

## Report on Activities

# International Conference Narrating the Nation: Television Narratives and National Identities

4 - 5 October 2007  
Universitat Rovira i Virgili,  
Reus

## **Report on Activities**

### **International Symposium**

#### **Narrating the Nation. Television Narratives and National Identities**

4 - 5 October 2007.

Universitat Rovira i Virgili

#### **Organisation**

Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Communications Studies Department)

Glasgow Caledonian University (Cultural Business Group)

Universiteit Antwerpen (Dept. Communicatiewetensch.)

#### **Official website**

<http://www.urv.cat/comunicacio/narratingthenation.htm>



Official welcome: (from left to right) Bernat López, Director of the Communications Studies Department, Universitat Rovira i Virgili; Francesc Xavier Grau, Rector of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili; and Enric Castelló, member of the organizing committee and a Universitat Rovira i Virgili academic.

## **Introduction**

Many communication researchers study the effects of media discourse on national identity, but they often work in relative isolation and focus on their own national contexts. The initial idea for the present conference emerged from various international conferences in which contacts were made among researchers regarding this subject and interest on the part of the scientific committee was gauged.

The objective of the conference was to bring together the most innovative recent international research on the construction of national identity and television discourse on the nation. The idea was to provide a forum for communicologists who study information programmes and entertainment programmes, whether fictional or otherwise. The two central themes of the conference were television and national identity.

### **Coordinating and Scientific Committee**

#### *Conference coordination*

Enric Castelló, Communications Studies Department, URV.

The committee coordinated the generation and design of information for the conference website and directed its launch, received all presentation proposals, set up an e-mail account ([narratingthenation@urv.cat](mailto:narratingthenation@urv.cat)), replied to requests for information about the conference, and linked the conference to websites such as that of the International Association for Mass Communication Research and also to key international distribution lists (IAMCR, ECREA, etc). It was also responsible for liaison with the Fundació URV and handling requests for funding from the URV (2007-OCO), the Catalan Government (ARCS), and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science (SEJ2007-29483-E/SOCI). Bernat López, head of the Communications Studies Department, was also involved in coordination, taking responsibility for financial and institutional matters, among other tasks.

### ***Committee***

- Enric Castelló, Communications Studies Department, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- Josetxo Cerdán, Communications Studies Department, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- Lexander Dhoest, Universiteit Antwerpen (Flanders, Belgium)
- Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University (Scotland, United Kingdom).

The conference had one combined Coordinating and Scientific Committee, composed of four expert researchers in television. Their primary task was selection of proposals, but they also wrote up the call for papers, participated in selection, corresponded with keynote speakers, publicised the conference on various lists, and participated in the conference as panel chairs. Proposals were revised using a procedure in which the committee members independently rated each proposal as to quality and appropriateness to the conference theme.

### **Participants**

The call for papers was open from 1 March to 15 June 2007, and was handled only electronically (mailing lists for research in communications, especially IAMCR, ECREA and MECCSA lists). Although English was the lingua franca of the conference, information on the event was distributed in English, Catalan, and Spanish (Appendix 3). The deadline was extended by one week to maximise participation. A total of 98 proposals were received, surpassing expectations of a maximum of about 60 participants, from among which the scientific committee made a selection. During the participant registration process a number of speakers, particularly those from distant countries, such as Australia, the Fiji Islands or Mexico, cancelled, which led the committee to retrieve some of the rejected proposals.

Finally, counting plenary and parallel sessions, 50 papers were presented, by researchers from Spain (13), the UK (10), Canada (5), the USA (3), Germany (3), Italy (2), Belgium (2), Israel (2), China (1), the Czech Republic (1), Estonia (1), Turkey (1), Sweden (1), Brazil (1) and South Africa (1). Appendix 1 provides information on conference participants.

