, **Eneken Laanes**, **Anna Vuorinne** and **Aura Nikkilä**, participated in “Fiction and Facts in Narratives of Political Conflict”, the third symposium of the network “Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics”. The symposium was held at the University of Agder, and it critically addressed the fiction-fact dichotomy in narratives of various kinds that deal with twentieth-century European conflicts and political atrocities. Central questions of the symposium included the following: Which are the challenges of interpreting narratives that insist on representing historical facts? What are the effects of incorporating documentary elements in fictional expressions, and vice versa? How do narratives of political conflict make use of media imagery, and to what extent do they negotiate their influence and meaning?

In **March–April**, **Hanna Meretoja** attended The Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She co-organised with **Colin Davis** a 3-day seminar called “Literature and Trauma: Prospects and Perspectives”. The seminar explored the current state of trauma studies, its challenges, potential and future directions, in dialogue with other interdisciplinary fields of research such as memory studies and narrative studies. **Nena Močnik** gave a keynote “From Testifying to Myth Making, Creation of Rape Survivor’s Destiny” at the conference “21st Century Reflections on Sexual Violence in Wars, its Transgenerational and Transnational Impact”, University of Ottawa, Canada, March 2018. The keynote was part of her Award in Women’s Studies, awarded by Bank of Montreal 2017–2018.

In **April**, **Lieven Ameel** co-organised a session “Mediating and Representing the Slum” at the

American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference, New Orleans, USA. **Jason Finch** was one of the two co-organisers of the two sessions on “Mediating and Representing the Slum”. The session brought together scholars from a range of backgrounds including literary studies, human geography and urban sociology looking at the construction of ideas of urban informality and inadequate housing, often using the label ‘slum’, in contexts on multiple continents. The sessions led to a commissioned special issue of the journal *City*, scheduled to be out in late 2019 or early 2020. **Anne Heimo** participated at European Social Science Conference (ESSHC), Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. She was a co-chair of the Oral History and Life Stories network responsible for organising the networks’ 15 sessions. Anne Heimo presented a paper “Memories of the 1918 Finnish Civil War and strategic silence” at the International Oral History Conference (IOHA) Memory and Narration, Jyväskylä, Finland. She was one of the main organisers, and gave opening words on behalf of the Finnish Oral History Network. In 2018 she took over two new positions of trust: in the council of International Oral History Association (IOHA), council and in the advisory board of Memory Studies Association, Nordic network (MSA Nordic). **Hanna Meretoja** organised a roundtable, “Philosophies of Narrative”, in the International Conference for the Study of Narrative, in Montréal, Canada. In the roundtable, the panelists discussed different philosophical traditions underlying contemporary narrative studies and the role of tacit assumptions in various debates in narrative studies (e.g. on life and narrative, narrative identity, fictionality, universalism, ethics). The other speakers in the roundtable were Jens Brockmeier, Colin Davis and Andreea Ritivoi. **Nena Močnik** participated at the AHRC Network Conference “Culture and its Uses as Testimony” at the University of Birmingham, UK. She discussed the potential of theatre to embody testimony and give voice to otherwise unspeakable experiences. Nena Močnik also attended the “War and Identity” workshop at the University of Liverpool, UK. She presented a

paper “Who Are Bosnian Rape Victims: Methodological and Epistemological Concerns about Knowledge Production”.

In **May**, as President of the Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS: blogs.helsinki.fi/hlc-n/), **Jason Finch** was one of the three co-organisers of the international symposium “The City: Myth and Materiality”, held at Senate House in London, and jointly organised by ALUS with the Institute for Historical Research (IHR), School of Advanced Study, University of London. At the symposium, Jason presented a joint paper with Dr Elle-Mari Talivee of the Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of Sciences on a topic related to cultural memory: “Traces of the 1905 Revolution in the Literature and Urban Space of Tallinn: Monumental Myth, Novelistic Materiality”. **Anne Heimo** gave a keynote “Examining everyday practices of memory and history: Online commemoration and remediated memories” at Methodological approaches to study uses of the past seminar at Aarhus University. **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki**, who also works as the chair of Aino Kallas Society, attended the event for Aino Kallas Name's Day organised by the Finnish Literature Society, PEN-Finland and Aino Kallas Society. She gave a speech called Aino Kallas, Lydia Koidula ja elämäkerrallinen muisti (Aino Kallas, Lydia Koidula and biographical memory). Together with **Hanna Meretoja**, she participated in the book launch event in London at the Centre for Narrative Research dealing with Hanna Meretoja's book *The Ethics of Storytelling: Narrative Hermeneutics, History, and the Possible*, and gave a commentary speech together with other colleagues. **Lieven Ameel** participated in organising the symposium “The City: Myth and Materiality”, co-organised by the Association for Literary Urban Studies (ALUS) and the Institute for Historical Research (IHR), School of Advanced Study, University of London.

