

Narratological Concepts and Interpretation

1st Philosophy meets Literary Studies Workshop in Hamburg

Date & Venue

December 12th – 13th 2014

AS-Saal of the Hauptgebäude of the University of Hamburg

Description

With the rise of narratology during the last century narratological concepts such as *narrator*, *fictional world* and *plot* have become increasingly important tools for approaching literary texts. However, research over the past decades has substantiated the suspicion that many narratological concepts are ill-understood. Thus, it is one of the most pressing desiderata of literary studies to improve the definitions and scrutinize the application conditions of narratological notions, and to investigate their structure by examining, for instance, which notions are fundamental. In addition, the interdependencies between narratological concepts and interpretation remain to be clarified. It is often presumed that narratological concepts are neutral with respect to interpretation in at least two ways: (i) they can be invoked by any school of interpretation and (ii) applying them is not an interpretative move. These assumptions, however, have been challenged. It is therefore time to reassess how narratology relates to interpretation.

Analytic philosophy not only provides the methodological means to improve on narratological notions and to investigate their structure, it also offers pertinent research concerning the foundations of literature. However, philosophical research is often ignorant of the needs, insights and theoretical frameworks of literary studies. The result is rather unfortunate. Frequently, philosophers do not capture the concepts literary scholars are after. And even if they do, their results cannot be put to use when interpreting literary texts.

The aim of this workshop is to support ongoing endeavors of shedding light on narratological concepts and interpretation by bringing literary scholars and philosophers who work on these issues together.

Organizers

Christian Folde (Philosophy, Hamburg) and Janina Jacke (Literary Studies, Hamburg)