



# **SELMA**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



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

# SELMA

## 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, transcultural 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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**SELMA** 

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## EDITORIAL

2019 was another eventful year for SELMA, particularly in terms of major international conferences and research collaboration. SELMA hosted two big international conferences: “Uses and Abuses of Storytelling: Theorizing the Intersections of Narrative, Memory, and Identity” (14–16 February 2019) and “Remembrance, Trauma Transmission and Experiential Learning” (27–29 May 2019). These events brought together around two hundred scholars from around the world working in the interdisciplinary fields of narrative studies, memory studies and trauma studies. The inspiring discussions during the conferences have led to many new forms of collaboration.

In 2019, under the auspices of SELMA, several research projects have engaged in a variety of activities. Integral to these collaborative projects has been intensive work on joint publications, and we are currently in the process of editing several substantial publications that have emerged from the SELMA projects, such as “Instrumental Narratives: The Limits of Storytelling and New Story-Critical Narrative Theory”, which is an Academy of Finland consortium between Tampere (PI Maria Mäkelä), Turku (PI Hanna Meretoja) and Helsinki (PI Merja Polvinen), “#NeverAgain: Teaching Transmission of Trauma and Remembrance Through Experiential Learning” (funded by European Commission, run by Hanna Meretoja and Nena Močnik) and “Seekers of the New”, a Kone Foundation project led by Maarit Leskelä-Kärki. For example, we are now in the final stages of editing *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma* (edited by Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja) and *Engaging with Historical Traumas: Experiential Learning and Pedagogies of Resilience* (edited by Duijzings, Meretoja, Močnik & Njeres Beti, Routledge).

We are sad that the energetic coordinator of SELMA, Nena Močnik, had to leave Turku in September (she was offered a new, exciting research position in Paris, for which we want to congratulate her). We are grateful for all the work she did for SELMA and hopeful that she will stay an active member of our research community even if from afar. We are pleased that several other talented researchers around the world joined our research community in 2019. For example, three new TIAS (Turku Institute for Advanced Studies) researchers who started their projects in 2019 are active new SELMA scholars: Marta-Laura Cenedese, Helena Duffy and Avril Tynan. All three of them are experts on cultural memory studies, narrative studies and trauma studies. Marta and Helena have now taken over the SELMA coordinating responsibilities from Nena.

2019 was the last year the international network “Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics” (in which SELMA has been active and which has been run by Hanna Meretoja

and Eneken Laanes) was part of the Nordic Summer University (funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers). A new network, “Narrative and Violence” that grew out of that network, will continue the work and be part of the Nordic Summer University for the next three years (2020–2022), and it will be coordinated by two SELMA researchers, Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy. We have also been involved in another Nordic research network, “Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics” (2018–2019, NOS-HS/Nordic Council of Ministers), which had a symposium in Turku in August 2019, co-organised by SELMA, and which will also lead to a joint publication.

In 2019, SELMA was also active in discussions concerning the future research strategy of the University of Turku, and we are pleased that “Cultural Memory and Social Change” will remain one of the six thematic research areas of our university for the next ten years. We are active members of the board that coordinates interdisciplinary collaboration in this thematic area.

The year has not been without its challenges, linked to illness, research leaves, uncertainty of funding and so on, but we are confident that SELMA will continue to thrive in this new decade. The highlight of 2020 will be the IABA World Conference (a biannual conference of the International Auto/Biography Association), which SELMA is hosting in June 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming over 400 conference participants in Turku, to an event on which we have worked hard through the past year and which will hopefully prove to be unforgettable to all the participants.



**Hanna Meretoja, Director**  
*Professor of Comparative Literature*

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

## GUEST LECTURES

31 October 2019

### QUITTING (THE) HABIT: FOSSIL FUELS, GOVERNMENTALITY AND THE POLITICS OF ENERGY DEPENDENCY

*PROF. IMRE SZEMAN (UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO)*

Prof. Szeman's guest lecture set out the groundwork for a critical examination of energy habits and energy dependencies. The lecture was followed by a Roundtable with Imre Szeman, Olga Ciemelecka, Heikki Sirviö, Tere Vaden, and Lieven Ameel. During the roundtable discussion, the possibilities and challenges of interdisciplinary energy humanities and environmental humanities were discussed from the perspective of literary studies, philosophy, and geography, among others.

Professor Szeman's visit took place in the context of TIAS Collegium researcher Lieven

Ameel's project 'Imagining City Futures across Genres'.



## WORKSHOPS

18 March 2019

### KULTTUURINEN MUISTI - TUTKIMUSPÄIVÄ (CULTURAL MEMORY RESEARCH DAY)

Eri tieteenalojen tutkijat kokoontuivat keskustelemaan yliopiston temaattisesta alueesta "kulttuurinen muisti ja yhteiskunnan muutos" keskittymällä erityisesti kulttuurisen muistin käsitteeseen. Puheenvuoroissa ja työpajoissa pohdittiin käsitteen käyttöä eri tutkimusaloilla. Työpajan tarkoituksena oli saattaa yhteen eri tiedekunnissa työskentelevät tutkijat ja kehittää yliopiston temaattista aluetta.

