

Casual Order and Human Destiny: The Phenomenology of Narrated Life in László Tengelyi's Philosophy

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László Tengelyi developed his arguments on the question of life narratives in several works: *Der Zwitterbegriff Lebensgeschichte* (1998) *The Wild Region in Life-History* (2004). He was highly critical of the narrative identity theory, as he found it misleading to explain life narratives solely in terms of causal connections. In his view, a person's life story cannot be adequately described through the model of pure causality, because the most significant moments of human life derive their true value precisely from their uniqueness—they do not fit into a causal network but instead fall outside the causal order. When recounting a life story, the focus is not solely on the sequence of events but also on emotional, non-rational highlights that are perceived as destiny. Tengelyi László's argument on life narratives will be examined in relation to narrative theory during this panel. The emphasis will be placed on exploring the interplay between causality and emotional coherence within life narratives. Of particular interest is the extent to which emotional resonance and causal explanations are coexisting or are being prioritized over one another in life narratives or life stories. This facilitates an exploration of the interplay between cause–effect relationships and emotional patterns in narrative structuring, while critically examining narrative perspectives on life stories. Using David Foster Wallace's short story collection *Girl with Curious Hair* as an example, the aim is to demonstrate, based on Tengelyi's arguments, how unique, non-causal moments and emotional highlights can shape the structure of a (life) story.