### *Keynote speakers*

The conference had three internationally recognised keynote speakers: Milly Buonanno (Sociology of Communication Department, Università di Roma, La Sapienza, Italy), Lothar Mikos (Konrad Wolf Film & Television Academy, Potsdam, Germany) and Paul Julian Smith (University of Cambridge, England). Each gave a plenary presentation:

- 4 October 2007, 9:00 AM. Religion and History: Catholic Imagination and Collective Memory in Contemporary Italian Television Drama. Milly Buonanno, Università di Roma.
- 4 October 2007, 2:00 PM. Serial Identity. TV Serials as a Resource of Reflexive Identities. Lothar Mikos, Konrad Wolf Film & Television Academy.
- 5 October 2007, 9:00 AM. The Euthanasia Debate in Spanish Film and Television: Amenábar's *Mar Adentro* (The Sea Inside) and Tele 5's *Periodistas* (Journalists). Paul Julian Smith, University of Cambridge.

### **Conference methodology**

The conference was organized into parallel sessions focused on specific subjects. The sessions were grouped with an eye to the television genre and the subject matters of the papers presented. In total there were 20 parallel sessions, 1-2 hours long, in which participants presented two or four papers of 30 minutes' duration, including a 10-minute question and answer period.

### *List of parallel sessions*

1. Television Drama and Identity (I)
2. History, Television and National Identity (I)
3. Transnational Events and National Pride
4. Stateless Experiences
5. Crisis and National Identity
6. Imagining National Entertainment
7. Laughing at the Nation
8. Alterity and Immigration
9. Communication Industry, Commercials and National Identity
10. Narrative Structures and Patterns
11. Television Narratives on War and Nation

12. Genre, Multiculturalism and Nation
13. Television Drama and Identity (II)
14. History, Television and National Identity (II)
15. Old Fictions and Fictions about the Past
16. Voices, Stories and Multicultural Fictions
17. Television as an Identity Platform
18. National Dreams
19. Nationhood Horror TV
20. Television Drama and Identity (III)

In addition, the University of Lincoln (UK) gave a parallel session, *Televising History*, which analyzed various televised historical programmes and their links to discourse on nation in the United Kingdom.

Academics from the Communications Studies Department of the Uuniversitat Rovira i Virgili played an important role as panel chairs: Bernat López, Jordi Farré, Arantxa Capdevila, Paul Capriotti, Assumpció Huertas and Marta Montagut, along with Josetxo Cerdán and Enric Castelló (members of the Coordinating and Scientific Committee).

## **Organization and funding**

The conference was organized under the auspices of three main sponsors: Tarragona Provincial Council (OCO funds that were granted through the Universitat Rovira i Virgili), Obra Social de la Caixa de Tarragona (funding, office material and folders) and the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science (Complementary Action Grant SEJ2007-29483-E/SOCI).

Registration and catering were handled by the Fundació URV. The conference, including coffee breaks and meals, took place at the Fundació URV in Reus (Mas Miarnau). Under the supervision of Enric Castelló, the conference website—a crucial informative tool on which the success of the event largely depended—was created by Alba Comenge, a research assistant with the Communications Studies Department.

The registration fee was €200.

## **Conclusions**

The conference closed with a plenary session aimed at arriving at conclusions, in which the Coordinating and Scientific Committee gave a highly positive evaluation of the quality of the presentations, most of which fell within the category of what is known as television close reading, that is, an analysis of television narrative and discourse through a study of form and content. There were also papers on research using other methodologies of a qualitative character, such as in-depth interviews and, to a lesser extent, studies on reception for both interviews and focus groups.

One of the overall conclusions of the conference was the obvious importance of political and social context in understanding the relationship between television discourse and national identity. Two main types of experience were described: those of small states or stateless nations, and those of large consolidated states with powerful audiovisual industries. The first group—which included Catalonia, Wales, Scotland, Flanders, and Estonia—emphasised the importance of television as a platform for disseminating the discourse of cultural and national identity. In cases like Flanders, Scotland or Catalonia, however, studies on reception showed that just because a nation had its own television narratives did not necessarily mean that the audience interpreted them nationalistically or that a fundamental process in the construction of national identity was accomplished. In the history area there were interesting papers (for example, from Israel and Great Britain) on representations of the past using military conflicts as generators of discourse

on the nation. Papers representing the larger states, such as Germany, adopted a rather strong critical position on the concept of national identity (a position doubtless related with their own histories). These viewpoints were more from the perspective of postmodern theory on constructing identity through the communications media.

