

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



## CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF STORYTELLING, EXPERIENTIAL-ITY AND MEMORY

SELMA is an international hub for interdisciplinary research on the interrelations between storytelling, experientiality and cultural memory. Our research foci include lifestorying, 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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### **UNIVERSITY OF TURKU 2023**





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### EDITORIAL

In early 2022, the coronavirus pandemic continued to disrupt our activities as the omicron variant forced us, again, to operate online. Luckily the pandemic eased just in time so that we were able to organize the IABA World Conference, the biannual conference of the International Auto/Biography Association, which was originally supposed to happen in June 2020. After two postponements, we were delighted to welcome life-writing scholars around the world to Turku. The conference "Life-Writing: Imagining the Past, Present and Future" was held at the campus area of the University of Turku on 14-17 June 2022. During the conference, we explored multiple temporalities and historical dimensions of life-writing. This interdisciplinary event brought together more than 300 participants from around the world and encouraged dialogues across theoretical, disciplinary, geographical and temporal boundaries. The contributions included not only traditional scholarly papers, roundtables and workshops but also creative sessions on life-writing and artistic research, a workshop on narrative agency and life-writing, and film and documentary screenings followed by panel discussions with film scholars, historians and scholars in Sámi culture. We were proud to host wonderful keynote speakers, Jens Brockmeier, Kate Douglas, Sirpa Kähkönen, and Saidiya Hartman. The social programme included a conference dinner in the atmospheric restaurant Grädda on the banks of river Aura, an evening cruise to Loistokari island, and a young scholars' get-together. Overall, the conference provided inspiring discussions and forged new connections between scholars working in the field of life writing studies.

In 2022, we also continued two popular interdisciplinary online seminar series. The SELMA Medical Humanities Seminar Series was co-organised by Marta-Laura Cenedese and Avril Tynan. While its first season, in Spring 2021, dealt with "Narratives of Illness" and the second season, in Autumn 2021, addressed "Indigenous Narratives of Healthcare", the third season, in Spring 2022, dealt with "(Counter) Narratives of Reproduction". Through the seminar series, SELMA has been able to become an important forum for health humanities. We are truly grateful to Marta-Laura Cenedese and Avril Tynan for all the work they put in this series.

Another online seminar series was co-organized with the University of Turku's thematic collaboration Cultural Memory and Social Change. It involved webinars and reading group meetings. In February 2022, Russia's unprovoked and illegal military attack against Ukraine shocked the SELMA community, along with other academic communities around the world. In response to the devastating war, SELMA and Cultural Memory and Social Change Thematic Collaboration organized two seminars dedicated to Ukraine: one on narrative warfare and another on Ukrainian literature and culture. Our hearts and thoughts are with Ukrainians, many of whom have had to flee their country and have to deal with incomprehensible losses.

In 2022, we managed to secure funding for new research projects that will be carried out in collaboration with SELMA. "Intersectional Reading, Social Justice, and Literary Activism" (IN-TERACT), directed by Kaisa Ilmonen, held its inaugural seminar and will continue to co-organize events with SELMA over the next few years. SELMA also collaborates with the new NOS-HS network "Nordic Voices: The use of oral history and personal memories in public history settings" (2022-2024).

In 2022, we were lucky to have an Erasmus intern, Marta Girabal work for SELMA. She helped us broaden our social media activities and engage students and young scholars in our activities, for example by organizing a student roundtable. We are extremely grateful to Marta for all her work for SELMA. We are glad that we now have a new Erasmus intern, Ksenia Fiaduta, who works for

us in Spring 2023 and played a key role in putting together this annual report, together with our new coordinator, Liisa Merivuori, who started with us in March 2023 and will hopefully continue in this role for a sustained period of time. It is essential for SELMA to have new young scholars join our community, and we want to actively welcome anyone who works in this area to become affiliated members and bring in new ideas on how to develop our activities.

Thank you to all members and friends of SELMA for all inspiring collaboration in 2022, and we look forward to seeing you in our future events.

With warmest wishes.

