

Narratology in Central European Context: Theory and History

Block of panels at the 5th International Conference of the European Narratology Network “Narrative and Narratology: Metamorphosing the Structures”, 13–15 September 2017, Prague

Narratology is commonly presented as a scholarly discipline, which was founded in France in the 1960s and which engages in the inquiry of narratives and narration. Today, the discipline, thanks to its thorough terminological system and analytical strategies, serves as an important methodological base for an extensive set of theoretical and practical approaches to narratives. In spite of the fact that narratology was first established in the field of literature, it gradually expanded its scope to various disciplines, such as art theory, history, sociology and the human sciences.

The origins of narratology are essentially connected with the development of structuralism. One of the variants of the structuralist thought is firmly linked to the Prague Linguistic Circle of the 1920s in Prague. The Prague School structuralism, thanks to the effort of its founders, for example, R. Jakobson, J. Mukařovský and B. Havránek, became one of the most influential linguistic and literary theoretical approaches in Central Europe. Various forms and variants of this approach can be found in Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary.

It is not incidental that in these countries the structuralist thought is also connected with the analyses of narratives. Although in the post-Communist countries the structuralist thought was oppressed and replaced by the official Marxist methodology, today we have the work of several Central European structuralists at our disposal. Is it in particular the works of F. Vodička, M. Červenka, A. Popovič, M. Głowiński, J. Sławiński and E. Bojtár which can be viewed as important contributions to the development of structuralism and narratology.

The goal of the project is to map the development of narratology in the Central European area of the 20th and 21st centuries, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary in particular. Despite the structuralist background shared by individual Central European countries the variability of the narratological conceptions developed in them attests to their theoretical and conceptual diversity. Whereas in the Czech Republic the narratological research was primarily connected with poetics, aesthetics and linguistics, in Slovakia it was linked to literary communication and interpretation, in Poland it was combined with hermeneutics and cultural anthropology and in Hungary, with poetics and historiography. The aim of the project is to explore these variable narratological conceptions and their development in the individual Central European states, as well as to analyse and describe their similarities and contrasts.

The project will be realized during the 5th International Conference of the European Narratology Network in September 2017 in Prague. The Conference represents one of the two most prestigious events in the field of world narratology. The ENN Conferences are organized in cooperation with the best European universities and research centres; their participants represent the most significant scholars in the field.

At the Conference, a series of panels named “Narratology in the Central European Context: Theory and History” will be organized. These panels will consist of contributions focused on the Central European narratological and protonarratological conceptions coming from particular national/local theoretical traditions, their comparisons, historical and systemic, their relationships with modern classical and postclassical narratology and their future perspectives

and potential. All these analyses will be led with regard to wider interdisciplinary and multimedia contexts.

Particular panels will be formed based on the local/national criterion, as well as systematic and comparative.

Participants:

- **The Czech Republic** – us!

- **Slovakia** – Univerzita Konštantína Filozofa v Nitre – doc. Krisztián Benyovszky
http://www.umjl.fss.ukf.sk/?page_id=1142

- **Hungary** – Magyar Tudományos Akadémia– prof. Péter Hajdu
<http://www.iti.mta.hu>
<http://www.iti.mta.hu/hajdu.html>

- **Poland** – Uniwersytet Warszawski – prof. Danuta Ulicka (discussions in progress)
<http://www.teoria.ilp.uw.edu.pl/ludzie/prof-dr-hab-danuta-ulicka.html>