

Call for Papers: “Narratives: Negotiating Meaning, Knowledge, and Identity”

The Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS) Graduate Conference Committee invites proposals for participation in “Narratives: Negotiating Meaning, Knowledge, and Identity”, a two-day conference held at Leiden University on 11-12 April 2024. The conference will feature keynote lectures by Dr Caroline Dodds Pennock (University of Sheffield) and Professor Nidesh Lawtoo (Leiden University).

This cross-cultural and cross-historical conference asks: how do we shape the world through narrative, and how do these narratives in turn shape us? Narratives have enabled the preservation of shared cultural memory, the production of knowledge, and the fashioning of selves. How do stories and storytelling function within society as communal ties or generational bridges? How can we unearth marginalized voices and destabilize gendered, racial, colonial, and anthropocentric narratives? With the rise of social media and the emergence of post-truth politics and “fake news”, the lines between narrative and reality have also become increasingly blurred, broadening the scope of research in the field.

We welcome contributions from researchers working on different time periods and cultures across all of the humanities and social sciences. Participants are invited to consider topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- Narrative, form and genre
- Narrative hermeneutics
- Archival narratives and/or the production of knowledge
- Narratives of migration
- Narratives and cultural memory
- Narratives of selfhood and communal identity
- Narrators: whose voices do we hear, and why does it matter?
- Factual versus fictional narratives
- (De)colonizing narratives
- Transmedial, virtual, and interactive (multi)narratives
- Non-human narratives and post-human narratives

Each twenty-minute presentation will be followed by a ten-minute Q&A session. We invite both individual papers and proposals for whole panels.

To submit an individual paper, please provide:

- The topic heading(s) from the above list under which your presentation falls (you are welcome to provide a new topic heading if you would like);
- Applicant name and short bio (maximum 100 words);
- Title and abstract of paper (maximum 200 words)

To submit a three-person panel, please provide:

- The topic heading(s) from the above list under which your panel falls (you are welcome to provide a new topic heading if you would like);
- Applicant names and short bios (maximum 100 words each);
- Title and abstract of whole panel (maximum 250 words);

- Title and abstract of each paper (maximum 200 words each)

Please submit your proposal as a single PDF file to lucasconference@hum.leidenuniv.nl by 30 November 2023. Applicants will be notified about the success of their application in January 2024.

Applicants should be aware that there will be an opportunity to publish their papers in an edition of the Journal of the LUCAS Graduate Conference.



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