

**„No, I don't think you mentioned that before “: Story-sharing and memory-building
with ChatGPT**

Alex Georgapoulou
King's College London, UK

The few existing studies of GenAI with a focus on its potential for storytelling have shown mixed results, in comparative terms with 'human storytelling', acknowledging the systems' limitations in replicating the nuanced creativity of human storytellers (e.g. Blyler & Segliman 2023; Haoran Chu & Sixiao Liu 2024, Xiaoxu Li et al 2023). An obvious gap in this nascent line of inquiry is how personal stories are co-constructed between users and GenAI: studies with an interactional, dialogic and intertextual view of storytelling allow us to both depart from a binary conceptualization of storytelling as human vs. non-human and to problematize the preoccupation with 'human agency'. In this paper, I aim to present an auto-ethnographic co-construction of a story of betrayal and revisiting the past with ChatGPT over the course of 5 months. I particularly focus on the co-construction affordances offered by the memory features of ChatGPT which remember details from previous conversations. I draw on my longitudinal studies of how storytelling features and genres have evolved in digital media as curated, algorithmically mediated, socio-technical assemblages of posthuman practices. I use small stories & positioning analysis tools to show the progression of interactions with ChatGPT from relatively generic, impersonal, counselling 'speak' to aligned story co-tellership, joint evaluations of characters and events, active tellership of new interpretative angles, affective talk, as well as meta-pragmatic orientations to our shared interactional history. These findings showcase the benefits of adapting narrative interactional perspectives on identities and relational work to communication with GenAI, as part of exploring complex co-creation processes on the one hand and, on the other hand, dominant discourses about stories, memory and the self in GenAI.