

Contents

1	The Universality of Narration — 1
	Homo narrans — 1
	Homo ludens — 4
	Ontological indifference — 7
	Narrative in the mirror of the scholarship — 10
2	Elementary Operations — 15
	Reduction — 15
	Forming schemas — 17
	Redundancy and variation — 24
	Generating proximity, gaining distance — 24
	Psychological, communicative, and systemic redundancy — 28
	Diversification — 35
	Sequence formation and framing — 43
	Beginning and ending — 43
	Narrative problem-processing — 48
	Narrative, image, and scene — 52
	Motivation — 55
	Tentative causality — 55
	Ascription of agency — 59
	Positioning of narrative authority — 64
	Who is seeing? Who is speaking? Who is in the know? — 64
	Graded forms of participation — 68
	We/they — 73
	Stimulation and binding of emotions — 77
	Modeling of social dynamics — 77
	Narration as a source of pleasure — 82
3	Cultural Fields — 86
	Concepts of space — 86
	The cultural semiotics of Yuri Lotman — 90
	Centers and peripheries; cold zones and hot — 100
	Feedback loops in the sign system — 105
	Loose ends — 108
	Inconsistency of the culturally representable world — 108
	Incomplete formalization of informality — 112

Sense and non-sense — 117	
Meaning as a problem of energy — 117	
“Sense” in sociology — 120	
Legitimation experts and the need for justification — 125	
Disarticulation and dissociation — 127	
Semiotic infrastructures — 128	
Terms and concepts: range, migration, transfer — 131	
Lexical, spatial, and social mobility — 134	
Terms and concepts 2: levels of abstraction and communication — 137	
Social dissemination and semantic gradation — 137	
The cultural functioning of terminological hierarchies — 140	
Frequencies; incommunicable elements — 147	
Code ambiguity and code switching — 147	
Narratives as belief systems — 150	
Truth programs (Paul Veyne) — 152	
Management of cognitive dissonance — 155	
4 The Modeling of Social Time — 160	
Manifold temporalities, operative times — 160	
Narratives in cultural memory — 166	
Inhabited and uninhabited memory (Aleida Assmann) — 169	
Activation of different pasts — 173	
Power struggle: future vs. past — 178	
Present time as a collecting point — 178	
Futural fictions — 183	
Narratives of conflict — 189	
How do differences become politically virulent? — 191	
Opposing models of conflict — 194	
Temporal units, expiration dates — 199	
The myth of the spiritual fatherland — 199	
The tenacity of narratives — 202	
Tempi, phrasing curves — 206	
The narrative of secularization — 207	
Aspects of the modernity narrative — 209	
Terms and concepts 3: confluences — 213	
The narrative of Enlightenment — 216	
Styles of canonization — 224	

5	Narratives and Institutions — 232
	Autonomization of goals — 232
	Incomplete knowledge — 237
	Competition, cooperation, and trust — 244
	Structurally conforming and irregular processes — 253
	Contested zones of narrative; magic — 256
	An institutional shadow economy — 258
	Fictional armor, <i>idées directrices</i> — 263
6	Epistemic Narratives — 268
	Knowledge and narration: the cultural organization of external reference — 268
	Self-reference and external reference — 270
	Narrative theory as epistemology — 273
	Objective dimension vs. social dimension — 277
	Roy Bhaskar’s “central paradox of science” — 277
	Inference, object reference, and social reference — 279
	Weakened referential connection as a “negotiation basis” — 284
	Nature and culture — 287
	Asymmetrical distinctions — 290
	Boundary relays in the epistemic field — 295
	Double conditioning — 299
	The coexistence of conflicting normative pairs: religious paradoxes — 301
	Paradoxes of the political sphere — 305
	Referential nostalgia. Stories of the “thing in itself” — 311
	Constructivism vs. realism — 313
	Kant’s dilemma — 314
	The problem of two beginnings — 321
	Bibliography — 325
	Author Index — 341
	Subject Index — 347

