



SELMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



SELMA

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

SELMA

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF STORYTELLING, EXPERIEN-
TIALITY 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Professor Hanna Meretoja

E-mail: hanna.meretoja@utu.fi

Phone: +358 2 333 5271

Adjunct Professor Maarit Leskelä-Kärki

E-mail: maarit.leskela@utu.fi

Phone: +358 2 333 6672

The Postal address of the Centre is:

Hanna Meretoja / SELMA

Department of Comparative Literature

University of Turku

FI-20014 Turku, Finland

<https://selmacentre.com>



CREDITS

Texts by SELMA members

Editor-in-chiefs Hanna Meretoja & Maarit Leskelä-Kärki

Editor Marta-Laura Cenedese

Layout Marta-Laura Cenedese

Photos by SELMA members

UNIVERSITY OF TURKU 2021



SELMA 



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	6
SEMINARS	8
SYMPOSIA	10
CULTURAL MEMORY AND SOCIAL CHANGE WEBINAR.....	11
MOBILITIES	12
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	14
ADMINISTRATION.....	16
NETWORKS	17

EDITORIAL

2020 was an exceptional year for all of us. The pandemic disrupted the activities of SELMA as it did the everyday lives of everyone across the globe. We were able to operate on campus only until mid-March, and in the autumn began to organise events online. This has been a learning experience for all of us. The downsides of physical isolation and Zoom fatigue are well known, but online events have helped us connect better as an international community with members from different continents. In these uncertain and difficult times, it is particularly important to have a sense of belonging to a research community and to know that we are not alone in facing the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Hanna Meretoja spent the spring term at the University of Oxford, and was able to forge connections and plans for future collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing (OCLW). From Oxford, she participated in public debate on the cultural narratives that are used to narrativise the coronavirus pandemic and other illnesses, such as cancer. Cultural narratives of illness is one of the shared points of interest between SELMA and OCLW.

In 2020 several key publications of SELMA's research projects came out: *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma* (edited by Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja), an anthology on the history and methodology of diaries entitled *Päiväkirjojen jäljillä: Historiantutkimus ja omasta elämästä kirjoittaminen* (edited by Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Karoliina Sjö and Liisa Lalu) and an edited collection of articles on esoteric movements and traditions in Finland by the research project "Seekers of the New" entitled *Moderni esoteerisuus ja okkultismi Suomessa* (edited by Tiina Mahlamäki and Nina Kokkinen).

A new research network, "Narrative and Violence" (2020–2022), which is part of the Nordic Summer University and coordinated by two SELMA researchers, Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy, started successfully with a winter symposium (organised on campus) and summer symposium (organised online).

SELMA is actively involved in the thematic collaboration of the university, "Cultural Memory and Social Change", with Hanna Meretoja its Vice Chair in 2020, and from the beginning of 2021 its Chair. As part of this thematic collaboration, SELMA participated in planning and organising the Cultural Memory and Social Change Webinar series, in which two speakers discussed a shared topic every two weeks in autumn 2020. We also participated in creating videos on cultural memory that can be used as interdisciplinary pedagogical resources.

Overall, despite the disruption and uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, we had a busy year of research activities. Most of the activities for 2021, too, will have to be organised online, but we are hopeful that things will eventually get better, and we look forward to the

IABA World Conference (a biannual conference of the International Auto/Biography Association), which SELMA is hosting in June 2022. Before that, we hope SELMA can provide a warm, welcoming and supportive research community for all of you who struggle to get through these difficult times. We hope you are as well as possible, and we send you all warm wishes of strength and hope.



Hanna Meretoja, Director
Professor of Comparative Literature

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

SEMINARS

5 March 2020

GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON MEMORY AND NARRATIVE

This seminar included two presentations by SELMA members **Kaiju Harinen** and **Lotta Kähkönen**.

