

'Big stories' and 'small stories'

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- The narrative canon
 - *Narrative as representations/a specific kind of text*
- Departure from the canon
 - *Narratives as (inter)actions/social practices ('small stories')*
 - What is the role of ethnography?



Narrative canon → →

→ → small stories

- **From** stories about ‘the self’, typically ‘long’, teller-led, of ‘past’ and ‘single’ non-shared events → →
- **SMALL STORIES** for a variety of under-represented activities:
 - ongoing stories, about future/hypothetical events, intertextually linked, typically ‘small’ -
 - ‘re-tellings’, allusions to tellings, deferrals of telling, refusals to tell; co-constructions

‘Small stories’ research and ethnography (I)

- *The role of ethnography in*
- “Rescuing narrative from qualitative research” (Atkinson & Delamont, 2006) →→
- Emic understandings that can help expand the prototype
- Tracking trajectories/ speech chains (Agha 2005)

‘Small stories’ research and ethnography II



- “Ways of telling” (Hymes 1996)
- Activities (Hanks 1996) – sites of engagement (Scollon & Scollon 2004)
- Tellers (cf. historical bodies, social evaluations)

‘small stories’
“narratives-in-interaction”

- Breaking news
 - Projections
 - Shared stories ----- references
 - Updates
- Natural histories: Retellings, (cross) references, recontextualizations, intertextually linked