17 May 2019

### BREAKING THE SILENCE

*AGAINNEVERAGAIN EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH STEPEUROPE*

This all-day interactive workshop combined visual, digital and traditional storytelling to address transnational and transgenerational collective silences. The outcomes of the workshop have been presented during the symposium 'Remembrance, Trauma Transmission & Experiential Learning' (Turku, 27–29 May).



27–29 August 2019

**THE HERMENEUTICS OF VIOLENCE**

This workshop was part of the larger project entitled ‘Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics’, funded by the Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (<https://site.uit.no/violence/>). The project began 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. A story may encourage a reader/viewer to place herself in the position of victim, perpetrator, witness or rescuer. She may imagine the events narrated in the manner invited by the text or in a resistant fashion, but by engaging a depiction of violence at all, she deems it a pleasant or ethically worthwhile use of time and thought. The project investigates this phenomenon in two workshops. The first workshop, ‘The Joys of Violence’ was held at Uppsala University September 19–21 2018.

‘The Hermeneutics of Violence’ was the second workshop. It focused on the hermeneutics of violence, implying both the violent annulment of personhood sometimes inherent in interpretive acts themselves and the processes of interpreting narratives representing violence. By foregrounding the tension between philosophical violence and embodied violence as well as their complex entanglements, scholars contributing to this workshop explored the relationship between these different forms of violence. Is narrative, like other forms of language, inherently violent? Can stories direct our attention to that within the human that evades designation but nevertheless calls for protection? Is violence constitutive of subjectivity and intersubjectivity and, if yes, how should we conceptualize this? Is there non-violent interpretation and how should we theorize this possibility?

Among the workshop participants there were SELMA members **Hanna Meretoja**, **Marta-Laura Cenedese**, **Helena Duffy**, **Nena Močnik**, **Avril Tynan** and members of the international board (**Molly Andrews**, **Colin Davis**, and **Brian Schiff**).



25 September 2019

**PLAYING (WITH) NON-VIOLENCE**

*EVENT ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH TURKU INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (TIAS) AND VIMMA, YOUTH ART AND ACTIVITY CENTRE AND FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AS A PART OF THE PROJECT ‘AGAIN NEVER AGAIN: TEACHING TRAUMA TRANSMISSION THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING’.*



Playing videogames has always been tied to controversial speculations and assumptions about its negative impact, from the promotion of violence to fostering aggressive behaviour, particularly among youth. But is there an enjoyable and healthy way of playing games? In what way can video or board games be a useful learning tool, promoting non-violence and various other skills like problem solving, multiperspectivity in history education, team work, coordination and negotiating in international affairs?

In his opening words, ‘Monstrous Gamers: Videogames, Violence and US Politics’, Tom Apperley (Tampere University), discussed how in a recent controversial tweet, condemning gun violence in the USA, the US President blamed video-games for glorifying violence and creating a generation of ‘monsters.’ Gamer culture immediately highlighted the foolishness and hypocrisy of Trump’s statement. This talk further explored this critique of Trump



through the history of the US videogames industry and Trump's own communication practices. The role of US government and politics in shaping how violence is presented in videogames must be understood against the backdrop of the many historic and emerging, popular and non-violent genres of videogames. While the violence of the shooters that Trump condemns is reprehensible, he also makes use of the divisive and hateful communication practices first popularized by gamergate. Trump's characterization of gaming as 'monstrous' elides his own role in producing an environment of anger, fear and hate where immigrants are scapegoated and victimized.

**16 October 2019**

## **POLITICS OF NARRATIVE AND MEMORY**

*TALKS BY ENEKEN LAANES AND MOLLY ANDREWS (VISITING SCHOLARS AT THE HELSINKI COLLEGIUM FOR ADVANCED STUDIES).*

This workshop explored the political dimensions of narrative practices and forms of memory. It examined how memory cultures and cultural narratives shape the way in which people see the political world and the possibility of political change.

Molly Andrews gave a presentation titled 'Conflicting Narratives of National Belonging', where she discussed the complexity of the process by which a formal national identity becomes internalised, that is to say 'owned' by an individual in such a way that it becomes part of their self-definition. This paper explored how individuals communicate their sense of national belonging (or lack thereof) through the stories they tell about themselves, as people who live in particular cultures and who must negotiate their way through particular historical moments. While much literature on national identity of individuals has focused on explicit talk about national characteristics (ascribing them to one's own group, and to others), this is not the only way in which people communicate their sense of what it means to be a member of their community. Often it

is in the parenthetical throw-away lines that an individual will reveal an important aspect of what their national identity means to them, and how this evolves over time. The paper drew on data from Britain, East Germany, United States and South Africa, and related these to discourses of national belonging, which have evolved in the post-factual Brexit/Trump world.

In her talk, 'Cultural Memorial Forms', Eneken Laanes discussed how, in recent years, many scholars in memory studies have tried to think about the role of memorial forms in the articulation and travel of memories. Ann Rigney has argued that there is often a gap between historical experiences and memorial forms that are available in that historical and cultural moment for giving public expression to these experiences. The repertoire of memorial forms is scarce, culturally and historically specific and continues to evolve in time. In order to come to terms with the scarcity, older forms may be recycled or memorial forms can be borrowed and appropriated from other cultures. There are various other concepts that have been developed to try to capture the enabling role of something like memorial forms in mediating and articulating experiences such as genre memory (Olick), conventionalised genres and formats (Erll), memory schemata (Hoskins), frames of memory (Halbwachs, Bond). Depending on the disciplinary histories these authors draw on, some of them conceive memorial forms more in terms of figures, tropes and images, the others as schemata and (narrative) templates. Laanes discussed these attempts to conceptualise the role of memorial forms and illustrated their use in the Eastern European memory cultures.