Hanna Meretoja, Director Professor of Comparative Literature

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, Vice Director

Senior Lecturer, Adjunct Professor of Cultural History



## **SEMINAR SERIES**

#### CULTURAL MEMORY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Remembering is interaction between individuals, and memories are socially shaped and negotiated. Media, popular culture, art as well as educational institutions create and disseminate cultural memory. They shape narratives through which experiences are shared within communities and across generations. Cultural memory refers to the collective practices that societies use to build and uphold their relationship to the past, living in the present, and preparing for the future. The thematic collaboration in cultural memory and social change supports extensive, critical and multidisciplinary research on memory and its social connections. As a part of this interdisciplinary collaboration, SELMA has co-hosted the following webinars and reading groups:

#### Monday 7 February Reading Group

#### Astrid Erll, Cultural Memory Studies: An Introduction (2008)

Chaired by: **Hanna Meretoja** (Professor, Literary Studies and Creative Writing) and **Anne Heimo** (Professor, Study of Cultures)

#### Monday 7 March Webinar

## Reima Välimäki (Postdoctoral Researcher,

Turku Institute for Advanced Studies): "The Circulation of Pseudohistory in the 21stcentury Internet"

Teemu Oivo (Project Researcher, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland): "Rediscovering Imagined Ancient Russia"

#### Monday 4 April

#### **Reading Group**

Jo Winning, Trauma, Illness and Narrative in the Medical Humanities (2020)

Chaired by: Hanna Meretoja (Professor, Literary Studies and Creative Writing) and Sanna Salanterä (Professor, Clinical Nursing Science)

#### Wednesday 25 May

#### Seminar

Narrative Warfare: Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory in the Era of a New World Order

Organized by: **SELMA** and the thematic collaboration **Cultural Memory and Social Change** 

#### Monday 5 September Webinar

#### Finns in the Colonial World

Leila Koivunen (Professor, European and World History, University of Turku) and Raita Merivirta (Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Languages and Translation Studies, University of Turku)

#### Monday 3 October Reading Group

Astrid Erll, **Travelling Memory** (2011) Chaired by: **Anne Heimo** (Professor, Study of Cultures)

#### Monday 7 November Webinar

Astrid Joutseno (Researcher, SELMA, University of Turku): "What Might It Be Like to Inherit Grief? Cultural and Affectual Intergenerational Iterations"

Marjo Kolehmainen (Researcher, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies): "Explorations of Intimacy in Digital Therapy"

#### **Thursday 10 November**

#### Seminar

## Perspectives on Ukrainian Literature and Culture

Organized by: **SELMA** and the thematic collaboration **Cultural Memory and Social Change** 

## **SEMINAR SERIES**

#### SELMA MEDICAL HUMANITIES SEMINAR SERIES

This seminar series organizes and supports innovative and interdisciplinary dialogues on the stories, memories, and experiences of health, illness, and medical care. We are interested in the ways in which experiences of illness and disease, encounters between doctors, patients, health workers and caregivers, medical settings and healthcare policies shape and are shaped by the interrelations between cultures, persons, communities and environments. In particular, we seek to develop a critical understanding of how these experiences blur boundaries between agential subjects, times and spaces, and prescriptive binaries between sickness and health, remission and recovery, Western/normative and traditional medical practices. In the Spring Semester of 2022 Marta-Laura Cenedese and Avril Tynan convened the third season of the SELMA Medical Humanities Seminar Series which addressed the topic '(Counter) Narratives of Reproduction'.

Recordings of certain seminars are available here.

Season 3, "(Counter)Narratives of Reproduction" (Spring Semester 2022)

#### **Tuesday 25 January**

**Camilla Mørk Røstvik** (Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Art History, University of Aberdeen) **& Saniya Lee Ghanoui** (Program Director of Our Bodies Ourselves Today, Suffolk University, Boston): "Arctic Periods: Transnational Knowledge about Menstrual History and Wellbeing (preliminary findings)"

#### **Tuesday 22 February**

**Charlotte Kroløkke** (Professor & Head of Cultural Studies, Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark): "Fertile Forever? Reproduction in the Age of Egg and Sperm Freezing"

#### **Tuesday 29 March**

**Rene Almeling** (Associate Professor of Sociology, Yale University): "GUYnecology: The Missing Science of Men's Reproductive Health"

#### **Tuesday 26 April**

Zaina Mahmoud (PhD Candidate, Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, School of Law, University of Exeter), Meera Somji (LSE), & Rhianna Ilube (Associate Director, Coney): "The Surrogacy Act"

