SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory

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What is SELMA?

We are an international hub for interdisciplinary research on the interrelations between narrative, experience and memory.

SELMA brings together researchers across disciplines, including literary studies, cultural history, media and art studies, language studies, social sciences, education, philosophy, psychology, health sciences and future studies.

What do we do?

We engage in international research collaboration and organise research events on both theoretical and societally topical issues. We foster dialogue between researchers, artists and others outside academia.

Our research foci include...

Narrative agency, master and counter-narratives, the ethics of storytelling, life-storying, life-writing, creative writing, cultural and transcultural memory, limits and affordances of cultural narratives, oral history, archives and digital storytelling war, violence and cultural trauma, illness narratives, environmental narratives, reading groups and bibliotherapy, intersectionalism and activism...

Examples of Projects

- Intersectional Reading, Social Justice and Literary Activism (PI Kaisa Ilmonen, Kone Foundation, 2022-2026)
- Nordic Voices: The Use of Oral History and Personal Memories in Public History Settings (PI Anne Heimo, 2022-2024)
- The Changing Roles of Literature in Society (PI Markku Lehtimäki, Kone Foundation, 2022-2026)
- Instrumental Narratives: Limits of Storytelling and Story-Critical Narrative Theory" (Academy of Finland Consortium with Tampere and Helsinki, 2018-2023)
- #NeverAgain: Teaching Transmission of Trauma and Remembrance through Experiential Learning (PI Hanna Meretoja, European Commission, 2018-2020)

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