In general, the importance of using all genres in the articulation of discourse on nation was made clear. Fiction, news, documentaries, entertainment and the retransmission of major cultural events (Eurovision) or sports events (the FIFA World Cup) are genres and television formats that, separately, show representations of nation that are often stereotypical or selective, showing certain symbols, while hiding or banalising other symbols.

Other conclusions of the conference were the need to foster study of television programme reception and its impact on the audience and to promote new comparative research at the international level. These are two areas of research that Alexander Dhoest described as possible weak points in the international panorama. Hugh O'Donnell, meanwhile, emphasised that although national identity is a concept that does not exist as such, we can observe that discourse on national identity is alive and well on television, in the media and in public life. Such discourse uses symbolic elements related with history, politics, culture and linguistic usage. For Josetxo Cerdán it was important that the conference not become a kind of celebration of national identity but rather a space for critically evaluating the concept of nation as applied to television. Finally, Enric Castelló considered that although the concept of nation may be considered in crisis in our globalised world, that is not so if we pay attention to the relevance that television and the rest of the media places on nation, for example the Spanish case and the Catalan.

Milly Buonanno suggested the possibility of a second conference in Italy (Rome or Florence) two years on. That would be the first step in serialising this academic event, which came into being at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili but which could possibly have a long trajectory in the future.



## Appendix I. Participants

Noor	<b>Al Qasimi</b>	University of Warwick	UK
Dan	<b>Arav</b>	College of Management in Tel-Aviv	Israel
Giovanni	<b>Bechelloni</b>	Università degli Studi di Firenze	Italy
Erin	<b>Bell</b>	University of Lincoln	UK
Avner	<b>Ben-Amos</b>	Tel Aviv University	Israel
Mar	<b>Binimelis</b>	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
Deborah	<b>Broos</b>	Universiteit Antwerpen	Belgium
Milly	<b>Buonanno</b>	Università di Roma La Sapienza	Italy
José	<b>Cardoso</b>	Federal Fluminense University	Brazil
Miguel Ángel	<b>Casado</b>	Universidad del País Vasco	Spain
Enric	<b>Castelló</b>	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
Josetxo	<b>Cerdán</b>	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
John	<b>Cook</b>	Glasgow Caledonian University	UK
Barbara	<b>Crow</b>	York University	Canada
Elena	<b>Cueto</b>	Bowdoin Collage	USA
Alexander	<b>Dhoest</b>	Universiteit Antwerpen	Belgium
Catriona	<b>Elder</b>	University of Sydney	Australia
Nüket	<b>Elpeze</b>	University of Gaziantep	Turkey
Miguel	<b>Fernández</b>	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain
Derek	<b>Foster</b>	Brock University	Canada
Alisa	<b>Freedman</b>	University of Oregon	USA
David	<b>George</b>	Brock University	Canada
Elisa	<b>Giomi</b>	Università di Siena	Italy
Lorena	<b>Gómez</b>	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	Spain
Anne	<b>Gray</b>	University of Lincoln	UK
Bernhard	<b>Gross</b>	Cardiff University	UK
David	<b>Gurevitz</b>	College of Management in Tel-Aviv	Israel
Katherine	<b>Harbord</b>	Durham University	UK
Assumpció	<b>Huertas</b>	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	Spain
Tíscar	<b>Lara</b>	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Spain
André	<b>Loiselle</b>	Carleton University	Canada
Ludovico	<b>Longhi</b>	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain
Francisca	<b>López</b>	Bates Collage	USA
Mikos	<b>Lothar</b>	The Film & Television Academy Konrad	Germany
Sarah	<b>Matheson</b>	Brock University	Canada
Jamie	<b>Medhurst</b>	University of Wales Aberysthwyth	UK
Miguel	<b>Miguel</b>	Universidad de Valladolid	Spain
Sabina	<b>Mihelj</b>	Loughborough University	UK
Viola C.	<b>Milton</b>	University of Pretoria	Sth Africa
Sarah	<b>Moody</b>	University of Lincoln	UK
Hugh	<b>O'Donnell</b>	Glasgow Caledonian University	UK
Smith	<b>Paul J.</b>	University of Cambridge	UK
Marta	<b>Pérez</b>	Universidade de Santiago de Compostela	Spain
Oliver	<b>Pérez</b>	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	Spain
Anna	<b>Roosval</b>	Stockholm University	Sweden
Dietmar	<b>Rost</b>	University of Postdam	Germany
Katrin	<b>Rothemund</b>	University of Lüneburg	Germany
Barbara	<b>Sadler</b>	University of Lincoln	UK
Kim	<b>Sawchuk</b>	Concordia University	Canada
Gavin B.	<b>Sullivan</b>	Monash University	Australia
Tomas	<b>Trampota</b>	Charles University Prague	Czech Rep
Aune	<b>Unt</b>	University of Tartu	Estonia