*Hanna Meretoja, Molly Andrews and Eneken Laanes during the final discussion*

## SEMINARS

9 April 2019

### ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN FRENCH LITERATURE AND FILM

In this seminar, two new postdoctoral researchers of SELMA, Marta-Laura Cenedese and Avril Tynan, presented their new projects that deal with French literature and film.

In her presentation, 'The Failures of Film: Reimagining Irène Némirovsky's *Suite française*', Marta-Laura Cenedese addressed the complex interplay between Irène Némirovsky's novel *Suite française* (1940–42/2004) and its film adaptation (*Suite Française*, dir. Saul Dibb, 2015). She argued that the film tries to 'correct' and 'make right' certain perceived 'failures' of the novel, thus limiting its nuanced ethical potential for the sake of a safe and 'established' post-Holocaust narrative that misleads viewers' postmemory of the events.

In 'Fathers in Francophone Literature and Film since 1945', Avril Tynan presented the theoretical and methodological outlines of her postdoctoral project, drawing on research in the fields of gender and narrative studies.

12 April 2019

### ARCHIVES, COMMUNITIES AND ACTIVISM

This seminar was organized by the Master's degree studies of Records and Archives Management & The Archives of History, Culture and Arts Studies.

Speakers and participants discussed intersections of archives, communities, activism, participation, silences, power, and oral history. The Speakers of this seminar were: Rachel F. Seidman, Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Director, Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina; Katherine Borland, Visiting Fulbright Professor, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Folklore Studies, the Ohio State University; Tuula Juvonen, Collegium Researcher at Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Turku.

15 May 2019

### LITERATURE, ETHICS AND WELL-BEING

In this joint seminar organised by SELMA and LaWe (Centre for the Study of Language and Wellbeing), we explored various ways of understanding the potential of literature to promote wellbeing. The participants addressed wellbeing in a broad, cultural sense and discussed its links to ethical issues such as issues of ethical agency and ways of engaging with otherness. Speakers of the seminar included visiting professors Colin Davis and Lydia Kokkola, and members of the research centres SELMA and LaWe: Kaiju Harinen, Eevastiina Kinnunen, Päivi Kosonen, Joel Kuortti, Anu Laukkanen, Milla Luodonpää-Manni, Hanna Meretoja and Elina Valovirta.

24 May 2019

### MITÄ ON ROMANTTINEN MIELI? (WHAT IS A ROMANTIC MIND?)

Kolmas tila ry:n, SELMA-keskuksen ja yleisen kirjallisuustieteen yhteinen seminaari pohjusti vuonna 2020 ensi-iltansa Turussa saavaa, Kolmas tila ry:n suurtyötä Romanttinen mieli. Seminaarissa eri alojen tutkijat ja työryhmän jäsenet keskustelivat romanttisen mielen ideasta. Millaisia ajatuksia liitetään romantiikan ajan taiteeseen? Entä romantiikan ajatusmaailmaan, elettyyn todellisuuteen ja filosofiaan? Millaisia merkityksiä ihminen ja yksilö saivat romantiikan aatemaailmassa ja taiteessa? Millaista romantiikka oli Turussa? Mitä romantiikan aikana pelättiin, toivottiin, vieroksuttiin tai pidettiin tavoiteltavana?

Romanttinen mieli -näytelmän käsikirjoittaa Seppo Parkkinen ja ohjaavat Susanna Airaksinen ja Juha Malmivaara. Musiikin säveltävät Ulf Långbacka ja Kari Mäkiranta.

14 June 2019

### KERTOMUKSEN TUTKIMUKSEN PÄIVÄ: KERTOMUKSEN TUTKIMUKSEN AINEISTOT (NARRATIVE STUDIES RESEARCH DAY)

Kertomuksen tutkimusta on tavattu jäsentää sen menetelmien tai teorioiden näkökulmasta. Mutta myös käytetyt aineistot jäsentävät ja muokkaavat tutkimusta. Tässä tapahtumassa käänsimme katseemme muuttuviin aineistoihin ja kysyimme muun muassa seuraavia kysymyksiä: Millaisia aineistoja kertomuksen tutkimuksessa käytetään ja miten noita aineistoja analysoidaan ja tulkitaan? Miten sosiaaliteollisiin menetelmin tutkitaan kaunokirjallisuutta ja miten kirjallisuustieteellisin välinein tutkitaan sosiaalista mediaa? Mikä on valittujen teorioiden, menetelmien ja käsitteiden suhde tutkittavaan aineistoon ja millä tavoin tutkimuskohteet ja aineistot aina myös haastavat ja muokkaavat teoriaa? Eri alojen kertomustutkijat kokoontuivat puhumaan käyttämistään aineistoista ja niihin soveltamistaan menetelmistä sekä keskustelemaan kertomuksen tutkimuksen ajankohtaisista haasteista ja mahdollisuuksista.

