**Title**: Narratives as Boundary Objects

**Special Interest Group**: Reflexivity and reflective practice

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**Abstract**

Drawing on posthuman research on cross-boundaries practices (MacLure, 2013; Mol and Law, 2005; Lather and St. Pierre, 2013) we further elaborate on the concept of narratives as boundary objects (Bartel and Garud, 2009). This proposal grounds on a research experience with different groups active in reconfiguring an organizational change. A workshop inspired by a processual and participatory practice-based approach to learning and knowing was held in a research organization undergoing privatization. For six months, thirty-one organizational members, divided into two groups, participated in writing one story per week for six weeks. The written story had to refer to a fact that had occurred in the previous week, thus prompting reflection on the ongoing organizational life and giving a situated meaning to the change process.

People materialized their reflections into narratives that became a way for appropriating the ongoing change and understanding the complex relations between all the actors involved. As boundary objects (Star, 2010) the narratives embodied the agency of both human and more-than-human actors such as the material settings that were affecting and were affected by the change (Barad, 2003; Braidotti, 2013; Deuten and Rip, 2000; Latour, 2005). The reconfiguring of the changing organizational environment opened up to multiple ways of knowing/being/doing within the local ecology (Ulmer, 2017).

Based on this empirical study, we aim at contributing to a posthumanist discourse on narratives by describing how they enacted a practice of authoring the change process while enabling authors to become “cognizant of the [organizational] past, finely attuned to the conditions of the present [change process], and speculatively open to the possibilities of the future [after the organizational change]” (Ingold, in: Ulmer, 2017, p. 7). The written stories reflexively enacted the context for the reconfiguration of the organizational ecology and they materialized the subjectivity of authors, as well as the intra-actions between all the actors involved (Barad, 2003). In this contribution, we illustrate the material-discursive nature of narratives and how they allowed the emergence of the material-discursive nature of the organizational change as well.

**Keywords** – boundary objects, narrative, practice, reconfiguring, reflexivity.
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