#### **Tuesday 31 May**

**Charlotte Jones** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health, University of Exeter): "Rethinking the 'Choice' Paradigm: Reproductive Support and Community Solidarities for People with Variations of Sex Characteristics"

#### **Tuesday 28 June**

A Conversation with **Martin Winckler** (French/Canadian writer and physician)

### **SEMINAR SERIES**

#### **THEMATIC SEMINARS: UKRAINE**

Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal military attack against Ukraine is causing immense human suffering, pain and destruction. In response to this devastating war, in 2022 SELMA and Cultural Memory and Social Change Thematic Collaboration organised two seminars dedicated to Ukraine.

#### Wednesday May 25

#### NARRATIVE WARFARE: STORYTELL-ING, EXPERIENTIALITY AND MEMORY IN THE ERA OF NEW WORLD ORDER

In order to understand how Russia's war in Ukraine is possible, it is important to analyse what kind of narratively mediated view of reality, conception of history, and national identity the Russian state-owned media has built and sustained for years. Competing narratives also play a central role in other major global crises of our times, such as the pandemic and ecological crisis. Cultural narratives shape social reality and they can be used as a weapon in moulding public opinion. This seminar explored narrative warfare and the role of narratives as a means of building cultural memory and identity. With presentations and panel discussion by Hanna Meretoja (Department of Comparative Literature, University of Turku), Irina Grigor (Media and Communication Studies, University of Helsinki), Zoe Allen-Mercier (Department of Philosophy, Contemporary History and Political Science, University of Turku), Pertti Grönholm (Department of European and World History, University of Turku), Anne Heimo (School of History, Culture and Arts Studies, University of Turku), Mia Korpiola (Faculty of Law, University of Turku) and Suvi Salmenniemi (Department of Social Research, University of Turku).

#### **Tuesday November 10**

#### PERSPECTIVES ON UKRAINIAN LIT-ERATURE AND CULTURE

On November 10, SELMA and the thematic collaboration Cultural Memory and Social

Change organised a seminar on Ukrainian Literature and Culture. This seminar presented an opportunity to learn about Ukrainian literature and about the perspectives it opens on Ukrainian culture. What kind of literature comes out of this world-literary region? How does contemporary Ukrainian literature deal with war and the pressure imposed on writers at times of crisis? How do writers and artists navigate between the social pressure to write about the national struggle and the supposed artistic freedom? What kind of narrative strategies and literary forms frame this navigation?

The seminar began with opening words by Hanna Meretoja and Tereza Chlaňová's (Charles University in Prague) overview of contemporary Ukrainian literature. After that the Ukrainian literary scholar Natalya Bekhta (University of Helsinki and Tampere University) focused on the satirical currents in contemporary Ukrainian fiction, prominent right after the declaration of independence in 1991, which brought about an overwhelming reformatting of the social reality. Another such reformatting happened in 2014, when Russia invaded South-Eastern regions of Ukraine. Eliash Strongowski, Ukrainian poet, author, and co-founder of the publishing house Vydavnytstvo discussed what it is like to be a European refugee and to publish books during times of war. The seminar ended with Jenniliisa Salminen's (University of Helsinki) and Viola Parente-Čapková's (University of Turku) presentation of the forthcoming issue of the Ajan kohina magazine, which is dedicated to Ukrainian literature and Ukrainian themes in Finnish literature.



## XII IABA WORLD CONFERENCE TURKU 2022

After waiting for two years, SELMA was finally able to host the XII IABA-World conference (International Association for Biography and Autobiography ) in Turku in June. The conference "Life-Writing: Imagining the Past, Present and Future" was held at the campus area of the University of Turku on 14-17 June 2022. The conference theme emerged from the concepts central to research in SELMA: memory, narrative and experience. During the conference, we particularly explored the multiple temporalities and historical dimensions of life storying and life writing research. With history, we not only looked into the past but also explored our present and discussed our expectations and visions for the future. This interdisciplinary event brought together more than 300 participants from around the world and encouraged dialogues across boundaries of theory, methodology, genre, place, and time. The conference program displayed a great variety of contributions including presentations, panel discussions, roundtables and workshop sessions. In addition to traditional formats, the conference also included creative sessions on life writing and artistic research, a workshop on narrative agency and life-writing, and film and documentary screenings followed by panel discussions with film scholars, historians and scholars in Sámi culture.