Zhen  
Rosie  
Denis  
Eva L.

**Wang**  
**White**  
**Wood**  
**Wyss**

Baptist Hong-Kong University  
Northumbria University  
Edith Cowan University  
University Koblenz-Landau

China  
UK  
Australia  
Germany

## Appendix II. Programme

### Narrating the Nation Conference Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Reus Programme 4-5 October 2007

#### 4 October 2007

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:40 Welcome Address

Francesc Xavier Grau, Principal of Universitat Rovira i Virgili University  
Bernat López, Head of the Communication Studies Dept, Universitat Rovira i Virgili Enric Castelló, Lecturer at Communication Studies Dept, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

09:40 – 10:20 Plenary Session (Room A)

Religion and History: Catholic Imagination and Collective Memory in Contemporary Italian Television Drama. [Milly Buonanno](#), University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:40 – 11:40 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** Television Drama and Identity (I) Chair: Enric Castelló, Rovira i Virgili University  
[Do We Really Use Soaps to Construct our Identities? Everyday Nationalism in TV Fiction](#)  
Alexander Dhoest, University of Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium

[Down Among the Big Boys: Television Drama in Scotland and Its Relationship to the National \(UK\) and International Marketplace](#)

John Cook, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK

**Room B:** History, Television and National Identity (I)

Chair: Bernat López, Rovira i Virgili University

[Settling the Colonizer: Narratives of National Belonging and Re-enactment Television](#)

Catriona Elder, University of Sidney, Australia

[Life History and National Memory. The Israeli Television Program 'Such a life' \(1972-2001](#)

Avner Ben-Amos and Jérôme Bourdon, Tel Aviv University, Israel

**Room C:** Transnational Events and National Pride

Chair: Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

[Spanish Idol for Eurovision: Nationalist Sentiments and Mass Media](#)

Francisca López, Bates College, USA

[Constructed, Rediscovered or Spontaneous? An Exploration of National Pride in Germany](#)

[During the World Cup 2006](#)

Gavin B. Sullivan, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

11:40 – 12:00 Convenience break

12:00 – 13:00 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** Stateless Experiences Chair: Arantxa Capdevila, Rovira i Virgili University [Stateless Fictions. Soap Operas in Catalonia and Scotland](#) Enric Castelló, Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia, Spain Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK

[Narrating the Stateless Nation: a Case Study of Welsh Television](#) Jamie Medhurst, University of Wales Aberystwyth, Wales, UK

**Room B:** Crisis and National Identity

Chair: Jordi Farré, Rovira i Virgili University

[Narratives of Disintegration: Analysing Television News Narratives in Times of Crisis](#)

Sabina Mihelj, Loughborough University, UK; Milos Pankov, University of Novi Sad, Serbia;

Veronika Bajt, Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies in Ljubljana, Slovenia

[Crises' Information and the Process of National Construction: Building Identities from the](#)

Disasters

Miguel Vicente, University of Valladolid, Spain

**Room C:** Imagining National Entertainment

Chair: Alexander Dhoest, University of Antwerp

Canada's National Public Broadcaster and the Controversy over Reality TV

Derek Foster, Brock University, Canada

Imagining Australia; Imagineering 'Australian-ness': The 'Bush Myth', 'Battlers' and Big Brother

Dennis Wood, Edith Cowan University, Australia

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Time

14:00 – 14:40 Plenary Session (Room A)

*Serial Identity. TV Serials as a Resource of Reflexive Identities*

Lothar Mikos, The Konrad Wolf Film & Television Academy, Postdam, Germany

15:00 – 16:00 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** Laughing at the Nation

