

Conference programme – June 1-2, 2026

Illness Narrative Retold – Diversity, Temporality, and Digitization

Venue: Aarhus University, Conference Center, Fredrik Nielsens Vej 4, 8000 Aarhus C
 Web and contact: <https://conferences.au.dk/illness-narrative-retold>

The conference is funded by the research project *Genetic hauntings. Pre-patient narratives in the era of direct-to-consumer genetic testing* (IRDF 2023–2026)

June 1

9.00	Registration opens	Outside room 1427-246-M2			
9.30-9.45	Welcome	Carsten Stage, Professor, Aarhus University Room: 1427-246-M2			
9.45-10.30	Keynote 1	Angela Woods, Professor, Durham University: “Illness Narrative in the Age of Generative AI: Rescripting the Clinical Encounter” Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Carsten Stage			
	Break				
10.45-12.15	Panel track 1	<p>Panel 1: Time, Narrative, and Illness: Lessons across Media and Genres</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Lasse Gammelgaard</p> <p>James Phelan: “Time, Ethics, and Audience in <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i>: A Rhetorical Reading of Its Last Ten Paragraphs”</p> <p>Antonio (Joey) Ferraro: “Time Enough: Temporal Pluralism in <i>The Pitt</i> and <i>Clock Without Hands</i>”</p> <p>Catherine Belling: “The Post-Trauma Plot: Temporal Sequencing in Autobiographical and Psychiatric Accounts of PTSD”</p>	<p>Panel 2: Illness in Graphic Novels and Comics</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Camilla Bruun Eriksen</p> <p>Noora Raiskio: “You’re Not Broken. Joy in Finnish Health and Illness Comics”</p> <p>Henrik Johnsson: “Illness in Graphic Novels for Young Audiences. The Case for (Not) Teaching Children about Health and Illness”</p> <p>Lisbeth Frølund: “Representing the Spiritual Aspects of Illness and Death in Narratives: Countering “Disneyfication””</p>	<p>Panel 3: Co-narrating the Clinical Encounter</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Matilde Nisbeth Brøgger</p> <p>Cindie Maagaard: “Finding Narrative Form for the Uncertainties of Critical Care: The Case of the Intensive Care Patient Diary”</p> <p>Marjolein Uitham: “Merged Frames, Drawing for the Consultation Room”</p> <p>Karen Schriver: “Beyond Patient Stories: How Clinicians Position Themselves in Psychiatric Consultations”</p>	
12.15-13.00	Lunch	1423.111 - Stakladen			
13.00-14.30	Panel track 2	<p>Spotlight panel 1: Gender and Illness Narrative</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Amanda Karlsson</p> <p>Ida Melander: “Illness Narratives on</p>	<p>Panel 4: Disability, Pain, and Injury</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Henrik Johnsson</p> <p>Anna Ovaska: “Rethinking</p>	<p>Panel 5: Narratives in and on Health Institutions</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Jane Ege Møller</p> <p>Michael Blackie:</p>	<p>Panel 6: Creative Explorations of Illness Experiences</p> <p>Room: 1421-218-Faculty Club Chair: Karen Schriver</p>

		<p>Instagram: Sharing and Retelling the Experience of Endometriosis”</p> <p>Karen Hvidtfeldt: ““Service Due”: Masculinity, Biopolitics, and Affect in Nordic Men’s Cancer Prevention Campaigns”</p> <p>Peter Simonsen: “Read Like a Man: Narrative Medicine in Practice”</p>	<p>(Reading) Narratives of Chronic Pain”</p> <p>Sofia Sarkisian and Anna Nikoleishvili: “The Afterlife of Injury: Compulsory Positivity and the Moral Framing of Disability”</p> <p>Catherine Medici: “Women’s Chronic Illness Stories: Creating a New Understanding of Illness”</p> <p>Sakshi Srivastava: “Retelling Illness Otherwise: Redefining Chronicity, Mediation, and Narrative Diffusion in Contemporary South Asian Narratives”</p>	<p>“Reflective Writing as Compulsory Illness Narratives”</p> <p>Pernille Meyer: “Towards a Typology of Literary Doctor-Patient Encounters”</p> <p>Katarina Bernhardsson, Katarina Båth and Torbjörn Forslid: “Between Care and Bureaucracy: Swedish Illness and Healthcare Narratives Across Time”</p>	<p>Hilde Bondevik and Oddgeir Synnes: “Critical Explorations of Poetic Language and Illness”</p> <p>Yi (Luna) Wang: “Validation gap: Interactive Illness Narratives and the Politics of Representation in VR”</p> <p>Marianne Raakilde Jespersen: “Onwards Through Words: Creative Writing Workshops for Patients Suffering from Chronic Neurological Diseases”</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

