



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

*Worskhop - **Narrative and interpretative  
methods**  
**Lausanne 2023***

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# The story of my name



# Overall aim of the course

- The aim of the workshop is to develop an understanding of theory and application of contemporary narrative and interpretive methods in health-care research.
- To develop knowledge and skills in applying this knowledge in own project.

# We will ....

- Learn about narrative
- Learn from ongoing research
- Test some narrative procedures

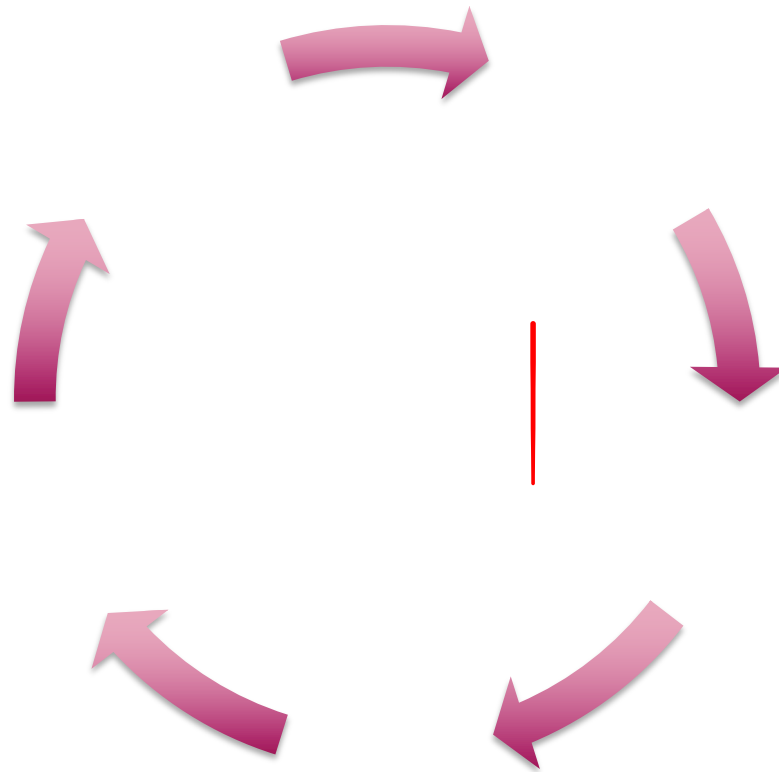
# Literature

- Hyden, L-C. (1997). Illness and narrative. *Sociological Health Ill*, 19(1), 48-69.
- Josephsson, S & Alsaker, S (2015) Narrative methodology: a tool to access unfolding and situated meaning in occupation. *Qualitative Research Methodologies for Occupational Science and Therapy*. Routledge.
- Josephsson, S., Asaba, E., Jonsson, H., & Alsaker, S. (2006) Creativity and order in communication: Implications from philosophy to narrative research concerning human occupation. *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 13 (2), 86-93.
- Mattingly, C. (1998). *Healing dramas and clinical plots: The narrative structure of experience*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

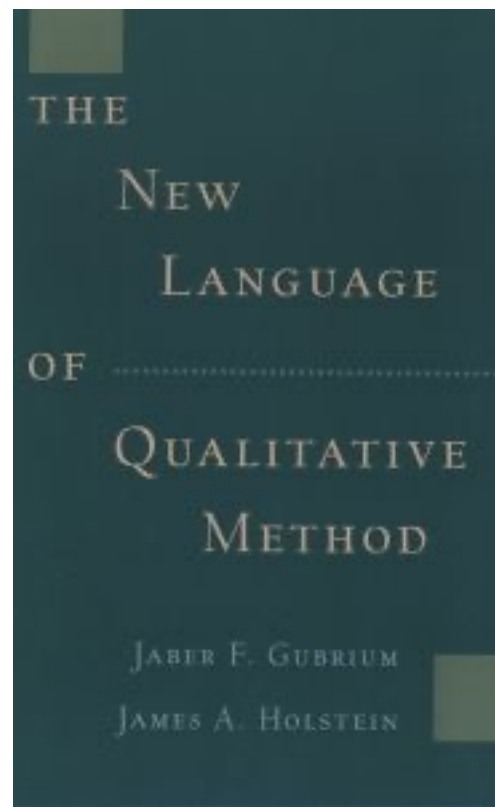
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- Polkinghorne, D. E. (1995). Narrative configuration in qualitative analysis. *Qualitative Studies in Education*, 8(1), 5- 23.
- Catherine Kohler Riessman (2008). *Narrative Methods for the Human Sciences*. CA, USA: SAGE Publications.