Chair: Enric Castelló, Rovira i Virgili University

Laughing About the Nation? Galician Sitcom and Identity

Marta Pérez, University of Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain

Television, Citizenship and the Situation Comedy in Canada: Cultural Diversity and Little

Mosque on the Prairie

Sarah Matheson, Brock University, Canada

**Room B:** Alterity and Immigration

Chair: John Cook, Glasgow Caledonian University

When 'Us' Meets 'Them' Through National Television Frames: A Content Analysis of the

Representation of Muslim Women in the Flemish Documentary Series Moslimas and Its

Reception by Flemish and Immigrant Women

Hilde Van den Bulck and Deborah Broos, University of Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium

Locating Britain: Group Belonging and the Shifting Positions of 'Us' and 'Them' in the

Coverage of Migration and Immigration on the British Television News

Bernhard Gross, Cardiff University, Wales, UK

**Room C:** Communication Industry, Commercials and National Identity

Chair: Paul Capriotti, Rovira i Virgili University

Nation and Economy. The Predicament of the Nation in European Commercials

Eva L. Wyss, University Koblenz-Landau, Germany

Leave it to the Beavers: Animals, Icons and the Canadian Communication Industry

Kim Sawchuk, Concordia University, Quebec, Canada

Barbara Crow, York University, Toronto, Canada

16:00 – 16:20 Coffee break

16:20 – 17:20 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** Narrative Structures and Patterns

Chair: Enric Castelló, Rovira i Virgili University

Idol Drama and Pan-East Asian Identity. A Comparative Study on Narrative Structures of Idol

Dramas in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Mainland China

Zhen Wang, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, P. R. of China

The Narrative Patterns Framing Public Life

Tomáš Trampota, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

**Room B:** Television Narratives on War and Nation Chair: Jordi Farré, Rovira i Virgili

University Tkuma. Representing Israel's History and Challenging Israel's Identity Katherine

Harbord, Durham University, England, UK Kitsch and Death: The IDF Entertainment Bands as

Televised Discourse David Gurevitz and Dan Arav, The School of Media Studies, College of

Management in Tel-Aviv, Israel

**Room C:** Genre, Multiculturalism and Nation

Chair: Assumpció Huertas, Rovira i Virgili University

*Shampoo: Editing, Advertising and Codes of Modesty in Saudi Arabian Television*  
Noor Al Qasimi, University of Warwick, UK

18:30 – 21:00 Leisure Activity  
Visit to the Roman and Medieval Heritage in Tarragona  
(Bus leaving from NH Ciutat de Reus Hotel at 18:30)

21:00 – 23:00 Conference Dinner in Tarragona (Bus coming back to Reus at 23:30)

## **5 October 2007**

9:00 – 9:40 Plenary Session (Room A)  
*The Euthanasia Debate in Spanish Film and Television: Amenábar's Mar Adentro (The Sea inside) and Tele5's Periodistas (Journalists)*  
Paul Julian Smith, University of Cambridge, UK

9:40 – 10:00 Coffee Break

10:00 – 11:00 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** Television Drama and Identity (II)

Chair: Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

*RAI, National Identity and Italian Style Comedy of Manners.*

Ludovico Longhi, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

*Television Serial As Mechanism Involved in the Reaffirmation and the Questioning of Legitimate Social Values and Norms in Catalonia*

Lorena Gómez, Pompeu Fabra University, Catalonia, Spain

**Room B:** History, Television and National Identity (II)

Chair: Bernat López, Rovira i Virgili University

*Representations of Recent History in Estonian Television*

Aune Unt, University of Tartu, Estonia

*Regional and National Narratives. National Identity, Regional Identity and History in a TV Documentary on Brandenburg*

Dietmar Rost, University of Postdam, Germany

**Room C:** Old Fictions and Fictions about the Past

Chair: Alexander Dhoest, University of Antwerp

*Re-Branding The Union Jack. Englishness and The New Avengers*

Rosie White, Northumbria University, UK.