5 November 2019

### QUEERING THE TRENCHES: THE HOMOSEXUAL ACCENTS IN FRANÇOIS OZON'S *FRANTZ* (2016)

*Frantz* (2016) is not the first adaptation undertaken by French film director François Ozon and, characteristically for the maker of *8 Femmes* (2002) or *Swimming Pool* (2003), this recent film revisits a relatively obscure source text. In her talk Helena Duffy argued that, by queering death in the trenches, French filmmaker Ozon explores both the association between queerness and the negation of reproductive futurism, and the linked conception of the queer as the site of society's death drive.



13 November 2019

### A TOUCH OF THE PAST/MENNEEN KOSKETUS

*EVENT ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTRE FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH AND THE HISTORY FORUM (UNIVERSITY OF ARTS), HELSINKI*

How are we, as researchers, touched by people from the past, and how could we, in turn, touch our audiences? How to transform a monument into a human being, Jean into Janne? And what if someone from the past sent us a letter, what would we reply?

In this seminar, we welcomed people to discuss these questions in a "salon" of artists and researchers. Speakers included the music researchers Susanna Välimäki, Anne Kauppalä, Ulla-Britta Broman-Kananen and Timo Virtanen, cultural historian Kirsi Tuohela and CfAR's postdoctoral researcher Elina Saloranta, who introduced her historical pen-pal Elli Forssell-Rozentäle (1871–1943).



22 November 2019

### NEW PERSPECTIVES IN/ON ORAL HISTORY AND MEMORY

*EVENT ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND POSTDOCTORAL PROJECT MEMORY UNCHAINED (SA 308661).*

This seminar focused on new perspectives in and on oral history and memory from various methodological and disciplinary perspectives. Oral history refers to a research field that focuses on memory as a subjective, communicative, and social faculty with a radical emancipatory potential. Moreover, oral history refers to practices of generating historical information by means of interviewing and to interpretations of history based on this information.

As a field, oral history research has already reached the status of an established multidisciplinary enterprise. Considering the radical and



critical roots of oral history, however, critical interrogations of its premises – such as its strong emphasis on verbal and textual dimensions of memory and its position vis-à-vis various other related disciplines (e.g. memory studies, queer history) – remain scarce. Speakers were Anne Heimo (University of Turku), Tuula Juvonen (Turku Institute for Advanced Studies), Riikka Taavetti (University of Helsinki), Josephine Hoegarts (University of Helsinki), and Ulla Savolainen (University of Helsinki).

## SYMPOSIA

14–16 February 2019

### USES AND ABUSES OF STORY-TELLING: THEORIZING THE INTERSECTIONS OF NARRATIVE, MEMORY AND IDENTITY

*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.*

While both interdisciplinary narrative studies and cultural memory studies have boomed in the twenty-first century and are continuing to expand in new directions, there is lamentably little dialogue between them. This symposium aimed to bring discussions in these two fields into a more intensive dialogue by theorizing the intersections of narrative, memory and identity. One of the common denominators of narrative and memory studies is the interest in issues of identity work. The conference explored this connection by asking: how are narratives used and abused in the construction of collective memory, on the one hand, and in shaping collective and personal identities, on the other? What social mechanisms do such memory work and identity work involve and what kind of normative conceptions of narrative identity do various social practices of memory and identity work perpetuate or challenge?

The symposium addressed the theoretical implications of the ethical, aesthetic, and political dimensions of the interaction between cultural narrative practices of sense-making, the need for a sense of self, and the shaping of cultural memory against the backdrop of the current world situation. Literary and other artistic narratives shape cultural memory by interpreting the past from the perspective of the present, but this memory work is never merely a matter of representing and understanding the past; it also shapes how we perceive our possibilities in the present and for the future, and it involves negotiating both collective and personal identities. In particular, the legacy of twentieth-century totalitarianisms is fundamental to our sense of who we are in the present historical world. Divergent ways of interpreting and narrating this legacy inform different perspectives on the present “age of terror” and current political ruptures, such as the wars in Ukraine and Syria, the refugee crisis, debates that revolve around the future of the European project after the UK vote to leave the European Union, and the global concern about the threat to democracy and human rights presented by Trump’s administration.

A hundred participants from 18 countries engaged in lively discussions on these issues over the three-day symposium. The invited speakers of this symposium were professors Molly Andrews, Jens Brockmeier, Colin Davis, Mark Freeman, Siobhan Kattago, Eneken Laanes, Jakob Lothe, Greta Olson, Andreea Deciu Ritivoi and Hans Ruin.



22–23 May 2019

### READING CULTURE & LIBRARIES IN CHANGE

Reading culture is changing rapidly today. Radical developments in use of time, values and attitudes towards reading in contemporary Western 24h society as well as changes in book publishing and marketing have influenced our reading habits, which have been subject to major changes also due to the impact of digitalization and new reading technologies and platforms. The conference “Reading Culture and Libraries in Change” looked for answers to the changes in reading cultures and

library use, and for new ways of exploring these changes. The conference consisted of keynote lectures and sessions by researchers from all career stages.

27–29 May 2019

### REMEMBRANCE, TRAUMA TRANSMISSION AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

*EVENT ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE PROJECT ‘AGAIN NEVER AGAIN: TEACHING TRAUMA TRANSMISSION THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING’, IN COLLABORATION WITH TURKU INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES.*

This interdisciplinary international symposium brought together a group of scholars, artists, activists, practitioners, experts from memorial sites and museums, and other engaged individuals to reflect on the concealed hatreds, prejudices, and normalized oppressions that are learnt through unhealed and transmitted traumas, which are perpetuated daily through seemingly harmless everyday practices. The symposium also aimed at determining how we can successfully break this pattern through systematic experiential learning.