In her presentation, ‘Gender and blackness in African Francophone autobiographical literature written by Ken Bugul’, Kaiju Harinen showed how Ken Bugul’s novel *Le Baobab fou*, [*The Abandoned Baobab. The Autobiography of a Senegalese Woman*] focuses on the memories of a young “black” woman and discriminations related to “race”, sexualized gender and the myth of “true womanhood” that the novel’s protagonist experiences in the context of postcolonial Europe. Autobiographical literature serves here as a political tool for healing the stigma of the colonial experience (Mouzet 2015, 161), as announced in the paratext of the novel: *The obliterated shall be remembered*. Ken Bugul’s life story can also be seen as a cautionary tale (Coly 2010, xix) for other black young women desiring to “become white” and to live in Europe—the Eldorado. In order to do that, the author uses strategic exoticism, performativity, irony and burlesque humour, and storytelling to make visible the apparently invisible intersectional oppression.

In ‘Failing in Gender: Narratives of Embodied Vulnerability’, Lotta Kähkönen analyzed *Gender Failure* (2014), a book based on a live performance show by two Canadian artists, Rae Spoon and Ivan Coyote. The book delves into the artists’ memories of and journeys with their failed attempts to fit into gender binary. The artists emphasize storytelling as an art form that enables a transformative space. In this talk, Lotta discussed how the storytelling in *Gender Failure* explores embodied vulnerability and works as embodied practice. Failing to approximate “proper” corporeal norms in the spatially and temporally shifting frames of gender binary causes a risk in the artists’ everyday lives. Yet the sense of vulnerability as a differentiating condition is not perceived simply as disabling and negative experience, but as something that can be shared through storytelling, and in so doing, even turned into a possibility.

27 August 2020

KESKUSTELUTILAISUUS PÄIVÄKIRJOJEN JÄLJILLÄ

Turun kaupunginkirjasto (Turku City Library)

Book launch of an edited volume on diaries, *Päiväkirjojen jäljillä. Historiantutkimus ja omasta elämästä kirjoittaminen* (Vastapaino) co-edited by Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Karoliina Sjö & Liisa Lalu. The editors and writers of the anthology discussed the history of diary writing, and the methodology and ethics of using them in research.

30 October 2020

THE IMPOSSIBLE RETURN: POST(?)-SHOAH IN THE WORK OF ANNA LANGFUS (1920-1966)

France Grenaudier-Klijn (Massey University, New Zealand), shared her research on French-language writer Anna Langfus. Born in Lublin, Poland, in 1920, Anna Langfus lost her father, mother and husband to the Shoah. In 1947, she emigrated to France. After an initial foray into theatre, she turned to novel writing, choosing French as the language of her fiction. Her second novel earned her the 1962 Prix Goncourt – France’s highest literary prize – but her career was cut short by her premature death in 1966. Anna Langfus leaves us three novels, imaginative works largely drawing from her own personal and direct experience of loss, estrangement and alienation, and thus exhibiting signs pertaining to literary trauma texts. Yet, very early on, Langfus felt compelled to circumnavigate the paradox inherent to trauma narratives. Considering that she was entrusted (indebted?) to a truth that she was not the sole depository of, Langfus believed she had to find mechanisms allowing her to “narrate the unnarratable”. In this presentation, Grenaudier-Klijn discussed examples of the strategies, imagery, and rhetorical devices Anna Langfus has recourse to in her survivors’ narratives, which are all three centred around the question of post-Holocaust identity.

17–19 November 2020

ARS MORIENDI

Aboa Vetus & Ars Nova



Ars Moriendi is a Helsinki-based event for artists and researchers to discuss topics around death in our culture. It consists of performances, discussions, and artistic happenings. In 2020 Ars Moriendi was also organized in Turku, with SELMA and literary therapists in Turku as co-organisers.

On the first day a group of scholars from the University of Turku discussed issues of life and death in a joint panel. Anthropologist Maija Butters, cultural historian Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, researcher of religion Tiina Mahlamäki and literary scholar Hanna Meretoja discussed how death is imagined in our culture and in different forms of art. The panel ended in a writing assignment and a musical performance by Anna-Maija Toivonen. The second day was devoted to diary writing and reading on life and death. On the third day a creative writing workshop was organized. Some of the writings were collected in a collective artwork.



18 November 2020

MEDIATED MEMORIES OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Mediated Memory of Responsibility seminars, organized by the Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory (School of Advanced Study, University of London), bring together scholars working on the cultural representation of the violent past of the twentieth century across a variety of media and cultures. The seminar series aims to examine the contribution of cultural products to exposing the crimes of the perpetrators and disseminating a sense of responsibility for the past in relation to events such as colonialism, wars, and dictatorships. Interdisciplinary in nature, the seminars will explore the theme of responsibility across textual and visual media and in various national contexts, leading to fruitful cross-fertilisations and the possibility of future cooperation among scholars working within different disciplines.