Group photo of the XII IABA-World Conference



## The organizing comittee and volunteers team

The conference featured keynote lectures by distinguished scholars and writers. The opening keynote lecture "Narrating a Life: Backward, Forward, or Sideward?" was given by Jens Brockmeier, professor of psychology at The American University in Paris. In her keynote lecture "Children and Biographies: Reading Life Stories", professor Kate Douglas (Flinders University, Australia) talked about the popular genre of biographies written for children, exploring what these biographies tell us about which lives and ways of living are valorised at a particular historical moment, and how young readers are responding to these representations. The artistic keynote "S/S Kuopio on the route to Saint Petersburg: Political Polarization, Radicalism, Extremism as Political Inheritance" was delivered by an acclaimed Finnish writer and beloved author of historical novels, Sirpa Kähkönen. In her lecture, Sirpa Kähkönen explored the political polarization and political violence during the Finnish Civil War in 1918 and in 1930 and reflected on the power of literature and life-writing to break even the deepest silences. The closing keynote lecture "The Graces of the Unsung" was given by Saidiya Hartman, an acclaimed American writer and Professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. In her lecture, professor Hartman examined the challenges in writing the lives of the anonymous and the unknown and read an extract from her new work.



Keynote lecture by Prof. Jens Brockmeier



Keynote lecture by Prof. Kate Douglas

As part of the conference, participants enjoyed many social events and activities, including welcome reception in the City Hall, conference dinner in the atmospheric restaurant Grädda on the banks of river Aura, evening cruise to Loistokari island and young scholars get-together. The conference was organized jointly by SELMA, the University of Turku, the Åbo Akademi, the city of Turku and the Finnish Literature Society.



Finnish writer Sirpa Kähkönen gives the artistic keynote at the IABA22



Professor Maarit Leskelä-Kärki introduces keynote speaker Saidiya Hartman



Gala Dinner at the Grädda restaurant with music performance

## **OTHER EVENTS**

#### 26 April 2022

#### ONLINE READING CIRCLE: PER-SONAL TESTIMONIES AS MUSEUM COMMUNICATION

Workshop organized by the NOS-HS network "Nordic Voices: The use of oral history and personal memories in public history settings" (2022-2024)

NORDIC VOICES seeks to increase the use of oral histories, life narratives and personal memories in Nordic cultural institutions by collaborating with leading experts from both academia and various cultural institutions. In April the network held its first online workshop "Personal testimonies as museum communication". The participants discussed two texts introduced by Iben Vyff (Museums of Elsinore & Roskilde University) and Anne Brædder (University of Roskilde): the article 'They listened to my voice': The refugee communities history project and belonging: Voices of London's refugees (2009) by Anettte Day and book chapter Oral history and Firstperson Narratives in Migration Exhibitions: Tracking Relations Between 'Us' and 'Them' (2019) by Andrea Witcomb, with introduction and concluding remarks by Anne Heimo (University of Turku) and Anne Brædder (University of Roskilde).

#### 10 May 2022

#### SPEAK UP! STUDENT ROUNDTABLE

In May four BA and MA students from different disciplines - Hilla Pohjalainen, Liisa Merivuori, Kasperi Kainulainen and Marta Girabal - gave short presentations about their theses and works in progress. Hilla Pohjalainen presented the paper "The Change of Narrative Agency in Gioconda Belli's The Inhabited Woman". Liisa Merivuori discussed "Trauma and its Effect on Narrative Identity in Herta Müller's novel Atemschaukel'. Kasperi Kainulainen talked about "The Lore Construction and Ideological Narrative Building in American Pseudoscientific TV-shows Finding Bigfoot and Hunting Hitler". Marta Girabal gave a presentation on "Uses of Travel Literature Topoi in Primo Levi's The Truce". Presentations were followed by an open discussion and afternoon coffee.

#### 14 June 2022

#### **INTERACT INAUGURAL SEMINAR** Seminar organized by the research project IN-TERACT

"Intersectional Reading, Social Justice, and Literary Activism" (INTERACT) is a research project based at the University of Turku and funded by Kone Foundation (2022-2025). Its aim is to create solid research-based methods for activist reading. The project understands activism as a sensitive move towards gradual, small changes. It emphasizes the meaning of microactivism, long-term analysis and concentration on everyday structural inequalities; it envisions intersectional reading as a mode of intimate activism in order to increase equality. The main focus of the project is to create intersectional reading practices that enable its potential in increasing social justice and educational democracy.

