

Contents

- 1 The Universality of Narration — 1**
 - Homo narrans — 1
 - Homo ludens — 4
 - Ontological indifference — 7
 - Narrative in the mirror of the scholarship — 10

- 2 Elementary Operations — 15**
 - Reduction — 15
 - Forming schemas — 17
 - Redundancy and variation — 24
 - Generating proximity, gaining distance — 24
 - Psychological, communicative, and systemic redundancy — 28
 - Diversification — 35
 - Sequence formation and framing — 43
 - Beginning and ending — 43
 - Narrative problem-processing — 48
 - Narrative, image, and scene — 52
 - Motivation — 55
 - Tentative causality — 55
 - Ascription of agency — 59
 - Positioning of narrative authority — 64
 - Who is seeing? Who is speaking? Who is in the know? — 64
 - Graded forms of participation — 68
 - We/they — 73
 - Stimulation and binding of emotions — 77
 - Modeling of social dynamics — 77
 - Narration as a source of pleasure — 82

- 3 Cultural Fields — 86**
 - Concepts of space — 86
 - The cultural semiotics of Yuri Lotman — 90
 - Centers and peripheries; cold zones and hot — 100
 - Feedback loops in the sign system — 105
 - Loose ends — 108
 - Inconsistency of the culturally representable world — 108
 - Incomplete formalization of informality — 112

	Sense and non-sense — 117
	Meaning as a problem of energy — 117
	“Sense” in sociology — 120
	Legitimation experts and the need for justification — 125
	Disarticulation and dissociation — 127
	Semiotic infrastructures — 128
	Terms and concepts: range, migration, transfer — 131
	Lexical, spatial, and social mobility — 134
	Terms and concepts 2: levels of abstraction and communication — 137
	Social dissemination and semantic gradation — 137
	The cultural functioning of terminological hierarchies — 140
	Frequencies; incommunicable elements — 147
	Code ambiguity and code switching — 147
	Narratives as belief systems — 150
	Truth programs (Paul Veyne) — 152
	Management of cognitive dissonance — 155
4	The Modeling of Social Time — 160
	Manifold temporalities, operative times — 160
	Narratives in cultural memory — 166
	Inhabited and uninhabited memory (Aleida Assmann) — 169
	Activation of different pasts — 173
	Power struggle: future vs. past — 178
	Present time as a collecting point — 178
	Futural fictions — 183
	Narratives of conflict — 189
	How do differences become politically virulent? — 191
	Opposing models of conflict — 194
	Temporal units, expiration dates — 199
	The myth of the spiritual fatherland — 199
	The tenacity of narratives — 202
	Tempi, phrasing curves — 206
	The narrative of secularization — 207
	Aspects of the modernity narrative — 209
	Terms and concepts 3: confluences — 213
	The narrative of Enlightenment — 216
	Styles of canonization — 224

- 5 Narratives and Institutions — 232**
 Autonomization of goals — 232
 Incomplete knowledge — 237
 Competition, cooperation, and trust — 244
 Structurally conforming and irregular processes — 253
 Contested zones of narrative; magic — 256
 An institutional shadow economy — 258
 Fictional armor, *idées directrices* — 263
- 6 Epistemic Narratives — 268**
 Knowledge and narration: the cultural organization
 of external reference — 268
 Self-reference and external reference — 270
 Narrative theory as epistemology — 273
 Objective dimension vs. social dimension — 277
 Roy Bhaskar’s “central paradox of science” — 277
 Inference, object reference, and social reference — 279
 Weakened referential connection as a “negotiation basis” — 284
 Nature and culture — 287
 Asymmetrical distinctions — 290
 Boundary relays in the epistemic field — 295
 Double conditioning — 299
 The coexistence of conflicting normative pairs: religious
 paradoxes — 301
 Paradoxes of the political sphere — 305
 Referential nostalgia. Stories of the “thing in itself” — 311
 Constructivism vs. realism — 313
 Kant’s dilemma — 314
 The problem of two beginnings — 321
- Bibliography — 325**
- Author Index — 341**
- Subject Index — 347**