*Late-Francoism Encoded As Drama: Contemporary Theater on Television as a References for the Series Cuéntame cómo pasó*

Elena Cueto, Bowdoin College, Maine, USA

11:00 – 11:20 Convenience Break

11:20 – 13:20 Presentations (three parallel sessions with a convenience break)

**Room A:** Televising History

Panel Presented by the University of Lincoln

Chair: Erin Bell, University of Lincoln, UK

*Sharing Their Past with the Nation: Oral Narratives on TV*, Erin Bell

*The Way We Were: Challenging national identity in ITV1 regional programming*, Barbara Sadler

**Room B:** Voices, Stories and Multicultural Fictions

Chair: Marta Montagut, Rovira i Virgili University

*(re)Construction of Eastern Identity on Television by an Oriental Approach*

Nüket Elpeze, University of Gaziantep, Turkey

*Communicating the Nation in an Age of Globalization. Representation of Self and Others in a Swedish Foreign News Magazine Programme*

Anna Roosvall, Stockholm University, Sweden

*Memories Reinvented. Nation, Immigration and History in La Mari (TV3)*

Miguel Fernández Labayen and Ángel Custodio, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

[Television, Radio and Orality in Brazil](#)

Mariaalva Carlos and José Cardoso, Federal Fluminense University, Brazil

**Room C:** Television as an Identity Platform

Chair: Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

[From Transculturation to Transnationalism: Reading Modernity in the Origin of the Spanish TVE](#)

Mar Binimelis, Rovira i Virgili University and University of Vic, Catalonia, Spain

Josep Cerdán, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Catalonia Spain

[Convergences and Disjunctures in the Narration of Contemporary Identities and Alterities: Political Discourse in TV News in Television Española](#)

Jessica Retis, María Lamuedra and Tíscar Lara, University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain

[International Channels as Identity Bridges. The Case of Spanish Regional Broadcasters](#)

Carmen Peñafiel, Miguel Ángel Casado, Ainhoa Fernández and Leire Gómez, University of Basque Country, Basque Country, Spain

[Does Television Construct European Identity?](#)

Assumpció Huertas, Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia, Spain

13:20 – 14:20 Lunch Time

14:20 – 15:20 Presentations (three parallel sessions)

**Room A:** National Dreams

Chair: Josep Cerdán, Rovira i Virgili University

[The Myth of Superheroes. America's Dream of Saving the World](#)

Kathrin Rothmund, Institut für Angewandte Medienforschung, University of Lüneburg, Germany

[Proudly South African: \(Re-\) Imagining Afrikaans Identity on South African Television](#)

Viola Candice Milton, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

**Room B:** Nationhood Horror TV

Chair: Alexander Dhoest, University of Antwerp

[Everyday's a Family Day. Exploring Italian Cultural Identity Through the Reception of Home-Grown TV Crime Series](#) Elisa Giomi, University of Siena, Italy

[Quebec's "Télévision fantastique": Horror and National Identity in the TV series Grande Ours](#)

André Loiselle, Carleton University, Canada

**Room C:** Television Drama and Identity (III)

Chair: Enric Castelló, Rovira i Virgili University

[Doctors, Executives, and Loser Dogs: New Images of Career Women in Japanese Serialized Television Dramas](#)

Alisa Freedman, University of Oregon, USA

[Prototypical Narratives About Immigrants in Spanish TV Series](#)

Xavier Ruiz Collantes, Joan Ferrés, Matilde Obradors, Eva Pujadas and Óliver Pérez, Pompeu Fabra University, Catalonia, Spain

15:30 Conclusions

## Appendix 3. Call for papers



UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI

### ENGLISH

#### **Narrating the Nation**

#### **Television Narratives and National Identities An International Meeting Reus (Catalonia) 4-5 October 2007**

Narration is a powerful tool for the definition of reality and television remains even today the medium that has the most pervasive presence in everyday life. Many authors have noted the importance of television in the construction of collective identities and more specifically in the definition of national communities. However, less work has focused on television narratives in fictional and reality programs (drama, comedy, documentary, reality shows, entertainment, current affairs and news, even adverts) and their implications for the changing processes of national identity formation.