The inaugural INTERACT seminar "Reading and Intersectionality" took place at the University of Turku on 14 June. It featured presentations by Kaisa Ilmonen (University of Tuku), "Reading Intersectionality"; Marta-Laura Cenedese (University of Tuku), "Everyday Activism, Intersectionality, and the Medical Humanities"; Kaiju Harinen (University of Turku), "Intersectionality ad hoc: Towards a Toolkit against Discrimination"; Anastasia (A) Khodyreva (University of Turku), "Reading through Bodily Gerunds, Towards a More Liveable Worlding"; Koko Hubara (University of Turku), "Intersectionality as Lived Experience: Writing, Mothering, Daughtering: Intersections of Girl/Womanhood, Brownness and the Working class"; and Lotta Luhtala (University of Turku), "Narrative Fiction as a Site of Activism. Veganism and the Question of the Animal".



#### 14 June 2022

BOOK LAUNCH: HANNA MERE-TOJA'S NOVEL ELOTULET (THE NIGHT OF ANCIENT LIGHTS) The event was hosted by the Turku City Library

Hanna Meretoja's first novel *Elotulet* ("The Night of Ancient Lights") was launched at the Turku City Library. The publisher Anna-Riikka Carlson interviewed the author. The event included music performances, poetry recitals and personal reflections on reading experiences.



Photo by Jaska Poikonen

#### **16 November 2022 BOOK LAUNCH** (in Finnish)

Hoitava lukeminen — Teoreettisia ja käytännöllisiä näkökulmia lukemistyöhön (edited by Päivi Kosonen and Juhani Ihanus, 2022, Vastapaino)

In this book launch event, editors and contributors presented the multidisciplinary book *Hoitava lukeminen: Teoreettisia ja käytännöllisiä näkökulmia lukemistyöhön* (2022). The book opens practical and critically reflective perspectives on the therapeutic and healing potential of reading. Fiction invites the reader to think about deep existential questions, such as "Who am I?" or "What will become of me?". Reading can be used in a variety of ways to support wellbeing and self-development – both individually and collectively. Contributors to the book are literary scholars, educators, psychologists, psychotherapists, and librarians, including Laura Karttunen, Eevastiina Kinnunen and Hanna Meretoja.



#### 5 December 2022 INTERACT SEMINAR "HOW TO READ INTERSECTIONALLY?" Seminar organized by the research project INTERACT

While intersectionality is not originally a literary theory, we suggest that reading may also be done intersectionally. The act of interpretation can be an intersectional process opening up new horizons for literary texts. In this seminar, members of the INTERACT research project explored ways of reading intersectionally. The seminar included a pre-seminar intersectional reading workshop for students, conducted by Kaiju Harinen (UTU) and Marta-Laura Cenedese (UTU). In the afternoon, Liisa Merivuori (UTU), Anna-Leena Toivanen (UEF) and Anna Rastas (TUNI) presented their research on intersectional reading. The workshop closed with an open discussion.

#### 7 December 2022

Neuvostoliitto muistoissa ja mielikuvissa – seminaari/ Book Launch Seminar "Soviet Union in Memories and Images" (in Finnish)

This seminar celebrated the publication of the book *Neuvostoliitto muistoissa ja mielikuvissa* ("The Soviet Union in Memories and Images") (SKS, 2022), edited by Anna Helte and Pia Koivunen. What is remembered about the Soviet Union and how is it remembered? How has the Soviet Union been represented at different times in literature, museum exhibitions, art and other media? This book examines memories and images related to the Soviet Union and Soviet society from the perspective of cultural memory research. The seminar included presentations by book contributors **Anna Helle**, **Pia Koivunen**, **Anna Laakkonen**, **Silja Pitkänen**, **Anna Helle**, **Riikka Taavetti**, and **Hannu Salmi**.



