

## **Participatory Round Table: “The Future of Narrative Research in Europe”**

### **Chair & Organizer:**

[Dr. Carolin Gebauer](#) (University of Wuppertal, Germany)

### **Invited speakers:**

[Dr. Aigars Ceplītis](#) (RISEBA University of Applied Science, Latvia)

[Prof. Alexandra Georgakopoulou](#) (King’s College London, UK)

[Dr. Maria Mäkelä](#) (University of Tampere, Finland)

[Prof. Stefania Sini](#) (University of Eastern Piedmont Vercelli, Italy)

[Prof. Roy Sommer](#) (University of Wuppertal, Germany)

[Prof. Ondřej Sládek](#) (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)

Since the ENN started with its opening conference in Hamburg in 2009, narrative research has changed significantly. New challenges, from policy narratives on climate change and sustainability to post-truth discourses and narrative propaganda accompanying the war against Ukraine, have prompted new theories of narrative com. The role of narratives, and narrative framing, has come under scrutiny, too, and storytelling practices on digital media raise ethical concerns. Finally, AI looms large over our text-oriented disciplines, changing the nature of writing and reading.

How should narrative research respond to these challenges, and what is the future role of networks like ENN? How can the onboarding of younger generations of researchers be facilitated, and how could the ENN be developed further? Finally, how will the changes in publishing, accelerated by AI, affect established formats like books and journals, and what does that mean for the future of time-consuming projects like dissertation theses?

The discussion of these questions will be kick-started by a round table discussion between the invited speakers, followed by a Q&A session involving the entire audience.

**When:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025, 14:00–15:30 h

**Where:** University of Wuppertal. Building K, Lecture Hall 32 (K.11.23)