

Abstracts

The Age of Narrativity?

Dávid Kollár and József Kollár: In defence of narrative explanations

Abstract: It's a popular and fashionable view that, like spiders the web, we humans weave the narratives of our lives, hunting for otherwise aimlessly flitting, perspective-less experiences. For in order to make coherent an incoherent, contingent (cf.: Rorty 1989) reality without a higher purpose, we need to wrap up the experiences of our communal and individual lives in stories. Despite this, narrative thinking has been subject to countless criticisms. Galen Strawson and Frank Ankersmit argue that narrative explanations are reductive and deprive the agents of the possibility of an authentic experience of themselves, others and the world. In our interpretation, however, these critiques fail to take into account the indispensable role of narrative explanations rooted in folk psychology in understanding and modelling ourselves, others and social reality. At the same time, these critiques point out that the social, conscious segmentation and fragmentation brought about by modernism require perspective descriptions rather than the old, uniform patterns of interpretation.

Keywords: narrative explanations, folk psychology, intensional stance, fragmentation

Zoltán Hidas: Meaning of Order – Order of History. Sociology and Narrativity

Abstract: Social theories conceived in the modern epoch of history are interested both in the history of order and in the order of history, by systematically grasping our recent situation. The paper discusses the most influential paradigms of relating historical process and abstract theory, focusing besides Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Talcott Parsons and Niklas Luhmann on the most historical concept of Max Weber. What is at stake for sociology, is the orientation of the present, as possible for us who are involved in it.

Keywords: narrativism, historicism, naturalism, development, alienation, disenchantment, orientation

Erin K. Jenne: Varieties of Nationalism in the Age of Covid-19.

Abstract: Florian Bieber predicted that the Covid-19 pandemic would have limited long-term effects on the global rise in the level of nationalism because most governments were likely to revert to their prior nationalist trajectories following the pandemic. Nonetheless, I argue that we can learn something about the role of nationalism in the management of public health crises by looking at the variable state responses to the arrival of the virus within their borders. In the modern international system, state governments are tasked with safeguarding the health and well-being of their national populations. During national emergencies, sovereigntist movements form around competing images of the nation that deserves protection. This article uses political artwork to show how different images of the idealized sovereign community were employed to justify divergent pandemic policies of US President Donald Trump and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. Over the course of the pandemic, both leaders came under fire for failing to protect their constituents, providing space for alternative leaders and models of national protection.

Keywords: populism, nationalism, sovereignty, movements, Covid-19

Bernadett Miskolczi: What UNDP really means by development and why it matters? Changes in the development policy narratives of the UNDP Human Development Reports

Abstract: The primary aim of this paper is to explore, through the lens of critical development studies, the conceptual changes that international development has undergone and the dominant narratives that currently overrun this discourse. In line with this, the study examines the Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), combining methods of computer-assisted content analysis and discourse analysis. This allows, on the one hand, to identify the different narratives through which the UNDP framed development between 1990 and 2022, and, on the other hand, to discover the main features of the current narrative in details. Drawing on all these empirical findings, the paper argues that development policy efforts can only achieve meaningful goals if they are able to construct narratives that are not only sensitive to a Western technocratic cultural framing, but also take into account – and productively integrate – the needs of social groups with different resources and cultural traditions.

Keywords: narrativity, UNDP, international development, the Anthropocene, cultural framing

Julian Reid: “Resilient Ukraine” and Narratives of War in Europe

Abstract: One of the main narratives through which the war in Ukraine has been framed, at least within the Western world, has been that of the resilience of Ukraine. For example, in an interview given to the BBC, published on March 5, Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, praised the ‘extraordinary resilience’ of ordinary Ukrainians fighting Russian military forces (BBC 2022). Western media has been awash with descriptions of Ukrainians as ‘resilient’ in the face of the extreme adversity of Russia’s invasion (Sauer 2022). Meanwhile images have circulated of ordinary Ukrainians resisting Russian military forces, throwing molotov cocktails at Russian tanks, and urinating on Russian military vehicles (India Herald 2022).

Iconically, the front cover of the March 28 issue of *Time Magazine* featured a picture of a 148 feet photo of a Ukrainian child refugee being held up by over one hundred people outside the opera house in Lviv, with the heading, ‘The Resilience of Ukraine’ (Time 2022). All of which has contributed to the construction of the immense resilience of Ukraine. Ukrainians themselves have contributed to this narrative, by proclaiming their own resilience. As one Ukrainian political analyst, Roman Rukomeda, has put it, ”(T)his war is a big revelation for the Ukrainian people about ourselves and our resilience. We consistently underestimated our character, readiness for mutual support and empathy for each other and our values” (Rukomeda 2022).

Keywords: resilience, war, Ukraine, narratives

Lili Zenovitz: “In a finite world, infinite growth cannot be imagined.” Narratives of the sharing economy

Abstract: Sustainability – and, more broadly, environmental protection – is a cardinal issue of our time. This is evident in public discourse, politics and in many different fields of science (Kollár 2020). In line with this, the primary aim of this paper is to explore the different conceptual schemas that are manifested in the field of sustainability: in other words, to capture the different narratives that emerge around the issue of sustainability. On the other hand, the study focuses on presenting the main characteristics of the sharing economy narratives in the field of sustainability. The analysis is based on a large sample of data from 2021, which explores the sharing economy from several angles. However, the aim of the study is not only to empirically capture the different narratives on the sharing economy, but also to explore which social groups with different attitudes are particularly interested in which narratives.