#### 8 December 2022

Sukupuolihistorian uudet avaukset ja haasteet 2020-luvulla/ "New openings and challenges in gender history in the 2020s" (in Finnish)

Panel discussion organized by the Department of Cultural History, SELMA research centre, and Gender, Writing and Textuality research group (UTU)

Women's history arrived in Finland together with other so-called new histories in the 1970s, after which the field of research has developed in parallel with the social debate and the changes that have taken place in it. Nowadays, the field of research that goes by the name of "gender history" takes into account not only the history of women, but also the multiplicity of intersecting differences that produce people's inequality. The field of women's and gender history has also been a key innovator of biographical research in recent decades. The aim of this panel discussion was to open traditions as well as new perspectives and burning questions of the moment. With participation of Tiina Tiilikainen (TY), Sari Hartikainen (TY), Kirsi Tuohela (TY), Riikka Taavetti and Anu Lahtinen (HY). The panel was chaired by Heidi Kurvinen (Turku Institute for Advanced Studies), Maarit Leskelä-Kärki (University of Turku) and Karoliina Sjö (University of Turku).

## **MOBILITIES**

In **February**, **Marta-Laura Cenedese** organised (with Clio Nicastro) the conference *Violence, Care, Cure: (Self)perceptions* within the Medical Encounter at the ICI Berlin. The conference was a collaboration between ICI Berlin, VolkswagenStiftung, Centre Marc Bloch, and Nordic Summer University (3–4 February).

In March, Marta-Laura Cenedese attended the conference *Writing with an () Other Part 1. Solidarity and Hospitality in Practice* at Umeå University, Sweden (24–27 March), where she presented the paper "Maryse Condé's (Con)Fabulation: Writing with Tituba (and against the Archive?)", and she led the 1-hour workshop "Reading and Writing with One Another: Narrative Medicine for Solidarity and Hospitality".

In **April**, **Hanna Meretoja** gave a talk at the conference *Mnemonic Migration – Transcultural Transmissions, Translations and Circulations of Memory Across and Into Contemporary Europe*, at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Her paper was entitled "Past Worlds as Spaces of Possibility: Agency and its Limits in Jenny Erpenbeck's *Heimsuchung* (Visitation)".

In May, Markku Lehtimäki organized the panel 'Romaanin tieto: Kirjan ja kirjailijan muuttuvat roolit yhteiskunnassa' at 'Kirjallisuudentutkimuksen päivät' (Tampere, Finland, 12-13 May). Hanna Meretoja gave a keynote talk at the 10th Narrative Matters Conference in Atlanta. The title of her talk was "Transformative Storytelling and Narrative Agency: Narrating Uncertainty in Tumultuous Times". Marta-Laura Cenedese was invited to speak at the Roundtable on Practical Writing Issues at the Berlin Spring School for Young Scholars: The Laws and Politics of (In)Security and Social Cohesion -An Interdisciplinary Conversation, which took place at Humboldt University, Berlin (4-6 May). Her paper was titled "Writing and (Critical) Fabulation." She also presented the paper "Literary Activism, Intersectionality and the Medical Humanities" at

the Finnish Literary Society's Annual Conference at Tampere University (12–13 May).

In June, Tiina Mahlamäki presented the paper "Learning and Teaching Anthroposophy in Letters. Religions and States of Freedom" at the Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) at the University College Cork, Ireland (26 June). During the XXVIII International James Joyce Conference taking place in Dublin (Ireland), Markku Lehtimäki presented the paper "Reading Voices in Eveline" (12-18 June). Hanna Meretoja, Päivi Kosonen and Eevastiina Kinnunen organised the "Workshop on Narrative Agency and Life-Writing" at the IABA conference (University of Turku, Finland, 14-17 June). Hanna Meretoja also attended the Narrative Conference in Chichester. Her paper was entitled "From Narrative Mastery to Narrative Agency (and its Limits)". Marta-Laura Cenedese presented the paper "Literary Activism, Intersectionality and the Medical Humanities" at the INTERACT seminar Reading and Intersectionality (University of Turku, 14 June). Anne Heimo attended the 12th International Association for Biography and Autobiography (IABA) World Conference Life-Writing: Imagining the Past, Present and Future (University of Turku, Finland, 14–17 June), where she was one of the organisers of the event, together with other SELMA members such as Maarit Leskelä-Kärki and Hanna Meretoja. Heimo also chaired the session on "Cultural Memory and Societal Change" and welcomed conference participants with opening words.