Speakers taking part in the first seminar held on 18 November 2020 included Professor Max Silverman (Leeds), Professor Hanna Meretoja (Turku), and Professor Donald Bloxham (Edinburgh).

A recording of this event is accessible [here](#).

SYMPOSIA

24–26 February 2020

MAKING SENSE OF VIOLENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

THE SYMPOSIUM WAS THE FIRST OF THE RESEARCH NETWORK NARRATIVE AND VIOLENCE, SUPPORTED BY THE NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY, AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE FUNDED BY THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE SYMPOSIUM WAS HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK (POLAND)



The first symposium of the Study Circle was launched in a city that in 2019 was the stage of an outrageous act of violence. As evidenced by the hate-speech-motivated public murder of Paweł Adamowicz, the Mayor of Gdańsk, in the digital age violence calls for an urgent redefinition, and its hermeneutics for a rethinking within theoretical, sociological and cultural perspectives. Bringing together scholars and practitioners (journalists, politicians, political analysts, activists, criminologists etc.), we will discuss the ways in which the newly arisen media have become powerful vectors for violent acts.

Contributions dealt with various narrativisations of digital violence and the ethical issues they bring to the fore, approached through interdisciplinary perspectives. Some of our research questions were (but not limited to):

What new guises does violence take in the digital age? How is violence articulated through social media (FB, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)? How is digital violence narrativised in cultural productions (literary, cinematic, artistic etc.)? How has sexual violence changed with the onset of digital technology? How can

digital media diffuse/counteract violence (e.g. bloggers suffering domestic abuse, violence experienced by minorities, etc.)? What are the negative impacts of digital technology on the animal world and the natural environment? What are the forms and impacts of cyberbullying? What are the potential negative implications of violent video games? How to use them, instead, as non-violence learning tools? Can digital surveillance be considered a form of violence and what are the possible alternatives?

Twenty participants and a numerous audience engaged in lively discussions on these issues over the three-day symposium. The invited speakers of this symposium were former SELMA member Dr Nena Močnik (CY Cergy Paris University) and Prof. Jeff Hearn (Örebro University). The symposium also featured a workshop by Dr Anna Walker (ARE Network and Plymouth University).



27 July–2 August 2020

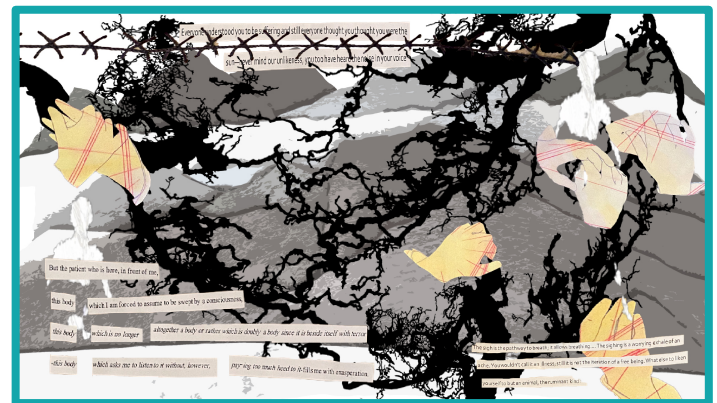
WRITTEN ON THE BODY: NARRATIVE (RE)CONSTRUCTIONS OF VIOLENCE(S) (ONLINE SYMPOSIUM)

SECOND SYMPOSIUM OF THE RESEARCH
NETWORK NARRATIVE AND VIOLENCE
(NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY)

We invited proposals for traces that addressed how *bodies* become subjects and objects of violence and how, by simply “being,” they narrate their traumatic experience. But how do *bodies* narrate violence(s)? Our understanding of a *body* was purposefully broad and included the human and nonhuman, the organic and inorganic, and their diverse material or corporeal forms. We therefore engaged with bodies that are human, animal, vegetal, natural and technological; that are both singular and collective (i.e. the social body); that are situated in both the physical and virtual space; and that express naturecultural entanglements (Haraway 2003). To consider the materiality of violence implies attending to its transcorporeal intersections and therefore addressing its inseparability from the “environment”—a network of relations (human and nonhuman), phenomena and space (e.g. the home, the neighbourhood, the city) that foster, produce, perform, and ultimately bear witness to violence. Hence, inspired by Catriona Sandilands (2019), we envisage the entangled forms of violence done to human and nonhuman bodies as metonymic and intersectional.