*Narrating the Nation: Television Narratives and National Identities* aims to bring together scholars researching the processes of national identity building in relation to television narratives and the ways in which national identity is reflected in and itself influences television programs in content and form. Thus, this event will be an opportunity to strengthen international relations in a field in which scholars often work solely or primarily within their own national social, political and media contexts.

This conference is conceived as an open meeting for the exchange of experiences in the fields of television fictional and reality based programs, social identities, cultural identities and national identities. The meeting invites work on television narratives, from production to textual and reception analysis, focused on the study of the following issues:

- National and cultural representations
- Politics and ideology
- Language and linguistics
- Discursive conflicts around nationhood
- Immigration and cultural diversity
- Genre, national identity and television
- The relationship between cultural policies and television fiction production
- Representations of history in television
- Television genres, formats and strategies related to national spaces of communication

The conference aims to attract the participation of international scholars specialising in these issues and will include the following confirmed keynote speakers.

- Milly Buonanno, Università di Roma La Sapienza
- Lothar Mikos, Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen Konrad Wolf, Postdam, Germany
- Paul Julian Smith, University of Cambridge, UK

The organisers are pursuing a number of avenues in relation to a book publication based on the conference. Contributions should be written and presented in English.

This international conference is jointly organised by Rovira i Virgili University (Tarragona), Glasgow Caledonian University, and Universiteit Antwerpen and will be held in Reus (Catalonia), hosted by the Communication Studies Department of Rovira i Virgili University, on 4 and 5 October 2007. We invite contributors to send an abstract of 300 words (approx.), with a brief biography including contact information, to

[narratingthenation@urv.cat](mailto:narratingthenation@urv.cat) before **June 15th 2007**.

#### Organising Committee

Enric Castelló, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Josetxo Cerdán, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Alexander Dhoest, Universiteit Antwerpen

Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

Hosted and organised by:



Jointly organised with:



Supported by:



DIPUTACIÓ DE  
TARRAGONA







### **Narrant la nació**

#### **Narracions televisives i identitats nacionals Unencontre internacional, Reus (Catalunya) 4-5 d'octubre de 2007**

La narració és una eina poderosa per a definir la realitat i la televisió és el mitjà que, encara avui, té una presència més notable en el dia a dia de la gent. Nombrosos autors han posat de manifest la importància de la televisió en la construcció d'identitats col·lectives i concretament en la definició de les comunitats nacionals. Tanmateix, hi ha menys treballs centrats en les narracions televisives d'espais basats en la ficció o en la realitat (drama, comèdia, documental, actualitat, reality shows, entreteniment, notícies i fins i tot publicitat) i les seves implicacions en els processos de canvi de les identitats nacionals.

Narrant la nació. Narracions televisives i identitats nacionals vol reunir acadèmics i investigadors sobre els processos de construcció de la identitat nacional en relació a les narracions televisives i també com la nacionalitat es reflectida i influeix en els programes de televisió tant en el contingut com en la forma. Així, aquesta vol ser una oportunitat per a estrènyer relacions internacionals en un camp on sovint els acadèmics treballem massa centrats en el nostre entorn social i mediàtic més immediat.

Aquesta trobada està pensada com un encontre obert a intercanviar experiències en el camp dels programes de televisió tant de ficció com informatius, les identitats socials, les identitats culturals i les identitats nacionals. L'encontre fa una crida a treballs, des de l'anàlisi de la producció i del text fins als estudis de recepció, que se centren en els següents temes:

- Les representacions nacionals i culturals
- Política i discursos ideològics
- Llengua i usos lingüístics
- Conflictes discursius sobre la nacionalitat
- Immigració i diversitat cultural
- Gènere, identitat nacional i televisió
- Les relacions entre política cultural i producció de ficció als ens televisius
- Representacions de la història a la televisió
- Gèneres televisius, formats i estratègies en relació als espais nacionals de comunicació

La conferència espera comptar amb especialistes a nivell internacional sobre els temes indicats i amb la presència dels següents conferencians confirmats:

- Milly Buonanno, Università di Roma La Sapienza
- Lothar Mikos, Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen Konrad Wolf, Postdam, Germany
- Paul Julian Smith, University of Cambridge, UK

Els organitzadors barallen diverses opcions per tal de publicar un llibre sobre la conferència. Les contribucions seran escrites i presentades en anglès.