In **July**, **Tiina Mahlamäki** presented the paper "Anthroposophy and War. A Correspondence between Finnish Author Kersti Bergroth (1886–1975) and General Lennart Oesch (1892–1978) during the WWII" at the conference *Western Esotericism and Creativity: Art, Performance and Innovation*, organised by the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (University College Cork, Ireland, 6 July). In **September**, **Hanna Meretoja** gave a keynote talk, "Memory as Interpretation: Hermeneutics, Spaces of Possibility, and Jenny Erpenbeck's *Heimsuchung*", at the conference *Memory Moves: Approaching Distant Memory* at the University of Oslo. **Marta-Laura Cenedese** presented the joint keynote "The Long or the Post of it? Temporality, Suffering and Uncertainty in Narratives following Covid-19" (with Katharine A. Cheston and Angela Woods) at the workshop *Medical Humanities and Covid/Post-Covid Challenges* that took place at Linköping University, Sweden (19–21 September).

In October, Hanna Meretoja represented SELMA at a meeting of centres of narrative studies, organized by the Paris Centre for Narrative Matters. The meeting was organized by Sylvie Patron and took place at Université Paris Cité. The aim of the meeting was to build a network of centres of narrative studies and to get to know the different profiles and approaches of these centres. Marta-Laura Cenedese was recipient of a 2-week Gräno Researcher Residency Grant at Villa Tammekann (Tartu, Estonia). Anne Heimo was commentator of the session "Kollektiivinen muisti ja sota" at *Historiantutkimuksen päivät* at the University of Tampere (22 October). She also gave a paper "I felt like a human being...': Counter-Memories of the 1918 Finnish Civil War" at the MSA Nordic conference *Explorations of Counter-Memory* at the University of Iceland (online, 13-14 October).

In **November**, **Anne Heimo**, **Maija Mäki** and **Helena Ruotsala** presented the paper "To display or not to display? Personal Memories from Paimio Sanatorium" at the NOS-HS workshop *Nordic voices: The use of oral history and personal memories in public history settings* (Roskilde University, Denmark, 23 November).

In **December**, **Marta-Laura Cenedese** and **Kaiju Harinen** led the 1h30 reading circle "Reading with Maryse Condé" at the INTER-ACT seminar *How to read intersectionally?* (University of Turku, Finland, 5 December). **Anne Heimo** attended the 8th conference of the Finnish Oral History Network *AFTER*: *Time, Place & (Dis)Connections in Oral History & Life Storying* at the University of Helsinki (1–2 December), where she chaired the session "Oral History, Silences and Absence".



Organizers of IABA Conference at the Loistokari dinner cruise

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Annunen, Linda, Maija Butters, Ville Husgafvel & Tiina Mahlamäki. 2022. "Uushenkisyys oppimisen näkökulmasta." Tiina Mahlamäki & Minna Opas (eds.), *Uushenkisyys*. Helsinki: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, 118–159.

Cenedese, Marta-Laura and Clio Nicastro. 2022. "Violence, Care, Cure: (Self)perceptions within the Medical Encounter." *The Polyphony*. <u>https://thepolyphony.org/2022/02/02/violence-care-cure-self-perceptions-within-the-medical-encounter/</u>

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## 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.

- <u>The Aachen Center for Cognitive and Empirical Literary Studies</u> (ACCELS)
- <u>Centre for Life-Writing Research</u>, King's College, London
- <u>Centre for Narrative Research</u>, University of East London
- <u>The Holocaust Research Institute</u>, Royal Holloway, University of London
- IABA-Europe and European Journal for Life-Writing
- <u>IIPC The International Institute for Popular Culture</u>, University of Turku
- <u>Memory Studies Association</u>
- Narrare: Centre for Interdisciplinary Narrative Studies, University of Tampere
- <u>Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics</u> (Nordic-Baltic research network coordinated by Hanna Meretoja and Eneken Laanes)
- <u>Narrative and Violence</u> (Nordic Summer University Study Circle coordinated by Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy)
- Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, University of Oxford
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- <u>PUTSPACE</u>: Public Transport as Public Space in European Cities: Narrating, Experiencing, Contesting (HERA-funded project, PI for Finland Jason Finch)
- The Possibility Studies Network (PSN)