The ambition of the symposium was to engage with the imaginative (re)constructions of (human / nonhuman / social / natural / technological) bodies that perform or experience violence; with how they reproduce the intertwining of gender, power, agency and heteropatriarchal capitalism; and with their contribution to ethics, aesthetics, and politics. Finally, in addressing how *bodies* narrate violence, we also wished to reflect on the implications and effects of such (embodied) practices—whether positive or negative—and on the possible strategies to counter-act or counter-story them.

The Symposium’s traces can be found [here](#)



(Image by Abigail Fields and Eden Almasude)

CULTURAL MEMORY AND SOCIAL CHANGE WEBINAR

28 October 2020

EDUCATION, MEDIA AND POLITICS
IN THE MAKING OF SOCIAL MEANINGS

Juho Ruotsalainen, Doctoral Candidate, Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC): ‘Pioneer journalists and social imaginaries – what futures for journalism?’

Tiago Queimada e Silva, Doctoral Candidate, European and World History: ‘The “Good Noblemen Who Conquered the Kingdom”: Islam and Aristocratic Political Legitimation in Medieval Portuguese Historiography’

11 November 2020

ARTS AND POPULAR CULTURE AS
CONSTRUCTORS AND CHALLENGERS OF CULTURAL MEMORY

Raita Merivirta, Postdoctoral Researcher, European and World History: ‘Cultural Memory and Counter-Memory in Indian English Literature’

Lotta Kähkönen, University Teacher, Gender Studies: ‘Embodied Experiences of Making Art: Narrative Reflections by Transgender Artists’

25 November 2020

CULTURAL MEMORY AND PRO-

CESSSES OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN RELATION TO INEQUALITY AND MULTICULTURALISM

Päivi Rannila, University Lecturer, Geography: ‘Urban Inequality: the Uses and Orders of Urban Public Spaces’

Anna-Maria Isola, Senior Researcher, Social Work: ‘Family narratives behind inter-generational disadvantages and advantages’

9 December 2020

CULTURE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Katriina Siivonen, University Lecturer, Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC): ‘Cultural Sustainability as a Transformative Power’

Avril Tynan, Postdoctoral Researcher, TIAS: ‘Dementia Diagnosis and Narrative Ethics: The Case of the Metaphysical Detective Novel’

MOBILITIES

From **October 2019 to May 2020**, **Hanna Meretoja** was visiting fellow at the University of Oxford (Exeter College and Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson College).

Between **January–September 2020** **Marta-Laura Cenedese** was visiting fellow at the Dahlem Humanities Center (FU) and at the Centre Marc Bloch (HU) in Berlin, Germany

In **February**, **Avril Tynan** presented the paper ‘Layers of Forgetting: Detective Fiction and Dementia’ at the conference Art, Aesthetics, and the Medical/Health Humanities (University of Kent, UK). In the same month, she presented the paper ‘Violence on Demand: Digital Consumerism in Speculative Fiction’ at the conference ‘Making Sense of Violence in the Digital Age’ (University of Gdańsk, Poland), the winter symposium of the Nordic Summer University’s Narrative and Violence study circle. The conference was organized by SELMA members Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy. **Marta-Laura Cenedese** was also part of the organizing committee of the ‘Histories of Death Symposium,’ which took place at the University of Turku.

In **May**, **Hanna Meretoja** gave a talk entitled ‘Narrative Agency, Life-Writing, and the Experience of Illness’ at the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, and a keynote talk (‘Narrative Agency, Pandemic Imagination, and the Story of War’) in the conference Psychology of Global Crises at the American University of

Paris. The OCLW talk is available at <https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/event/narrative-agency-life-writing-and-the-experience-of-illness>



In **June**, **Helena Duffy** delivered the online lecture ‘Eat Your Banana, Sweetheart: Jewish Mothers during the Holocaust’ at the University of Warsaw, Poland. She also presented her research at Turku University’s Cultural Memory and Social Change Webinar.