In **June**, **Kaisa Ilmonen** and **Hanna Meretoja** attended the “Narrative Matters” conference in Twente, Netherlands. They both participated in the roundtable “Teaching narratives in upper secondary school: Ethical, affective, and intersectional reading”, and Meretoja also participated in the panel and roundtable on “Narrative, Values

and Valuation”. In connection to the conference, there was a celebration dinner to celebrate Hanna Meretoja's Early Career Award that she was awarded by the American Education Research Association's (AERA) Narrative Special Interest Group for her contributions to narrative studies. **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** attended the 12th Nordic Women's and Gender history conference Kris/Crises at the University of Oulu. She gave a paper called “Life's catastrophes: Interpreting life crises in biographical research”.

In **July–August**, **Hanna Meretoja** co-organised a symposium, with **Eneken Laanes**, called “Reimagining and Remembering the Other: Narrative Empathy and its Limitations”, which was the fourth symposium of the network “Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics” and part of the Nordic Summer University's summer session that took place in Fårö (Sweden). Several members of SELMA, including **Molly Andrews**, **Marta L. Cenedese**, **Colin Davis**, **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki**, **Aura Nikkilä** and **Anna Vuorinne**, participated in the symposium. The symposium explored narrative strategies that different narrative forms employ in processes of reimagining others. What kind of ethical potential does the power of imagination entail? Wherein do the limits of imagining and empathy reside?



In **September**, **Hanna Meretoja** attended the first workshop of the NOS-HS project “Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics” in Uppsala, Sweden. The Interpreting Violence project begins with the assumption that the representation of violence in literature, film, history and journalism is an inherently ethical issue because it invites readers or viewers to imagine someone else's pain. As uncomfortable as the fact

may be, we are confronted everyday with signs that people enjoy the vicarious experience of violence – crime novels in the airport, first-person perspective war games, action movies. “Joys of Violence,” the first workshop of the Interpreting Violence project, confronted this uncomfortable issue.

In **November**, **Kaisa Ilmonen** attended the conference *Affect of Diversity in Nordic Literature* (2018 DINO Conference) in Oslo, Norway. She presented a paper, titled “Feminist Storytelling and Affectivity in Nordic Debates on Intersectionality”.

