

## Call for Papers

*DIEGESIS* 14.2, winter 2025

Date of publication: December 2025

Topic: "Narrating Sports"

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Deadline for the submission of articles: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

About the TOPIC:

The fascination of sport goes beyond the joy of one's own sporting activity or observing the physical performance of others. Due to its proximity to play and drama, sport resembles literary and artistic practices, and the praise of outstanding athletes was a well-known literary genre in classical antiquity. Beyond the interrelationship between literature and sport, the representation, memory, and perhaps also the experience of sporting events in itself have a narrative dimension. Sporting events are embedded in stories that arouse emotions, enable identification and shape the perception of the event.

The next issue of *DIEGESIS* is dedicated to the topic of "Narrating Sports." Researchers from various disciplines such as literary studies, media studies, psychology, sociology, anthropology, educational science, and sports science are invited to explore narrative aspects of specific sports or sport in general. Examples and corpora of fictional or factual sports narratives in various media (interviews,

social media, literature, non-fiction, television, film, art, etc.) qualify as material for analysis. Relevant questions can be assigned to three topical spheres:

## 1. Narrative cultures around sport:

- Which narrative structures and motifs dominate sports narratives in different eras and cultures?
- Do specific differences between sports, e.g., between individual and team sports, influence the way they are told?
- How do myths about certain athletes relate to other narratives?
- To what extent are the forms and functions of narrative representations of sporting events subject to historical change?

## 2. Narrative schemes around sport:

- How do narrative structures influence the experience of sporting events?
- How are strategies of emotionalization (suspense, curiosity, surprise) used?
- What role do the media and commentators play in the narrative mediation of sporting events?

## 3. Functions of narratives around sport:

- Are there gender-specific forms and functions of sports narratives?
- What role do narratives play in sport, particularly in relation to the motivation and commitment of athletes?
- How do sports narratives create a sense of identity and community in reception?

We invite abstracts of approximately 350–400 words by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the latest. Please send your abstract, along with a brief CV, to the editorial team of *DIEGESIS*: [diegesis@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:diegesis@uni-wuppertal.de). The editorial team and the editors will decide on the acceptability of proposals by December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Contributions

have to be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The issue will be published in December 2025.

In addition, we always welcome REVIEWS of new works (i.e. works published in the last three to four years) in the field of narratology; we specifically welcome cross-disciplinary contributions in addition to contributions from those working in the fields of language and literature. Recommendations for reviews can be sent to the aforementioned e-mail address at any time; in your e-mail, you should name the book(s) you would like to review and provide a brief overview of your academic career.

Furthermore, we would also like to invite suggestions for CONFERENCE REPORTS on any events in the field of narrative research. If you want to send us proposals for such reports please include brief information on the topic, venue, date, and organizers of the event as well as a short outline of your academic career.

#### About *DIEGESIS*:

*DIEGESIS* is the first interdisciplinary journal dedicated to narrative research that provides free online access to full-text articles and reviews ([www.diegesis.uni-wuppertal.de](http://www.diegesis.uni-wuppertal.de)). The high standard of work published in *DIEGESIS* is ensured by a combination of competitive calls for papers and a peer review process.

*DIEGESIS* is published at the University of Wuppertal and in cooperation with the local Centre for Narrative Research (CNR) ([www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de](http://www.zef.uni-wuppertal.de)) by Matei Chihaia (Romance Studies), Sandra Heinen (English Literature and Media Studies), Matías Martínez (German Literature), Katharina Rennhak (English Literature), Michael Scheffel (Comparative Literature), and Roy Sommer (English Literature).