## NEW PROJECTS

### **NARRATIVE AND VIOLENCE (2020–2022)**

*NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY STUDY CIRCLE. COORDINATED BY TIAS RESEARCHERS MARTA-LAURA CENEDESE AND HELENA DUFFY.*

Building on the achievements of the highly successful Study Circle **NARRATIVE AND MEMORY: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics**, supported (2017–2019), and pursuing its engagement with storytelling practices that ‘open up new possibilities for reshaping and reimagining the European project,’ this newly funded Study Circle shifts the focus from narrativisations of memory to narrativisations of violence within social, political, cultural, and scientific discourses. In so doing, we aim to foster a trans-disciplinary dialogue among scholars, journalists, writers, activists and other practitioners interested in identifying and scrutinising the potential implications of representational violence on our lives and our planet’s future. The first symposium, ‘Making Sense of Violence in the Digital Age’, will take place in collaboration with the University of Gdańsk in February 2020.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT AS PUBLIC SPACE IN EUROPEAN CITIES: NARRATING, EXPERIENCING, CONTESTING (2019–2022)**

[www.putspace.eu](http://www.putspace.eu)

Public transport research remains dominated by economic and technocratic readings and

remains peripheral in the humanities literature. Yet, public transport embraces intense and intimate sites for encountering cultural diversity, facilitating social integration and negotiating public space. **PUTSPACE** aims to humanise transport research by studying diverse narratives, experiences and contestations of public transport, as they have been unfolding in cities across Europe since the late nineteenth century. The project places public transport at the frontline of contesting what is, can be, or should be public in the city.

**PUTSPACE** examines public transport as one type of public space, challenging existing definitions of public space. The project will explore how public transport confronts citizens with social diversity, speaks of different types of ownership, surveillance, subversion, interaction and transformation of social norms.

The project brings researchers from across Europe together with transport practitioners, enthusiasts, civil activists and curators, benefiting from a strong involvement of Associated Partners. In so doing, the project aims to have an impact that is both academic and societal, humanising public transport research and practice.

As the PI for Finland, **Jason Finch** is leading the Work package ‘Narrating / Experiencing: In what ways does the history of public transit influence the ways it is narrated and experienced today?’ The team includes a post-doctoral researcher and a PhD student.

## MOBILITIES

Between **January–June Lieven Ameel** was visiting professor of English literature at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

In **January**, **Hanna Meretoja** gave a talk in the symposium “The Negotiation of Values in Narrative”, which was organized in connection to The Narrative Values Winter School of the University of Groningen (Netherlands) and in the honour of Professor Liesbeth Korthals Altes.

In **February**, several members of SELMA, including **Hanna Meretoja, Marta-Laura Cenedese, Colin Davis, Helena Duffy, Kaisa Ilmonen, Eevastiina Kinnunen, Paivi Kosonen, Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Avril Tynan,** and **Anna Vuorinne**, participated in the symposium ‘**Uses and Abuses of Storytelling: Theorizing the Intersections of Narrative, Memory and Identity**’. The symposium was held at the University of Turku. It addressed the theoretical implications of the ethical, aesthetic, and political dimensions of the interaction between cultural narrative practices of sense-making, the need for a sense of self, and the shaping of cultural memory against the backdrop of the current world situation. Some of the leading questions were: What productive avenues are there for more intensive dialogue between narrative studies and memory studies? What perspectives do narrative studies and memory studies provide on rethinking identity and agency in the contemporary world? What potential and dangers do different instrumental uses of narrative in contemporary society involve, when narrative is used for the purposes of promoting wellbeing, identity work and memory work? How do contemporary literature, visual arts and media culture reflect on the uses and abuses of cultural narratives in storying lives? How should we conceptualize the dynamics of narrative, memory and identity in ways that articulate the power of narrative engagement to open up new possibilities of thought, experience, and action? What critical perspectives on conventional or normative notions of narrative identity (as linear, coherent etc.) do contemporary litera-

ture and visual arts open up and how does this criticism allow us to reconceptualize narrative identity and agency?

Furthermore, in the same month **Jason Finch** and **Lieven Ameel** were invited to deliver talks at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany in the ALUS symposium ‘Simultaneity in the City’.

In **March**, **Anne Heimo** was invited speaker at the Memoar conference in Bergen, where she delivered a presentation entitled ‘The rise of oral history in the Nordic countries’. **Marta-Laura Cenedese** attended the Winter Symposium ‘Feminist Philosophy and the Presence of the Past’, held at Södertörn University, Stockholm, where she presented the paper ‘Reflections on the Feminist Archive: The Case of the *Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand*’.

In **April**, **Lieven Ameel** presented his work at Ghent University, with a talk entitled ‘Peopling the Future City: Embedded and Embodied Futures in Planning, Policy, and Fiction’, in collaboration with NARMESH.