Keywords: sustainability, sustainable development, economy, sharing economy, environment

Gábor Szécsi: Mediatization, Community, Narrative

Abstract: For the individual gathering information around the world of narratives mediated by new communication technologies and builds his relationships, the boundaries of individual social contexts fade into symbolic ones. The roles he plays in different communities mutually affect his self-image, his individuality, and his attachment to each community. The concept of community of the person who communicates electronically, who often receives and mediates the narratives of the mass media as elements of his personal stories, is born at the junction of the conceptual representation of different community forms, nourished by numerous physical and virtual community experiences. Reflecting on the sociological, psychological and communication theoretical discussions related to the topic, in my study I want to highlight, on the one hand, by reviewing the relevant literature, how the interweaving of personal, community, social and mass communication narratives conveyed in the framework of electronically mediated communication contributes to the development of a new concept of community and society, and makes it

more than ever before more complex, but at the same time more conscious of our community and social roles linked to our communication processes. On the other hand, in this essay I consider the question of how the narratives conveyed by the new media contribute to the formation of a special, relational self and a malleable identity based on it in the case of regular media consumers.

Keywords: mediatization, community builder narratives, hybrid communities, social capital, networked individual

Bernadett Balassa, Miklós Gyorgyovich és András Máté-Tóth: Religious securitization and the model of wounded collective identity in Hungarian society based on empirical data

Abstract: In our paper, we argue that the interpretation of the development of religiosity in Hungary can be carried out in a new and original way based on the theories of wounded collective identity and securitization. In the first step, we clarify the theoretical approach by summarizing the traumatized identity characteristic of the Central and Eastern European region, including Hungarian society, and its implications for interpreting religiosity. In presenting the theoretical approach, we draw on Anthony Giddens' theory of ontological security and András Máté-Tóth's theory of wounded collective identity. By combining the two theories and referring to the relevant literature in Hungarian, we present the most relevant claims of our theoretical approach. In a second step, we analyze data collected by TÁRKI [abridgment of the Social Research Institute in Hungary] in 2022 on a representative sample to test the theory, showing the mutual effects between religiosity, the sense of woundedness, and the desire for security. We believe that in line with the results of our previous studies and drawing on the data analysis presented here, we have been able to convincingly demonstrate the most fundamental connections of the theory developed. This may inspire research on private religiosity and public religion that takes more strongly into account aspects of collective identity in Central and Eastern Europe.

Keywords: wounded collective identity, security, religiosity, public religion, Central and Eastern Europe

Tamás László: Approaches to the Concept and Measurement of Resilience in the Context of Narrativity

Abstract: The coronavirus epidemic has radically and abruptly transformed people's lifestyles around the world. Depending on the extent to which these changes are sustained, deepened or recurring, they may have far-reaching implications for the way we communicate in our social relations, the way we develop opportunities for interaction and, ultimately, the solidarity that sustains communities and societies. Commonplace and academic discourses seek solutions in, among other places, the landscape of resilience, the term in vogue today. As with all popular buzzwords, there are of course many attempts at interpretation, unreflected prejudices and normative images attached to this concept. However, the narrative surrounding resilience can itself be analysed and as such can tell us a relevant story about the framed ways in which we tell ourselves about the world we live in. In this paper, I explore this issue, while also addressing some of the epistemological and methodological

difficulties and questions related to the concept and empirical research of resilience – and on this basis, I propose a conceptual differentiation of resilience, the experience of resilience and the regulators of resilience.

Keywords: narrativity, coronavirus epidemic, resilience, resilience experience, resilience regulators

Past and Anti-Semitism

Veronika Troll, Anna Feledy and Mátyás Márton Mózer: Research on Anti-Semitism in Dezső Kosztolányi's Pardon era

Abstract: The Pardon column was published on a weekly basis as part of *Új Nemzedék* with the contribution of Dezső Kosztolányi between 1919 and 1921. One third of these texts have been found to have anti-Semitic content and through stylistic analysis have been tied to the work of Dezső Kosztolányi (Arany 2019). Literary critics and historians have long been exploring Dezső Kosztolányi's anti-Semitic connections, however their implications for the social sciences are yet to be considered. Due to the writer's fame and scope of his work we are in possession of documents, which help us understand the ways Kosztolányi and his peers understood their role in the anti-Semitic discourse—as writers and editors of the Pardon column. Our goal is to get a deeper insight into the era in which the columns were written, and to try and understand how historic social processes impacted the work of individual writers, thereby providing a social-historical context to the anti-Semitic writings of the Pardon column. In our study, we will consider Judaism's social, economic and political role, through which we will examine the content of the anti-Semitic columns and the social-historical processes that led to their formation. Furthermore, through the biography of Dezső Kosztolányi we will showcase how participation in the anti-Semitic discourse affected the life of the individual.

Keywords: Dezső Kosztolányi, Pardon, antisemitism, social history, jewry