In **July–August**, **Marta-Laura Cenedese** facilitated presentation of virtual traces during the Narrative and Violence Summer Symposium, ‘Written on the Body: Narrative (Re)Constructions of Violence(s)’.

In **September**, **Avril Tynan** chaired the panel ‘Communicating Chronic Illness’ at the conference Public Health, Private Illness (University of Glasgow, Online).

In **October**, **Anne Heimo** attended the conference ‘Finnish Oral History Network: Power, Authority, and Voice: Critical Reflections in/on Oral History’ at Helsinki (remote) in Helsinki, Finland (26–27.10.2020) and the Inaugural Symposium of the Memory Studies Association Nordic network in Copenhagen, Denmark (remote) (29-30.10.2020). In the middle of the month, **Marta-Laura Cenedese** attended the workshop ‘Journées d’études sur l’écriture’ at the Centre Marc Bloch, of which she was a co-organizer.

In **November**, **Helena Duffy** gave a public lecture at the Turku Municipal Library, titled ‘The Subversive Potential of Heritage Cinema: François Ozon’s *Frantz*’

In **December**, **Maarit Leskelä-Kärki** gave an online key note talk, ‘Teaching life-writing in history: diaries and letters as historical texts’ at the ‘Teaching Life Writing: a conference on nonfiction and pedagogy,’ which was organized by the IABA-network and scholars Julie Rak, Orly Lael Netzer, and Amanda Spallacci (University of Alberta, Canada).

Hanna Meretoja gave an invited talk in the Oxford Modern French Research Seminar, entitled ‘Narrative Agency and its Limits: Engaging with Illness in Philippe Claudel’s *L’Arbre du pays Toraja*’.

Avril Tynan delivered the paper ‘Dementia Diagnosis and Narrative Ethics: The Case of the Metaphysical Detective Novel’ at the Cultural Memory and Social Change Webinar Series (University of Turku, Online).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Cenedese, Marta-Laura. 2020. 'Cristalli di nostalgia: spazio e tempo nelle *Mouches d'automne* di Irène Némirovsky.' Rosanna Gangemi and Paola Del Zoppo (eds), *Tra due rive. Autrici del Novecento europeo sul confino e sull'esilio*. Roma: Aracne. 159–171
- Cenedese, Marta-Laura. 2020. '(Instrumental) Narratives of Postcolonial Rememory: Intersectionality and Multidirectional Memory.' *Storyworlds. A Journal of Narrative Studies* 10:1–2 (2018), 95–116
- Davis, Colin and Hanna Meretoja: 'Introduction to Literary Trauma Studies.' Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja (eds), *Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma*. Abingdon: Routledge. 1–8.
- Duffy, Helena. 2020. 'The Silence of the Mothers: Representation of Holocaust Motherhood in Art Spiegelman's *Maus* and Philippe Brodeck's *Brodeck*.' *Journal of Holocaust Research*, 34: 2, 4–21
- Duffy, Helena. 2020. 'Introduction: Motherhood during and after the Holocaust: Testimonial and Fictional Perspectives.' *Journal of Holocaust Research*, 34: 2, 1–3
- Duffy, Helena. 2020. 'Review: Griselda Pollock and Max Silverman (eds.), *Concentrationary Art: Jean Cayrol, the Lazarean and the Everyday in Post-war Film, Literature, Music and the Visual Arts* (New York: Berghahn, 2019).' *French Studies*, 74: 4, 654–655
- Ilmonen, Kaisa. 2020. 'Intersectionality.' Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja (eds), *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma*. Abingdon: Routledge. 173–183.
- Ilmonen, Kaisa. 2020. 'Feminist Storytelling and Narratives of Intersectionality.' *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 45:2, 347–371.
- Kaartinen, Marjo & Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit: *Spiritualismi. Moderni esoteerisuus ja okkultismi Suomessa*. Toim. Tiina Mahlamäki ja Nina Kokkinen. Vastapaino, Tampere, 2020.
- Kokkinen, Nina; Mahlamäki, Tiina and Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit: *Esoteerisuus taiteessa ja kirjallisuudessa. Moderni esoteerisuus ja okkultismi Suomessa*. Toim. Tiina Mahlamäki ja Nina Kokkinen. Vastapaino, Tampere, 2020.
- Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit. 2020. Ethical encounters in the archives: On studying individuals in esoteric contexts. *Scripta Instituti Donneriani Aboensis*, 29(1), 28–48.
- Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit. 2020 "Eletyn ja fiktiivisen rajamailla. Eeva Kilven Naisen päiväkirja kirjailijan tunnustuksena." *Päiväkirjojen jäljillä. Historiantutkimus ja omasta elämästä kirjoittaminen*. Toim. Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Karoliina Sjö, Liisa Lalu. Vastapaino, Tampere 2020.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2020. 'Philosophies of Trauma.' Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja (eds), *Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma*. Abingdon: Routledge. 23–35.
- Meretoja, Hanna. 2020. 'Stop Narrating the Pandemic as a Story of War.' OpenDemocracy. 19 May 2020. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/transformation/stop-narrating-pandemic-story-war/>