In **May**, several SELMA members attended the The Annual Seminar of the Finnish Literary Research Society, MEMORY AND IMAGINATION, at the University of Oulu, **Kaisa Ilmonen** organized the panel *Eliitin muisti vai kulttuurinen muistinmenetyks? Vähemmistökirjallisuudet vastamuistina* (Memory of the Elite, or the Cultural Amnesia? Minority literature as counter-memory); **Anna Vuorinne** presented the paper ‘*Sarjakuvan yllirajainen muisti Birgit Weyhen tuotannossa*’; **Jason Finch** co-presented, with Silja Laine, the paper entitled ‘The Electric Tram Networks of London and Turku, 1901–72: Exploring Public Transport as Public Space in European Cities through Narratives of Experience’. **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** was invited as a speaker at the festivities of the Research Department of The Finnish Literature Society in Helsinki, at which she gave a speech related to her ongoing research on the archives of writer Aarni Kouta and esotericism. **Kaisa Ilmonen, Anne Heimo, Avril Tynan, Marta-Laura Cenedese, Eevastiina**

**Kinnunen** also attended the international conference **REMEMBRANCE, TRAUMA TRANSMISSION AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**, organized by **Nena Močnik and Hanna Meretoja** as part of the project ‘Again Never Again: Teaching Trauma Transmission through Experiential Learning’, in collaboration with Turku Institute for Advanced Studies. **Anne Heimo** gave the guest lecture ‘Untold stories, twice-told tales: Oral history as history-telling and narrated memories’ at the National and University Library Pjetër Bogdani. During this time, she also held meetings with representatives of the Kosovo Oral History Initiative and the Institute of Albanology in Pristina, Kosovo. In Turku, **Päivi Kosonen** presented the paper ‘The Potential of Reading Groups. Reading Group Session: Narrative Agency, Metanarrativity and Bibliotherapy’, followed by a demonstration, at the conference ‘Reading Culture and Libraries in Change’. She was also respondent and presenter at ‘The Place of the Cognitive in Literary Study: Workshop III: Purpose’, held at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. **Lieven Ameel** participated in a workshop of the Texts ≈ Buildings networks, in Brussels in association with the Department of Architecture, KU Leuven, presenting a paper on polyphony and urban planning. He also gave a research presentation entitled ‘City Futures across Genres’ at the English literature research seminar of the Catholic University of Leuven. **Nena Močnik** presented the paper (with Krzysztof Chmielewski) ‘Potential of Videogames in Teaching Transmission of Historical Traumas: A Case Study’ at the conference ‘The Future of Media, Mediatization, Journalism and Communication’, held in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

In **May-June**, **Lieven Ameel** participated in Narrative2019, Pamplona, Spain, with a paper entitled ‘Fact, Fiction, Futura: “Fraught Fictionality” in Forecasting Environmental Futures’. **Colin Davis** and **Brian Schiff** also participated in the Narrative2019 roundtable ‘The Limits of Narrative’ with papers entitled ‘The Epistemological and Ethical Limits of Narrative’ and ‘Structural Straightjackets’.

In **June**, **Nena Močnik** was invited at the ‘Violence and Women in the Post-war Era’ (ERENE ERC Project, Ljubljana, Slovenia). In her talk, she pointed out how the representation of the ‘Mothers of Srebrenica’ has helped to perpetuate the stigma of rape, presenting women only as victims because they have lost their husbands or sons. Even today, the discourse on rape is centred on a patriarchal vision of motherhood. To dismantle this narrative, she analysed the interviews she conducted with women, who had three different experiences of motherhood: before the rape of war, as a result of rape, and years after the violence occurred. The concept of motherhood has changed—it has been lived and told in different ways, depending on the individual experience, but also on the social and national context. Later **Nena Močnik** also attended the conference ‘After Violence: The (Im-)Possibility of Understanding and Remembering’ in Dnipro, Ukraine. In early June, **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki**’s research project ‘Seekers of the New’ organized an international seminar together with the Donner institute in Turku called ‘Esotericism and mysticism: cultural encounters’. It gathered ca 60 scholars from the multidisciplinary field of modern western esotericism. **Marta-Laura Cenedese**, **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki**, **Samira Saramo** and **Kirsi Tuohela** attended **IABA Europe Conference 2019: Knowing the Self: Auto/Biographical Narratives and the History of Knowledge**, held at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid. At the conference **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** also presented the IABA-World conference 2020 that will be organized by SELMA in Turku in June 2020. At the Complutense University was also held the **Memory Studies Association (MSA) Annual Conference**. Two SELMA members attended the conference and represented SELMA as one of the Memory Studies Centres: **Anne Heimo** was discussant in the session together with Tea Sindbaek Andersen and Randi Marselis ‘Memory practices and the digital’, and presented the paper ‘Online family memories and the creation of transnational heritage’. **Marta-Laura Cenedese** was chair and discussant at the Roundtable ‘Transmission of Trauma and Remembrance: Cultural Comparison, Dialogue and Experiential Learning’ **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** took part in the annual conference of the International Society for Cultural History in Tallinn together with her research project ‘Seekers of the New on



the cultural history of esotericism’, and had a joint session with other members of the project. **Lieven Ameel** participated in the workshop ‘Infrastructural Reading. Fragments, Flows, Forms’ at the University of London – a workshop that ‘sets out to explore how literary, visual and other narrative forms mediate and intervene into current debates on cities, urban spaces and sustainable infrastructure developments’. At the workshop, he gave a talk on ‘Formal Adaptation and Retreat in Contemporary Fiction of New York and New Jersey’ and on how in selected literary fiction, the engagement ‘with climate change [and] ... with disruptive practices in the twenty-first city, takes shape in literary form itself: in the adaptation of particular tropes and in the retreat of literary language through a deliberately sparser vocabulary, gaps at sentence level, or lacunae in the narration. Looking at such instances of retreat and adaptation on a formal plane may also reflect on non-fictional narrative models for living in a coastal city under threat, including those found in urban planning, policy, and future scenarios’ (Ameel 2019).

