

On Narratives in Event-Centric Information Systems

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Narratives are essential in human culture and communication. On the one hand, they are used to communicate information and values, on the other hand, they constitute self and group identities. This is especially true in a postdigital world where narratives are transported faster and more comprehensively than ever before through stories, rumors, and memes. We have seen instances of narratives in the past decade in conjunction with major events, like austerity narratives during the financial crisis of several southern European countries or the foundation of the Fridays for Future movement. Most of the discourse regarding those events is happening online in mixed-form of moderated content (like online news) and user-generated content. Thus, the generation and acceptance of narratives is more visible in the postdigital age than in times, when most of the discourse was moderated by newspaper outlets. The utility of narratives in this era has been described in various domains, e.g., economics, finance, and social sciences. Yet, besides some progress in recent years, their potential is underused when it comes to information systems. Part of the problem is the complexity and especially ambiguity involved when dealing with narratives. Even though, the gains of utilizing narratives here are manifold. In this talk, we discuss narratives specifically for use in event-centric information systems. Particularly we dive into the problems of different viewpoints on the same events and their implications on the narration of the latter.