

Call for Papers

DIEGESIS 16.1, summer 2027

Date of publication: June 2027

Topic: "Narrating Reconciliation"

Special issue with guest editors:

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Deadline for the submission of abstracts: June 15, 2026

Deadline for the submission of articles: December 31, 2026

About the TOPIC:

Conflicts can be traced back to the beginnings of human societies. Today, intra-state conflicts – that is, civil wars in the broadest sense – make up the largest share of violent conflict around the globe (Statista 2025). In periods of reprieve or at their conclusion, intra-state conflicts in particular create a need for reconciliation. Reconciliation should, however, not be understood as a comprehensive resolution of the causes of conflict or a cure for the suffering endured, but as a repositioning, a *modus vivendi* that enables those involved to continue living and coexisting in the post-conflict era by interpreting the conflict retrospectively and creating a prospect for peaceful coexistence moving forward.

In the context of these types of reconciliation processes, narratives play a decisive role – they emerge through the telling, negotiation, and acknowledgement of stories about violence, guilt, and the roles of victims and perpetrators (Haker 2019, Törmä 2024). Here, a distinction can be made between collective narratives and meta-narratives, which provide a basic pattern of explanation for a group, and narratives that are created by individual actors or specific groups (Auerbach 2009). These kinds of reconciliation narratives can be descriptive or functional. One of their hallmarks is their bidirectional nature: they offer a retrospective interpretation of a conflict and a prospective stance for moving forward. In addition to the contexts of how they are produced and received, the “what?” and “how?” of reconciliation narratives can be examined narratologically, when factors such as character constellations, forms of narrative transmission, and the representation of space and time are considered.

These types of narratives are, in part, shaped, reflected upon, further developed, and codified in literature. Additionally, they play a central role in non-literary narratives of reconciliation in historiographical, political, and theological discourses.

Building on this research, this special issue explores the specific narrative frameworks of reconciliation:

- How do narratives of reconciliation emerge and evolve during specific historical periods and over longer periods of time?
- Are there narratives of reconciliation that are specific to certain cultural contexts or that are negotiated in intercultural communication?
- How do media and genre-specific frameworks shape narratives of reconciliation?
- How are reconciliation processes mediated in literary or factual narratives?
- How is reconciliation expressed (e.g., in autobiographical narrative or autofiction)?

- What types of reconciliation narratives appear in specific corpora to facilitate, for example, toleration of ambiguity, functional stabilization, the creation of normative meaning, or healing?

We invite abstracts of approximately 350-400 words by June 15, 2026 at the latest. Please send your abstract, along with a brief CV, to the editorial team of *DIEGESIS*: diegesis@uni-wuppertal.de. The guest editors will decide on the acceptability of proposals by July 15, 2026. Contributions have to be submitted by December 31, 2026. The issue will be published in June 2027.

In addition, we always welcome *REVIEWS* of new works (i.e., works published in the last three to four years) in the field of narratology; we specifically welcome cross-disciplinary contributions in addition to contributions from those working in the fields of language and literature. Recommendations for reviews can be sent to the aforementioned e-mail address at any time; in your e-mail, you should name the book(s) you would like to review and provide a brief overview of your academic career.

Furthermore, we would also like to invite suggestions for *CONFERENCE REPORTS* on any events in the field of narrative research. If you want to send us proposals for such reports please include brief information on the topic, venue, date, and organizers of the event as well as a short outline of your academic career.

About *DIEGESIS*:

DIEGESIS is the first interdisciplinary journal dedicated to narrative research that provides free online access to full-text articles and reviews (www.diegesis.uni-wuppertal.de). The high standard of work published in *DIEGESIS* is ensured by a combination of competitive calls for papers and a peer review process.

DIEGESIS is published at the University of Wuppertal and in cooperation with the local Centre for Narrative Research (CNR) (www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de) by Matei

Chihaia (Romance Studies), Carolin Gebauer (English Literature), Sandra Heinen (English Literature and Media Studies), Matías Martínez (German Literature), Katharina Rennhak (English Literature), Michael Scheffel (Comparative Literature), and Roy Sommer (English Literature).

Works Cited

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