# Movement







- Denzin, N. K. (2013). The death of data?. *Cultural Studies? Critical Methodologies*, 13(4), 353-356.
- Bruner, J. (1990). *Acts of meaning*. Harvard university press.

- Critique on qualitative methods
- Not portraying life world of persons – rather creating structures and language based on logic of positivistic science
- Themes and structures
- Result in generic knowledge ‘more of the same’
- ‘Social environment matters’

what

-

how

# Narrative - stories

- Central in everyday life
- Well-known over cultures and ages
- Traditionally defined as a **verbal** account with a beginning middle and an end
- Organised around an inherent plot''
- Create meaning in 2 ways
  - - causality
  - - existential

# Narrative

- How we talk about stories and storied reasoning at the university
- Central feature in human construction of meaning
- Origin in philosophy, literature and theatre
- Widely used in social science and health care sciences
- Verbal or written texts
- How meaning is created by relating and communicating
- Link between narrative - action.
- Diversity of meanings as well as use
- Definition: The processes of storied meaning-making.

# narrative turn

- Narrative as object for studies move into the human sciences.
- Riesmann place this turn to the mid 1980s
- Sociology
- Health care science ( Cheryl Mattingly)
- Narrative medicine ( Rita Sharon)
- Move from realism to interpretation

# Bruners well-know dialouges

- Bruner, J. (2020). *Actual minds, possible worlds*. Harvard university press.



# Two modes of reasoning

- [illegible]

## Two modes of human reasoning

### Paradigmatic

- Evidence
- Objective truth

### Narrative

- Lifelikeness
- *Verisimilitude*

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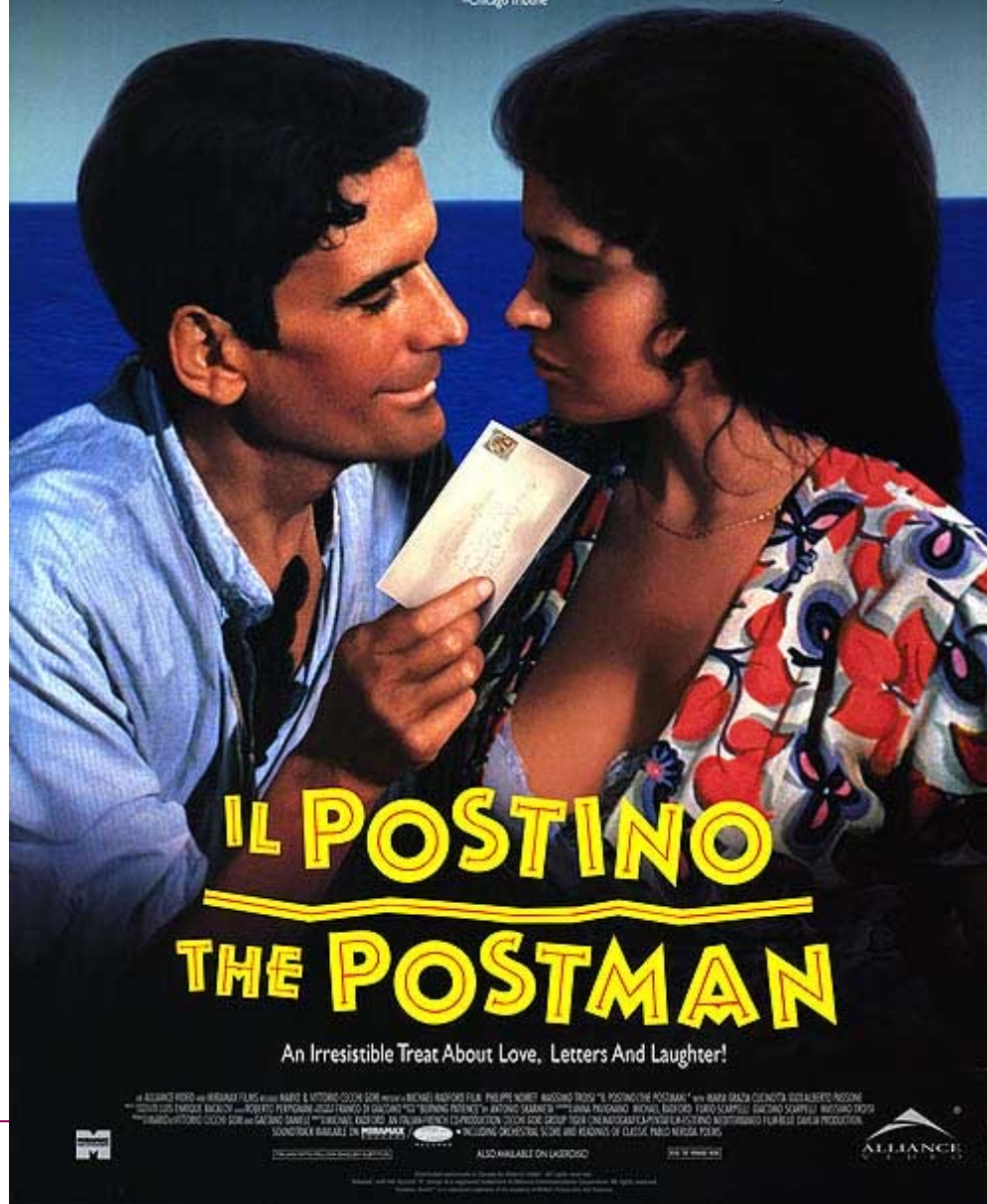
-Siskel & Ebert

