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Fundamental Assumptions in Narrative Analysis: Mapping the Field

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Abstract

The richness of narrative analysis resides in its unruly operation. Different reference are needed to tame the variety in the field. This article suggests that researchers should grapple with two fundamental questions in narrative analysis. The first pertains to the status attributed to narrative: Is it defined as the very fabric of human existence or as one among others? Emphasizing one answer over the other may lead to different theories of representation and therefore, suggest different articulations between "narrative" and "reality." The second question is the perspective developed on narrative: Is it defined mostly in terms of an approach, an object of investigation or both? Different theoretical implications are associated with that choice. The article discusses current trends in narrative analysis originate in the way researchers address these questions.

Keywords

Qualitative Methods, Narrative Analysis, Narrative Research

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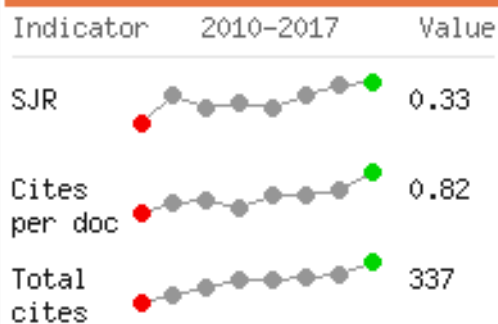
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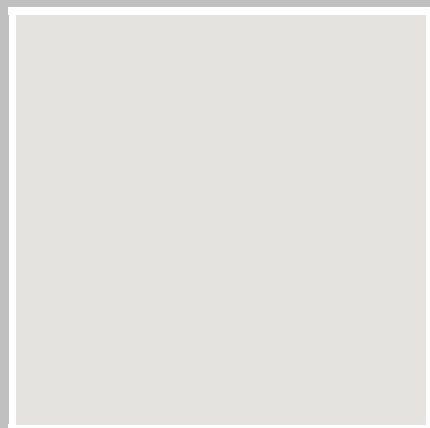
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