	Break	
--	-------	--

14.45-16.15	Panel track 3	<p>Spotlight panel 2: Diversifying Illness Narratives</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Karen Hvidtfeldt</p> <p>Lasse R. Gammelgaard: “Life as an Experiment and Narrative Delirium as Truth: The Case of Ernesto Dalgas”</p> <p>Maria Bee Christensen-Strynø: “Already Working from Home: Narrative Fragments and Modalities of Crip Embodied Experience”</p> <p>Nora Simonhjell: “Why All Norwegians Must Go Skiing: The TV Narrative about Childhood Dementia and Disabled Youth”</p>	<p>Panel 7: Queering Time</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Marianne Raakilde Jespersen</p> <p>Avril Tynan: “Narratives of (Un)Recovery”</p> <p>Sean Yeager: ““I Have Seven Limbs, So That Was Very Relatable”: Interviewing Autistics about Time, Kinship, and Science Fiction”</p> <p>Christian Schulz-Quach: “Queer Aging, Intersectional Illness, and Narrative Witnessing”</p>	<p>Panel 8: Health and Illness in News and Journalism</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Peter Simonsen</p> <p>Anna Krogh: “When Health Journalism Becomes Economic Policy”</p> <p>Camilla Bruun Eriksen: “Public/Private Illness: AIDS Narratives in Danish Print Media”</p> <p>Maja Klausen, Yukun You and Sofie Exner Koch: “Did You Sleep Alright? Small Stories about Sleep between Health and Illness”</p>
-------------	---------------	---	--	--

	Break	
--	-------	--

16.30-17.15	Keynote 2	<p>Danielle Spencer, Senior Lecturer, Columbia University: “Metagnosis: Illness Narratives and Knowledges Retold”</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Ann-Katrine Schmidt-Nielsen</p>
-------------	-----------	--

19.00	<p>Conference dinner at <i>Gods</i>: https://foodfamilygroup.dk/gods/</p> <p>Address: Godsbanen, <u>Karen Wegeners Gade 8</u> (entrance 3A or 3H), 8000 Aarhus C</p>
-------	---