In **December**, **Hanna Meretoja** gave a guest lecture at The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, at the American University of Paris. In the talk, “The Ethical Potential and Dangers of Narratives: Six Evaluative Continuums”, she addressed the ways in which narrative hermeneutics allows us to analyse and evaluate narratives – their uses and abuses – from an ethical perspective. The visit also provided the opportunity to plan further collaboration between SELMA and The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, which promotes innovative research, curricula and pedagogies leading to deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of genocide and mass violence. **Nena Močnik** participated in the conference *Recognition, Reparation, Reconciliation* at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. She presented a paper “(Un)Canning the Victims: Embodied Research Practice and Ethnodrama in Response to War-Rape Legacy in Bosnia-Herzegovina”.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Ameel, Lieven. 2018. "Antti Tuomainen: The Healer." – Johns-Putra, Adeline & Goodbody, Axel (eds.): *Reader in Climate Fiction*. Oxford: Peter Lang (165–70).
- Ameel, Lieven. 2018. "Metaphorizations of the waterfront in New York City's comprehensive waterfront plan Vision 2020 and Foer's 'The Sixth Borough.'" *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*.
- Ameel, Lieven & Terhi Ainiala. 2018. "Toponyms as Prompts for Presencing Place – Making Oneself at Home in Kjell Westö's Helsinki." *Scandinavian Studies* 90 (2): 195–210.
- Ameel, Lieven. 2018. "Mahdollisuuksien maisema: Helsingin rantaviiva liminaalitalana." ["Landscape of possibilities: the Helsinki shore as liminal space."] – Rosenholm, Arja; Meretoja, Hanna; Lehtimäki, Markku (eds.): *Vesitilat kirjallisuudessa [Waterscapes in Literature]*. Helsinki: SKS (73–92).
- Finch, Jason. 2018. "London Jewish ... and Working-Class? Social Mobility and Boundary-Crossing in Simon Blumenfeld and Alexander Baron." – *Working-Class Writing: Theory and Practice*, edited by Ben Clarke and Nick Hubble. Palgrave Macmillan (207–208).
- Finch, Jason. 2018. "Pedestrianism, Money and Time: Mobilities of Hurry in George Gissing's *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*." – *Architectures of Hurry: Mobilities, Cities and Modernity*, edited by Phillip Gordon Mackintosh, Richard Dennis and Deryck W. Holdsworth. Routledge. 175–93.
- Heimo, Anne & Lintunen, Tiina. 2018. "Luotauksia sisällissodan jälkiin." – Lintunen, Tiina & Heimo, Anne (toim.) *Sisällissodan jäljet*. Väki Voimakas 31. Helsinki: Työväen historian ja perinteen tutkimuksen seura (7–23).
- Lintunen, Tiina & Heimo, Anne (toim.). 2018. *Sisällissodan jäljet*. Väki Voimakas 31. Helsinki: Työväen historian ja perinteen tutkimuksen seura.
- Heimo, Anne. 2018 (republished as an open access publication), 2006: "Places lost, Memories regained. Narrating the 1918 Finnish Civil War in Sammatti." – Annikki Kaivola-Bregenhøj, Barbro Klein & Ulf Palmenfelt (eds.), *Narrating, Doing, Experiencing*. Nordic Folkloristic Perspectives, Studia Fennica Folkloristica. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 47–63. <<https://oa.finlit.fi/site/books/10.21435/sff.16/>>
- Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit & Tiina Mahlamäki. 2018. "The history of modern Western esotericism. Individuals, ideas, practices." Editorial in *Approaching Religion* 8 (1).
- Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit. 2018. Review on Jens Brockmeier: *Beyond the Archive: Memory, Narrative, and the Autobiographical Process*. *Biography* 41 (2).
- Meretoja, Hanna, "Kertomusten eettinen potentiaali ja vaarat: kuusi mittapuuta." *Kirjallisuudentutkimuksen aikakauslehti Avain: Finnish Review of Literary Studies*, 1/2018.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2018. "Vesi, tarinankerronta ja todellisuuden hahmottaminen Jeanette Wintersonin *Majakanvar-tijassa* ja Emmi Itärannan *Teemestarin kirjassa*." ["Water, Storytelling and Sense-Making in Jeanette Winterson's *Lighthousekeeping* and Emmi Itäranta's *Memory of Water*"] – Markku Lehtimäki, Hanna Meretoja & Arja Rosenholm (eds.). 2018. *Veteen kirjoitettu: Veden merkityksiä kirjallisuudessa [Written in Water: The Meanings of Water in Literature]*. Helsinki: SKS.
- Meretoja, Hanna & Colin Davis (eds.). 2018. *Storytelling and Ethics: Literature, Visual Arts and the Power of Narrative*. New York: Routledge.

- Meretoja, Hanna. 2018. *The Ethics of Storytelling: Narrative Hermeneutics, History, and the Possible*. Oxford University Press.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2018. "Hermeneutics." – Barry Stocker (ed.), *Palgrave Handbook in Philosophy and Literature*. Palgrave Macmillan (341–4).
- Liesbeth Korthals Altes & Hanna Meretoja: "Ethics and Literature." – Barry Stocker (ed.), *Palgrave Handbook in Philosophy and Literature*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, 601–21.
- Močnik, Nena. 2018. "Narrated Silence in Sexual Scripts of War Rape Survivors: Hidden Transmission of Violent Sexual Patterns." *Sexuality & Culture* 22 (4).

ADMINISTRATION

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NETWORKS

SELMA collaborates with other research centres in Europe and elsewhere working in the field of narrative studies, memory studies, autobiography studies and life-writing studies. We are interested in new initiatives in the field of research, teaching and social engagement activities.

- Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics (Nordic-Baltic research network coordinated by Hanna Meretoja and Eneken Laanes)
- IIPC – The International Institute for Popular Culture, University of Turku
- Narrare: Centre for Interdisciplinary Narrative Studies, University of Tampere
- Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London
- Centre for Life-Writing Research, King's College, London
- The Holocaust Research Institute, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Memory Studies Association, <https://www.memorystudiesassociation.org/>
- IABA-Europe and *European Journal for Life-Writing*