**Call for papers for Special Issue: “Narrative and Generative AI: Rethinking Theories, Methodologies, and Practices of Storytelling through Large Language Models”**

**Edited by Torsa Ghosal and Stefan Iversen**

**Target Journal: *Narrative Inquiry***

The ongoing proliferation of digital systems for producing and modifying media and data through algorithms, powered by large language models, natural language processing and generative adversarial networks are leading to reconsiderations of fundamental concepts in narrative studies. This is exemplified by special issues on how the advent of widespread generative AI impacts notions such as *text* (*Poetics Today* 45:2, 2024), *literacy* (*Reading Research Quarterly* 59:4, 2024) and *authorship* (*American Literature* 95:2, 2023). Whether understood as a text type, as a structure or as an epistemic move, ideas about what narrative is and what role it can play in people’s lives are challenged by the influx of generative AI, particularly in the shape of large language models, such as those powering OpenAI’s GPT-4, Google’s Gemini, Anthropic’s Claude, and Meta’s Llama.

On a theoretical level, the issue is contested: Some argue that since human storytelling involves causal, embodied reasoning while the output from a computational model is based on probability and statistical correlation, such a model is fundamentally incapable of understanding or producing actual acts of narration (Fletcher 2021, 2022; Phelan 2024); such models are, it has been claimed, merely “stochastic parrots” (Bender et al. 2021). Others argue that “There is much to learn from our creations—our machines that can both ‘read’ and write stories” (Chun and Elkins 2022) and algorithmic procedures “generate compelling narratives” (Hayles 2022) that potentially challenge assumptions of “human exceptionalism” (Rees 2022).

On a practical level, texts produced by or in tandem with language models are becoming rapidly integrated into existing and new storytelling activities: users enter into intricate, plot-driven conversations with character bots in Character.ai; parents prompt highly personalized stories to their children with TinyTellerAI; applicants to universities use chatbots to sketch out or rewrite personal life stories.

Basic concepts drawn from narrative theory have long been used to model story structures in computational linguistics, natural language processing, and related disciplines (Riedl and Young 2010; Mani 2013; Gervás 2016). However, these disciplines’ engagements with narrative theory are severely constrained by their primary mission of improving computational capacities for storytelling. Scholars critically examining the cultural and political import of advancements in artificial intelligence are yet to utilize tools and frameworks from narrative theory and narrative inquiry (Noble 2018; Bender et al. 2021; Gillespie 2024). And though narrative theorists attend to several aspects of digital storytelling, including multimodality, interactivity, and other innovations, analyze space, character, and consciousness represented in digital literature and video games (see Ciccoricco 2015; Page 2018; Punday 2019; Georgakopoulou et al. 2020), the field is only beginning to account for the far-reaching ethical, aesthetic, and social effects of the rise in AI-powered media (see Freed 2024; Ghosal 2024; Slocombe 2024) .

To fill these gaps, we invite articles that, using whatever methods or combinations of methods that are found to be most applicable, address how generative AIs are intervening in storytelling practices, understood in the widest possible sense. Potential topics include but are not limited to:

– what AI ‘thinks’ is narrative

– new storytelling practices emerging from collaborations between humans and generative AI

– the reproduction of ideological/structural biases in gen AI- and Large Language Model-powered storytelling

– public narratives about gen AI and their cultural or political implications

– existing or new narratological concepts in conversation with generative AI storytelling

– methods for probing, analyzing or challenging what AI storytelling might mean

– potential societal and/or personal impacts of widespread access to generative AI storytelling tools.

Articles are expected to be around 8000 words (with references). If interested, please submit a 150-word abstract and a brief bio to Stefan Iversen ([norsi@cc.au.dk](mailto:norsi@cc.au.dk)) and Torsa Ghosal ([torsa.ghosal@csus.edu](mailto:torsa.ghosal@csus.edu)) by June 16, 2025.

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