In July, **Helena Duffy** and **Avril Tynan** attended the Society for French Studies Annual Conference, held at Royal Holloway, University of London where they presented, respectively, the paper ‘From Affiliative to Familial Memory: Patrick Modiano’s *Dora Bruder* as a *récit de filiation*’, and ‘Inhospitable Fictions: The Ethical Limitations of Empathy in Narrative of Alzheimer’s Disease’. **Nena Močnik** presented at the conference ‘Educating for a Culture of Peace in Divided Societies: History, Dialogue, and Multiperspectivity Toward Reconciliation’ at the International Institute for Peace Education Cyprus



In July–August, **Hanna Meretoja** co-organised a symposium, with **Eneken Laanes**, called ‘Victims, Perpetrators and Implicated Subjects: Rethinking Agency at the Intersections of Narrative and Memory’, which was the sixth and final symposium of the network ‘Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics’ and part of the Nordic Summer University’s summer session that took place in Roosta (Estonia). Several members of SELMA, including **Marta-Laura Cenedese**, **Colin Davis**, **Helena Duffy**, **Kirsi Tuohela** and **Avril Tynan**, participated in the symposium. One of the keynotes was **Anna Reading**, member of the SELMA advisory board. The symposium explored questions of positionality and agency in relation to violent histories in the past and present as well as in relation to current debates in narrative and memory studies.



In August, **Lieven Ameel** was in Germany as examiner for the disputation of Lena Mattheis’ dissertation ‘Translocal Narratability in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction’, at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. At the end of August, **Hanna Meretoja** co-organised the second workshop of the NOS-HS project ‘Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics’ in Turku, Finland. It focused on ‘The Hermeneutics of Violence,’ implying both the violent annulment of personhood sometimes inherent in interpretive acts themselves and the processes of interpreting narratives representing violence. Some of the questions addressed in the workshop were: Is narrative, like other forms of language, inherently violent? Can stories direct our attention to that within the human that evades designation but nevertheless calls for protection? Is violence constitutive of subjectivity and intersubjectivity and, if yes, how should we conceptualize

this? Is there non-violent interpretation and how should we theorize this possibility? SELMA members **Molly Andrews**, **Marta-Laura Cenedese**, **Colin Davis**, **Helena Duffy**, **Nena Močnik**, **Brian Schiff** and **Avril Tynan** also presented their work.



In **September**, **Lieven Ameel** and **Jason Finch** were invited to speak at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities, Department of History, Geography and Antiquity (DiSSGeA, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche, Geografiche e dell'Antichità), University of Padua. Ameel's lecture, was titled 'Syncopated City: Mobilizing and Immobilizing Dynamics in Twentieth-Century Literature of New York' and Finch's lecture 'The Book of the Tram: London Transport Mobilities Experienced and Remembered, 1887–1988'. In Padua, Ameel also attended the conference 'Mobilities of/in the book'. **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** participated in an event organized by the Society of Creative Writing at the University of Turku. The seminar and writing workshop 'Toisten elämät' (Lives of others) was meant for amateur writers and students who are writing biographical books. There, she gave a talk on biographical research and worked as a commentator for the texts of the participants.

In **October**, Helena Duffy delivered the keynote lecture 'Postmodern Art as a Witness? Yannick Heanel's Jan Karski' at 'Bearing Witness/Témoignages' Conference, held at King's College London. **Anne Heimo** delivered the paper 'Confronting family myths: ethical and methodological challenges' at the Oral History Association Biennial Conference (Australia), which focused on 'Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories'. **Lieven Ameel** was on a research field trip in New York City, where he visited sites relevant for his research project and during which time he also presented his work at the New York City Department of City Planning and gave a guest lecture at New York City College of Technology. **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** participated the biannual conference of Finnish historians, Historiantutkimuksen päivät, in Oulu where her project had a joint session on the lived and interpreted esotericism in Finland of the early 1900s.

In **November**, **Lieven Ameel** presented his TIAS research project for a general audience in a talk at the Turku City Library entitled 'The Future of Cities – Perspectives from Literature'. **Anne Heimo** presented the paper 'Finnish-American Book Culture on Facebook' at the Immigrant book culture seminar 'From memoirs and letters to blogs and microblogs: transforming modes of immigrant book culture', which took place in Helsinki.

