

# 2013 Workshop on Computational Models of Narrative

CMN'13, 4–6 August, 2013, Hamburg, Germany

Edited by

Mark A. Finlayson

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## ■ Preface

The workshop series *Computational Models of Narrative* (CMN) is dedicated to advancing a nascent field: the computationally-grounded science of narrative; we believe that a true science of narrative must adhere to the principle espoused by Herbert Simon in his book *The Sciences of the Artificial*: that without computational modeling, the science of a complex human phenomenon such as narrative will never be successful. This expands the workshop's purview beyond the limited body of effort that directly incorporates computer simulation and gives us a broad mandate to include a great deal of cognitive, linguistic, neurobiological, social scientific, and literary work—indeed, any research where the researchers have successfully applied their field's unique insights to narrative in a way that is compatible with a computational frame of mind. We seek work whose results are thought out carefully enough, and specified precisely enough, that they could eventually inform computational modeling of narrative.

In keeping with interdisciplinary nature of the field, the workshop series moves between different communities in order to enhance engagement, cross-pollination, and visibility. CMN'10 was hosted as one of Fall Symposia of the *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence* (AAAI) in Arlington, VA; CMN'12 was hosted by the *Language Resources and Evaluation Conference* (LREC) in Istanbul. This year, we were associated to the *Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* held in Berlin. In future years we plan to continue our peripatetic schedule by co-locating with neuroscience conferences and humanities conferences.

This workshop, CMN'13, was a satellite meeting of the *Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* held in Berlin (31 July to 3 August 2013), immediately preceding our workshop in Hamburg. The workshop organizers also organized a symposium entitled “Computational Aspects of Narratives” at the Berlin conference with Richard Gerrig, Jeffrey Loewenstein, Inderjeet Mani, Jan Christoph Meister, and Richard Young as speakers. The links to cognitive science were emphasized in our call for papers, and a number of papers linking traditional CMN topics to questions of cognitive science are represented in these proceedings.

This year we are proud to offer two best paper awards. First, the *Award for Best Student Paper on a Cognitive Science Topic* goes to Angela Nyhout of the University of Waterloo for her paper “Constructing spatial representations from narratives and non-narrative descriptions: Evidence from 7-year-olds” which was co-authored with Daniela O'Neill. Second, the *Award for Best Student Paper* goes to Graham Sack of Columbia University for his paper “Character Networks for Narrative Generation: Structural Balance Theory and the Emergence of Proto-Narratives.”

Many thanks to our generous sponsors without whom this workshop would not have been possible: The John Templeton Foundation funds the project “What makes stories similar?” at the Universität Hamburg (grant number 20565) which in turn covered the larger part of the infrastructural costs of the workshop; the Minerva Program at the United States Office of the Secretary of Defense and the United States Office of Naval Research Global (ONR-G) provided money for travel grants; and the Cognitive Science Society funded one of our best paper awards.

The host organisations in Hamburg were the *Fachbereich Mathematik* and the *Interdisciplinary Center for Narratology*; the *Facultät der Naturwissenschaften, Wiskunde en Informatica* of the *Universiteit van Amsterdam* provided important infrastructural support.

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