"A Marvelous Romantic Comedy!"

-Chicago Tribune



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AN ALLIANCE FILMS AND MIRAGE FILMS PRESENTATION A MICHAEL RADFORD FILM PHILIPPE NOIRET MARIO TRUSSARDI "IL POSTINO" THE POSTMAN with MARIA GRAZIA CUCCHINI GIANALBERTO PASQUONE  
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# Invited to our table today

- Aristotle
- Paul Ricoeur
- Jerome Bruner
- Donald Polkinghorne
- Cheryl Mattingly
- And...

# Invited to our table



# Mimetic question

- Narrative imitation of **experience**?
  - Mimesis = imitation ?
  - Narrative a structure trough which experience and actions unfolds?
- 
- Mattinglys book



# Theater of Dionysus





# Plot

- A **plot** or **storyline** is the rendering and ordering of events into a story
- (mytos)

# Emplotment

- The construction of plots
- Gathers the scattered events, actions, goals, causes, and desire into **meaningful** configurations
- From one thing after each other to one thing because of each other

# Emplotment

- Involves actions
- Enacted plots
- Process
- Multifold
- About what stands out as significant

# How can Narrative be about process?

- Ricoeur's theory of the three fold mimesis 'emplotment' process
- prefiguration (mimesis1) and narrative competence, and the pre-existing experience and expectations of stories we bring with us when making meaning
- configuration (mimesis2) and narrative emplotment, about linking characters, events and material the point of a story as a whole, about following the rules and transgressing them too.
- And thirdly, I talked about refiguration (mimesis3), understanding and transformation, communicate emplotment in the real world of action and suffering.

# One more time....

- Emplotment are unfolding **enacted** processes of interpretation
- Preconfiguration - language culture
- Configuration - material emplotted into meaning
- Refiguration - communication

!

- In other words....
- Meanings are always situated;
  - In culture
  - In communication

# Dual landscapes

- Order - creativity
- One things because of another other - one thing as another
- Tradition - imagination
- How does emplotment succeeds to be multiple?

# Emplotment opens the kingdom of as if...

- Subjunctivity - “be several things at the same time”
- Subjunctivizing reality - “to be trafficking in human possibilities rather than in settled certainties.” Bruner 1986
  - (Subjunctive forms of verbs are typically used to express various states of unreality such as: wish, emotion, possibility, judgment, opinion, obligation, or action that has not yet occurred;)
- Distanciation - “always other than what it is about”
- The element in emplotment that makes it differ from what it is about. Ricouer, (1973)



## *fabula - sjužet*

- Russian Formalism developed these terms to identify the difference between the story told (*fabula*) and the imaginative way in which that story is actually narrated (*sjužet*).

# Synchronic- diachronic

- Linguistic terms
- Static – dynamic

# moral

- The good

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06DohXK42VM&list=PLHLYMMYCXqij0WDeXi68Lpp1O1wqQrN6C&index=3>
- Identify plots

# How does emplotments work?





# From what to how - how does it work

- Emplotment as enacted **process**;
  - Threefold mimesis/emplotment
  - Subjunctivity
  - Distanciation
- 
- Narrative as qualitative research have capacity to tap into these unfolding enacted emplotments of individuals and groups to understand how things work.