- Saramo, Samira and Marta-Laura Cenedese (eds). 2020. 'Connective Histories of Death.' *Thanatos* 9:2
- Saramo, Samira and Marta-Laura Cenedese. 2020. 'Introduction: Connective Histories of Death'. *Thanatos* 9:2, 3–15
- Savolainen, Ulla, Karina Lukin & Anne Heimo. 2020. 'Omaehtoisen muistamisen materiaalisuus ja monimediaisuus: Muistitietotutkimus ja uusmaterialismi.' *Elore* 27:1, 60–84
- Sjö, Karoliina and Leskelä-Kärki, Maarit. "Päiväkirja, minuus ja historia." *Päiväkirjojen jäljillä. Historiantutkimus ja omasta elämästä kirjoittaminen*. Toim. Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Karoliina Sjö, Liisa Lalu. Vastapaino, Tampere 2020.
- Tynan, Avril. 2020. 'The German Occupation of France, 1940-44.' Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma*. Abingdon: Routledge. 374–384.
- Tynan, Avril. 2020. 'Winding Down, Living On: The Future in Old Age.' *Storyworlds* 10:1–2 (2018), 47–70.
- Tynan, Avril. 2020. 'Mind the Gap: From Empathy to Erasure in Narrative Fiction.' *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 14:3, 353–369.
- Tynan, Avril. 2020. 'Life After Literature: Jorge Semprún's Narrative Afterlives.' *Journal of Romance Studies* 20:1, 139–157.
- Tynan, Avril. 2020. "'Que peut la fiction?'" Storying the Unexperienced Experience in Jorge Semprun's Fiction.' *Modern Language Review* 115:1, 46–62.
- Valovirta, Elina. 2020. 'Postcritical Erotic Intimacy: Engaging with Oral Sex in Caribbean literature.' Joel Kuortti and Sirku Ruokkeinen (eds.), *Movement and Change in Literature, Language, and Society*. Baden Baden: Academia.

ADMINISTRATION

Director Hanna Meretoja, Professor, Comparative Literature, University of Turku

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 and Comparative Literature, University of Turku

Steering group

- 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

- Molly Andrews, Professor of Political Psychology, Co-director of the Centre for Narrative Research, University of East London
- Timothy Ashplant, SRF of the Centre for Life Writing Research, King's College, University of London
- Mieke Bal, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Professor, University of Amsterdam
- Clare Brant, Professor of Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture, Department of English, King's College London
- Jens Brockmeier, Professor of Psychology, The American University of Paris
- Colin Davis, Professor of French and Comparative Literature, Holocaust Research Institute, Royal Holloway, University of London
- Mark Freeman, Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Society, College of the Holy Cross
- Liesbeth Korthals Altes, Professor of General Literature, University of Groningen

- Leena Kurvet-Käosaar, Associate Professor of Literary Theory, University of Tartu / Eesti kirjandusmuuseum, Estonian literary archives
- Eneken Laanes, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Tallinn University
- Maria Mäkelä, Comparative Literature, University of Tampere
- Birgitte Possing, Professor, National Archives, Denmark
- Anna Reading, Professor of Culture and Creative Industries, King's College London
- Ann Rigney, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Utrecht
- Michael Rothberg, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of California, Los Angeles
- 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.

- The Aachen Center for Cognitive and Empirical Literary Studies (ACCELS)
- 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)