In **December**, **Lieven Ameel** participated with a paper entitled 'Peopling the Future Fair City' at the conference 'Un(Fair) Cities,' held in Limerick, Ireland. He was one of the conference organizers, in collaboration with the Association for Literary Urban Studies and the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- Ameel, Lieven. 2019. "'A Geo-Ontological Thump' – Ontological Instability and the Folding city in Mikko Rimminen's Early Prose". In Malmio, Kristina & Kurikka, Kaisa (eds.): *Contemporary Nordic Literature and Spatiality*. London: Palgrave, 2019, 211–230.
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- Ameel, Lieven. 2019. 'Agency at/of the waterfront in New York City: *Vision 2020* and *New York 2140*'. *Textual Practice*.
- Ameel, Lieven. 2019. 'Governing the future: perspectives from literary studies – commentary to Jones'. *Fennia: International Journal of Geography* 197:1, 145–148.
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- Duffy, Helena. 2019. "'Les années noires avaient été grises": A Metaethical Analysis of Pierre Assouline's Appropriation of Primo Levi's "Grey Zone"', *French Forum*, 44.1, 29–44.
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- Finch, Jason. 2019. "'Quite an Aristocratic Place, Although in Whitechapel": Topographies of Medicine and Death in Margaret Harkness's Writing of London'. In *The Materiality of Literary Narratives in Urban History*, ed. Lieven Ameel, Jason Finch, Richard Dennis and Silja Laine. New York: Routledge. 93–112.
- Finch, Jason. 2019. 'Introducing Anthony W. Johnson' (with Tommi Alho and Roger D. Sell). In *Renaissance Man: Essays on Literature and Culture for Anthony W. Johnson*, ed. Tommi Alho, Jason Finch and Roger D. Sell. Amsterdam: Benjamins. 1–22.

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- Heimo, Anne. 2019. 'Working with family and migrant documents'. Ashley Barnwell & Kate Douglas (eds.), *Research Methodologies for Auto/biography*. London & New York: Routledge. 213–219.
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- Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit. 2019. 'Hämmästyttävä Hilja Pärssinen'. *Bibliophilos* 4/2019.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2019. 'Metanarratiivisuus ja kerronnallinen toimijuus.' *Kirjallisuudentutkimuksen aikakauslehti Avain: Finnish Review of Literary Studies* 16(2), 58–77.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2019. 'Beyond Sameness and Difference: Narrative as a Practice of Sense-Making.' *Frontiers of Narrative Studies* 5(1), 76–93.
- Močnik, Nena. 2019. 'Occupying the Land, Grabbing the Body: The Female Body as a Disposable Place of Colonialization in Ottoman-influenced Bosnia-Herzegovina.' *Southeastern Europe* 43:2, 1–19.
- Močnik, Nena. 2019. 'Collective victimhood of individual survivors: reflecting the uses and impacts of two academic narratives two decades after the war-rapes in Bosnia-Herzegovina'. *East European Politics* 35:4, 457–473.
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- Palin, Tutta. 2019. 'Epämodernin modernistin elämäkerta.' *Tahiti* 9:3. 77–81,

## ADMINISTRATION

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

Coordinator Marta-Laura Cenedese, Postdoctoral Researcher, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Turku

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- Lieven Ameel, TIAS, University of Turku
- Helena Duffy, TIAS, University of Turku
- Pertti Grönholm, European and World History, University of Turku
- Ira Hansen, English, University of Turku
- Anne Heimo, Folkloristics, University of Turku
- Kaisa Ilmonen, Comparative Literature, University of Turku
- Päivi Kosonen, Comparative Literature & Creative Writing, University of Turku
- Sanna Salanterä, Nursing Sciences, University of Turku
- Karoliina Sjö, Cultural History, University of Turku
- Kirsi Tuohela, Finnish Literature & Cultural History, University of Turku
- Avril Tynan, TIAS, University of Turku

### Deputies

- Jason Finch, English Language and Literature, Åbo Akademi
- Liisa Lalu, Cultural History, University of Turku
- Kati Launis, Finnish Literature, University of Turku
- Tiina Lintunen, Contemporary History, University of Turku
- Tiina Mahlamäki, Comparative Religion, University of Turku
- Marjo Nieminen, Education, University of Turku
- Tutta Palin, Art History, University of Turku
- Niina Repo, Creative Writing, University of Turku
- Anna Sivula, Cultural Heritage Studies, University of Turku
- Elina Valovirta, English, University of Turku
- Susanna Välimäki, Musicology, University of Turku

### International Advisory Board

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- Brian Schiff, Professor of Psychology, and Director of the George and Irina Schaffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights, and Conflict Prevention at the American University of Paris
- Maria Tamboukou, Professor of Feminist Studies, Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London

## NETWORKS

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

- [Centre for Life-Writing Research](#), King's College, London
- [Centre for Narrative Research](#), University of East London
- [The Holocaust Research Institute](#), Royal Holloway, University of London
- [IABA-Europe](#) and [European Journal for Life-Writing](#)
- [IIPC – The International Institute for Popular Culture](#), University of Turku
- [Memory Studies Association](#)
- [Narrare: Centre for Interdisciplinary Narrative Studies](#), University of Tampere
- [Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics](#) (Nordic-Baltic research network coordinated by Hanna Meretoja and Eneken Laanes)
- [Narrative and Violence](#) (Nordic Summer University Study Circle coordinated by Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy)
- [Oxford Centre for Life-Writing](#), University of Oxford
- [Paris Centre for Narrative Matters](#), Université de Paris
- [PUTSPACE: Public Transport as Public Space in European Cities: Narrating, Experiencing, Contesting](#) (HERA-funded project, PI for Finland Jason Finch)