



Nordic Network of Narrative Studies



Dr. Paul Cobley's lecture at Tartu University

Dr. Paul Cobley, our cooperation partner from London Metropolitan University delivered an open lecture entitled ***Narrative: time, modeling systems and abduction*** on February 11th, 2009 at Tartu University.

The following is the abstract of his talk:

"The key developments in recent narrative theory have been cognitive science approaches and the study of "naturally occurring narrative". Both, in their different ways, have attempted to raise questions to do with emotion and embodiment in the experience of narrative. Yet both have proliferated a number of different concepts. This paper suggests that contemporary semiotics, especially Modelling Systems Theory (Sebeok and Danesi 2000, Danesi 2003, 2007), already harbours economical means to understand issues of embodiment, emotion and "unconscious" factors in the experience of narrative, particularly in relation to the phenomenon of time. Rather than being fixated on the referential aspects of narrative, Modelling Systems Theory offers the framework for considering a number of levels of response. Primary Modeling Systems are identified as being based on the singular sign, especially icons. In turn, the iconic sign, with reference to Peirce, should be understood in relation to the qualisign. As such, signs are firmly rooted in qualia rather than simply in referential qualities. Secondary Modeling Systems, on the other hand, are "extensional" and based on the indexical sign. They are spatiotemporal in orientation. This paper explores the benefits of presenting narrative in terms of Modeling Systems Theory, concentrating on the way in which narrative's figuring of time (and space) is connected to its embodiment of qualia in media."

[Welcome](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Objectives](#)

[Steering committee](#)

[Cooperation](#)

[Network events](#)

[Other events](#)

[Publications](#)

[News](#)

[Contact](#)