

Narrative Factuality

Diachronic and Intercultural Perspectives

GRK 1767 Faktuales und Fiktionales Erzählen <http://www.grk-erzaehlen.uni-freiburg.de/>

Handbook Narrative Factuality, ed. Monika Fludernik and Marie-Laure Ryan. Revisionen. De Gruyter, 2019.

I. Why Factuality?

II. Diachronic and Intercultural Perspectives

Part V Factuality and Fictionality in Various Cultures and Historical Periods

1. "The Factual in Antiquity," Margalit **Finkelberg** (Tel Aviv University, Israel)
2. "Diachrony: The Factual in the Middle Ages," Eva **von Contzen** (University of Freiburg, Germany)
3. "Factual Narrative in the Early Modern Period," Nicolas **Detering** (University of Konstanz, Germany) and Christian **Meierhofer** (University of Bonn, Germany)
4. "Factual Narrative in Pre-Modern China: Historiography – Its Nature, Function and Influence on Narrative Fiction," Victor H. **Mair** and Ashley **Liu** (University of Pennsylvania, USA)
5. "Premodern Japanese Narratives and the Problem of Referentiality and Factuality," Michael **Watson** (Meiji Gakuin University, Japan)
6. "Reality and Factuality of Classical Indian Narratives," Haiyan **Hu-von Hinüber** (Freiburg, Germany) and Luitgard **Soni** (Innsbruck, Austria)
7. "Narrative in Classical Persian Literature," Mohsen **Ashtiany** (Columbia University, USA) and Bo **Utas** (Uppsala University, Sweden)
8. "Factual Narrative in Medieval Arabic Literature," Isabel **Toral-Niehoff** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)
9. "Factual and Fictional Narratives in East African Literatures," Kyallo Wadi **Wamitila** (University of Nairobi, Kenya)

(1) Diachronic Perspectives

- 'invention of fictionality' theses
- the issue of myth
- *fabula – argumentum – historia*
- science and empirical evidence
- literacy and news
- the development of the historical sciences

see also Glauch (2014a, 2014b), von Contzen (2014, 2018), von Contzen et al. (2018), Lavocat (2016), Fludernik (2018)

Finkelberg: *opsis*, ὄψις ('eye witness') vs. *akoē*, ἀκοή ('hearsay')
factual vs. counterfactual (untrue) vs. non-factual ('what is commonly believed' *to nomizómenon*) ≈ myth, fiction

von Contzen: *auctoritas* vs. experience
genres

Detering/Maierhofer: *inventio*
'true history' genre (from Lucian's Ἀληθῆ διηγήματα)
pseudo-factual narratives

(2) Cross-Cultural Comparisons -- see also Lavocat (2016)

- Which genres are factual?
- Myth and religious discourse
- Attitudes towards fictionality
- Western influence

Liu/Mair: *shi* 史 ('history') vs. *xiaoshuo* 小說 ('small talk', 'gossip') ≈ fiction

Watson: *makoto* (truth) vs. *saragoto* (lies)
bungaku ('literature')
kanbun nikki; *joryū nikki* (diaries, memoirs); *setsuwashū* (anecdotes); *uta monogatari* (poem tales); *tsukuri monogatari* (invented tales)
Genji monogatari (Murasaki Shikibo), ca. 1008. Ch. 14: *itsuwari* (falsehoods) of fiction

Toral-Niehoff: 'multi-focal component' listing sources
legal texts: *hadīth*, *sunna*, *isnād*

Hu-von Hinüber/Soni:

cariya ('lived,' 'done')/Skr. *carita* vs. *kappiya* ('imagined')/Skr. *kalpita*

Buddha Śākyamuni: *jātaka* and *pūrvayoga* and *avadāna* ('great deeds')
genres: new terms

traditional narrative terms: *kathā* ('story'), *ākhyāna* ('narrative', *prabandha* ('literary composition'), *varṇanā* ('description'), *śaṃsana* ('reciting') etc.

Ashtiany/Utas: *Shāh-nāme* of Ferdowsi (d. around 1025): *dāstān* ('narrative')

Sa'di's *Golestān* ('Rose Garden'), composed 1258

Nezāmi Ganjavi's (d. 1209): e.g. *Leili and Majnun* and *Eskandar-nāme*

Masnavi of Jalāl od-din Rumi (13thc)

Al-Tabari (9thc), Arabic historiography

Wamitila: Kiswahili (Kenya, Tanzania)

maghaz literature

Habari za Wakilindi (genealogy; 19thc)

tendi / tenzi

epic: Hemed bin Abdallah el Buhriy's *Utenzi wa Wadachi Kutamalaki Mri-ma* ('The Epic of the German Conquest of Tanganyika,' 1960); Mwaruka's *Utenzi wa Jamhuri ya Tanzania* ('The Epic of The Republic of Tanzania') (1968)

slave narrative: *Uhuru wa Watumwa* ('Freedom for Slaves,' 1934)

Al-Inkishafi (transl. *The Soul's Awakening or A Catechism of the Soul*)

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