

Special Issue

Narrative and Performance Criticisms—A Difference of Degree or Kind?

Message from the Guest Editors

With this Special Issue, we seek to answer the following question: are the differences between Narrative and Performance Criticisms simply a matter of degree or of kind?

Conversations between these two criticisms are not new. In fact, many of the initial investigations of performance were developed in conversation with Narrative Criticism. Kelly Iverson's *From Text to Performance* (ed. 2014) is a prime example of the productivity of this dialogue. We envision this fascicle as both a continuation and expansion of the work begun in that volume. Not only has performance criticism matured and developed since *From Text to Performance*, but Michal Beth Dinkler's volume, *Literary Theory and the New Testament* (2019) and the recent *Biblical Interpretation Special Issue: "Cognitive Linguistics and New Testament Narrative"* (2021) edited by Jan Rügge-meier and Elizabeth Shively, have reinvigorated narrative critical conversations among biblical scholars. It is at the intersection of performance's continued maturation and this renewed discussion of literary theory and narratology that we locate this work.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Christopher W. Skinner

Department of Theology, Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60660, USA

Dr. Zechariah P. Eberhart

Department of Theology, Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60660, USA

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health, Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

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