Aquesta conferència internacional està coorganitzada per la Universitat Rovira i Virgili, la Glasgow Caledonian University i la Universiteit Antwerpen i tindrà lloc a Reus (Catalunya), hostatjada pels Estudis de Comunicació de la Universitat Rovira i Virgili, entre els dies 4 i 5 d'octubre de 2007. Instem als possibles participants a enviar un resum de 300 paraules (aprox.) de l'aportació, amb una biografia breu i incloent dades de contacte a: [narratingthenation@urv.cat](mailto:narratingthenation@urv.cat) abans del dia **15 de juny de 2007**.

#### Comitè Organitzador

Enric Castelló, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Josetxo Cerdán, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Alexander Dhoest, Universiteit Antwerpen

Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

Organitzat per:



Coorganització:



Amb el suport de:



DIPUTACIÓ DE  
TARRAGONA





**Narrando la nación**

**Narraciones televisivas e identidades nacionales**

**Un encuentro internacional, Reus (Cataluña)**

**4 octubre / 5 octubre de 2007**

La narración es una herramienta poderosa en la definición de la realidad y la televisión es el medio que, aún hoy, tiene una presencia más notable en el día a día de la gente. Numerosos autores han puesto de manifiesto la importancia de la televisión en la construcción de identidades colectivas y concretamente en la definición de las comunidades nacionales. Aún así, hay menos trabajos centrados en las narraciones televisivas de espacios basados en la ficción y en la realidad (drama, comedia, documental, reality shows, entretenimiento, actualidad, noticias y hasta publicidad) y sus implicaciones en los procesos de cambio de las identidades nacionales.

Narrando la nación. Narraciones televisivas e identidades nacionales quiere reunir académicos e investigadores sobre los procesos de construcción de la identidad nacional en relación a las narraciones televisivas y también en cómo la nacionalidad se refleja e influencia los programas de televisión tanto en forma como en contenido. Así, esta quiere ser una oportunidad para fortalecer relaciones internacionales en un campo donde a menudo los académicos trabajamos demasiado centrados en nuestro entorno social y mediático más inmediato.

Este encuentro está pensado como una reunión especializada para intercambiar experiencias en el campo de los programas de televisión tanto de ficción como informativos, las identidades sociales, las identidades culturales y las identidades nacionales. El encuentro está abierto a trabajos, desde el análisis de la producción y del texto hasta los estudios de recepción, que se centren en los siguientes temas:

- Las representaciones nacionales y culturales
  - Política y discursos ideológicos
  - Conflictos discursivos sobre la nacionalidad
  - Inmigración y diversidad cultural
  - Género, identidad nacional y televisión
  - Las relaciones entre política cultural y producción de ficción en los entes televisivos
  - Representaciones de la historia en la televisión
  - Géneros televisivos, formatos y estrategias en relación a los espacios nacionales de comunicación
- La conferencia espera contar con especialistas a nivel internacional sobre los temas y con la presencia de los siguientes conferenciantes confirmados:
- Milly Buonanno, Università di Roma La Sapienza.
  - Lothar Mikos, Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen Konrad Wolf, Postdam Germany.
  - Paul Julian Smith, University of Cambridge, UK.

Los organizadores barajan diversas opciones para publicar un libro sobre la conferencia.

Las contribuciones serán escritas y presentadas en inglés.

Esta conferencia internacional coorganizada está por la Universidad Rovira i Virgili, la Glasgow Caledonian University y la Universiteit Antwerpen y tendrá lugar en Reus (Cataluña), hospedada por los Estudios de Comunicación de la Universidad Rovira i Virgili, entre los días 4 i 5 de octubre de 2007.

Instamos a posibles participantes a enviar un resumen de 300 palabras (aprox.) de su aportación, con una biografía breve e incluyendo datos de contacto a [narratingthenation@urv.cat](mailto:narratingthenation@urv.cat) antes del día **15 de junio de 2007**.

Comité organizador

Enric Castelló, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Josetxo Cerdán, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona/Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Alexander Dhoest, Universiteit Antwerpen

Hugh O'Donnell, Glasgow Caledonian University

Organizado por:



Co-organización:



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