June 2

9.30-11.00	Panel track 4	<p>Panel 9: Writing Uncertainty</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Anna Krogh</p> <p>Fahime Serhatti: “Inhabiting the Unmasterable Now: The Narrative-Epistemological Paradox in Samantha Harvey’s <i>The Wilderness</i>”</p> <p>Alex Pickett: “Altered Paths: Narrating Age-Related Memory Loss”</p> <p>Luna Dieleman: ““Not be able to think doesn’t mean to not know”. Ethics and the essay in Anne Boyers <i>The Undying</i> (2019)”</p>	<p>Panel 10: Narrating and Governing the Female Body</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Lisbeth Frølund</p> <p>Eva Dudáková: “Representation of Illness Narrative in Contemporary Slovak Fiction: Mental Illness Experience and Strategies of its Mediation to Public Through Literature”</p> <p>Natacha Ferreira Moreira: “Between Confinement and Self-Making: Autobiographical Narratives of Institutionalized “Mad” Women in Europe and Latin America”</p> <p>Kristen Loutensock: “Incomplete Stories of Illness and Suffering”</p>	<p>Panel 11: In and Beyond the Pandemic</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Sondre Kvamme</p> <p>Marta Fernández-Morales: “More than a Virus: A Syndemic Approach to COVID-19 through Epistolary Literature in the U.S.”</p> <p>Charlotte Nørholm and Anna Louise Skovgaard: “Recovering Hope or Hoping for Recovery? Narratives of Rehabilitation Potential and Imagined Futures among Long COVID Patients in Denmark”</p> <p>Lucyl Harrison: “Pandemic Pages: Building a COVID-19 Archive Through Academic Podcasting”</p>
	Break			
11.15-12.00	Keynote 3	<p>Stefania Vicari, Professor, Loughborough University: “Social Media of Health and Illness: Platform, Narratives and Values”</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Ann-Katrine Schmidt-Nielsen</p>		
12.00-13.00	Lunch			
13.00-14.30	Panel track 5	<p>Spotlight panel 3: Narrative in Medical Education</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Anna Louise Skovgaard</p> <p>Anders Juhl Rasmussen: “Narrative Medicine in Medical Education”</p> <p>Jane Ege Møller: “An Alternative Rhythm in Clinical Practice: Integrating Narrative Medicine Education in Postgraduate Hospital Settings”</p> <p>Katarina Bernhardsson: “Long-Term Aims of Literature, Storytelling, and Narrative Medicine in Medical Education”</p>	<p>Panel 12: The Narratives and Dangers of Care</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Nora Simonhjell</p> <p>Linda Hamrin Nesby: “Illness and Its Many Voices”</p> <p>Sondre Johan Chesney Kvamme: “Being Your Own Caregiver: The Use of Second-person Narration in Eivind Grip Fjær’s Novel <i>Det stemmer ikke</i>”</p> <p>Tarun Athmika: “The Paradox of Care: ‘Controlling’ Care in Narratives of Madness”</p>	<p>Panel 13: (Post)reproductive Storytelling</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Maja Klausen</p> <p>Kari Nyheim Solbrække: “What is at Stake in Social Influencers’ Stories about Pregnancy and Childbirth? The Case of Norway”</p> <p>Sarah Brophy: “#HotFlash: Menopause Influencers, Misinformation, and Me”</p> <p>Anita Wohlmann: “Metaphors and Narratives and Their Role in Politicized Health Care Discourses: The Case of Abortion”</p>
	Break			

14.45-16.15	Panel track 6	<p>Panel 14: Handling Embodied Data and Narratives</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Carsten Stage</p> <p>Allison Coffelt: “Bankrupt 23andMe: Ethical, Legal, and Narrative Implications”</p> <p>Ann-Katrine Schmidt Nielsen and Carsten Stage: “Narratives of Genetic Risk in the Context of DTC Genetic Testing”</p> <p>Marjo Kolehmainen: “Digital Traumasclapes: Victim-survivors’ Stories of the Aftermath of a Psychotherapy-related Data Breach”</p>	<p>Panel 15: Images and Sounds of Illness</p> <p>Room: 1421-118-M1.1 Chair: Linda Nesby</p> <p>Kaisu Hynnä-Granberg and Mari Lehto: “Selfie-Production as a Method of Self-exploration in Sickness and Ill-being”</p> <p>Anna Leppo, Salome Tuomaala-Özdemir, Elina Niinivaara and Iida Putkuri: “What Does Pain Sound Like? Video Art as an Experiment of Episodic Reading of Chronic Illness”</p> <p>Ayşecan Terzioğlu: ““Hopeful but Cautious”: Self-editing and Affective Economics in Turkish Women’s Breast Cancer Narratives on Instagram”</p>	<p>Panel 16: Narrative Communities of Illness</p> <p>Room: 1420-234-M2.2 Chair: Charlotte Nørholm</p> <p>Lena Englund: “The Shared Story in Autoethnographic Illness Narrative Research”</p> <p>David Lombard: “Renegotiating Epistemic Authority: Relational-Experiential Knowledge in Twenty-First-Century Family Memoirs of Schizophrenia”</p> <p>Amanda Karlsson: “Telling through Doing: Men’s Illness Narratives Emerging in Acts of Paying it Forward”</p>
	Break			
16.30-17.15	Keynote 4	<p>Arthur Frank, Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary: “Narrative Wreckage and Redemption: Selves, their Stories, and Typologies”</p> <p>Room: 1427-246-M2 Chair: Carsten Stage</p>		
17.30	Informal closing reception	<p>1423.111 – Stakladen</p> <p>Light refreshments and informal networking</p>		