

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Narrative Studies, University of York, UK

Richard Walsh, Director

Introduction

The ICNS, directed by Richard Walsh, was founded in 2012 to consolidate several interdisciplinary collaborations at that time with a narrative theory element. It sits institutionally within the Humanities Research Centre at York (and its origins were closely involved with the Centre for Modern Studies), but from the start its scope extended well beyond the humanities, for example in partnership with the York Cross-Disciplinary Centre for Systems Analysis.

COMPLEXITY
IN THE HUMANITIES



Mission

The ICNS exists to foster the extraordinary range of work relating to narratives and narrative theory at York and establish connections internationally. It brings together researchers in the humanities, sciences and social sciences, and it bridges the full historical range of period studies within the humanities.



Interdisciplinary Approach

We approach collaborative and interdisciplinary research as dialogue rather than synthesis, so that the exchange of ideas feeds back into the specific research fields of the participants. This methodology is an innovative departure, based upon a rejection of the presumption of consilience, or the synthesis of disciplinary perspectives, which is the usual pre-condition for interdisciplinary research.

Research themes

ICNS research clusters around four themes, outlined below, each encompassing its own set of activities as well as some that spill over the boundaries between themes.

Narrative and complex systems

The Centre's most radically interdisciplinary research initiative, in association with YCCSA, brings together narrative scholars from across the humanities and complex systems analysts from across the sciences and social sciences.

Interactive narrative

Originating in collaboration with Computer Science at York, this theme inquires into the interactive potential of new media from the perspective of narrative theory and examines the implications of digital technologies for our understanding of narrative itself.

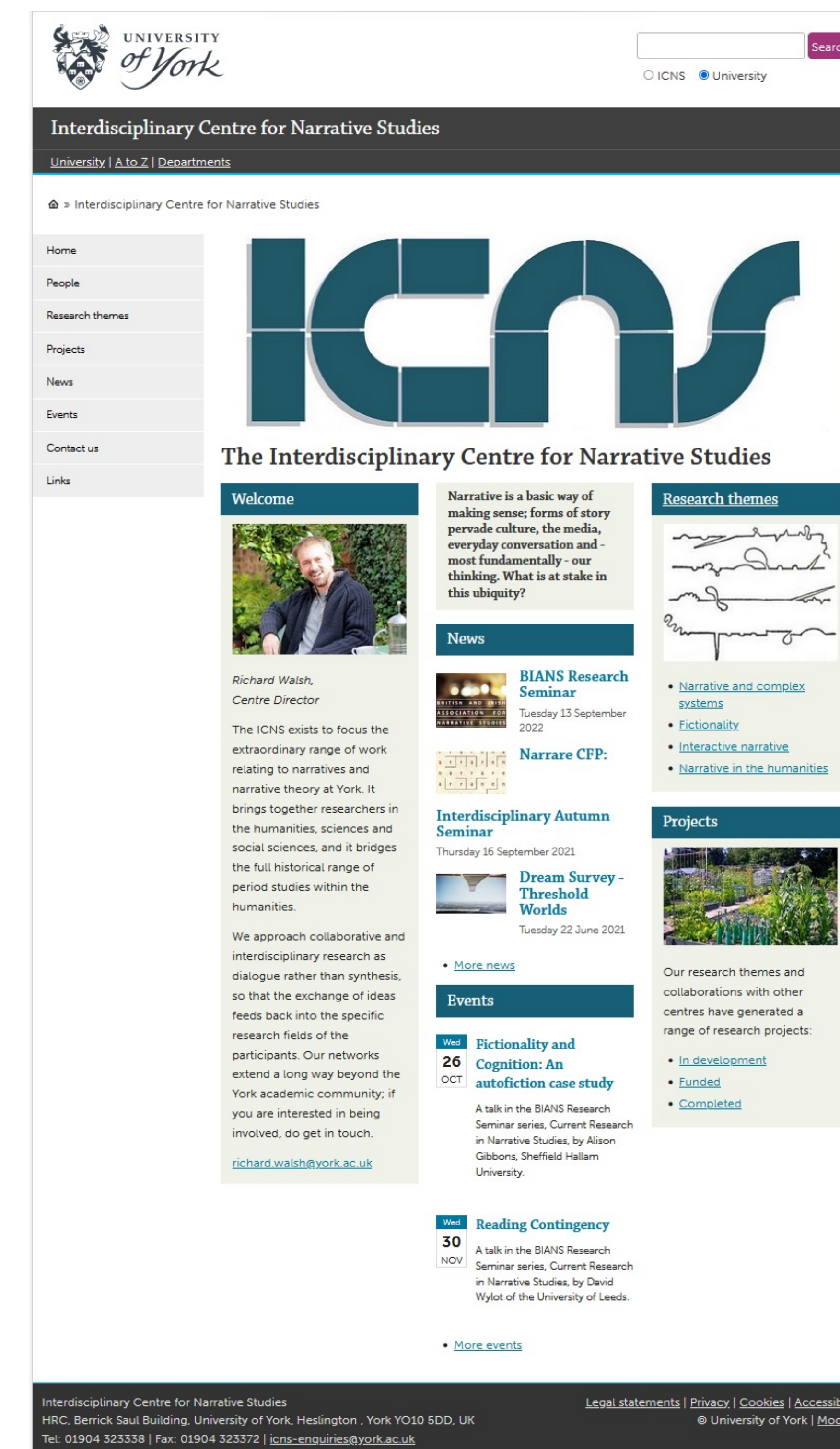


Fictionality

Foregrounds the historical dimension and cultural specificity of fictionality, conceived here as a rhetorical resource in communication, grounded in pragmatic and contextual assumptions, and variable across periods and cultures.

Narrative in the humanities

Fosters dialogue and collaboration across the humanities using narrative as a conceptual frame applicable across a range of media and discourses, emphasizing the interdependence of formalist and ideological perspectives.



Projects

Narrative in Question (2017):

An intensive programme of seminars and symposia

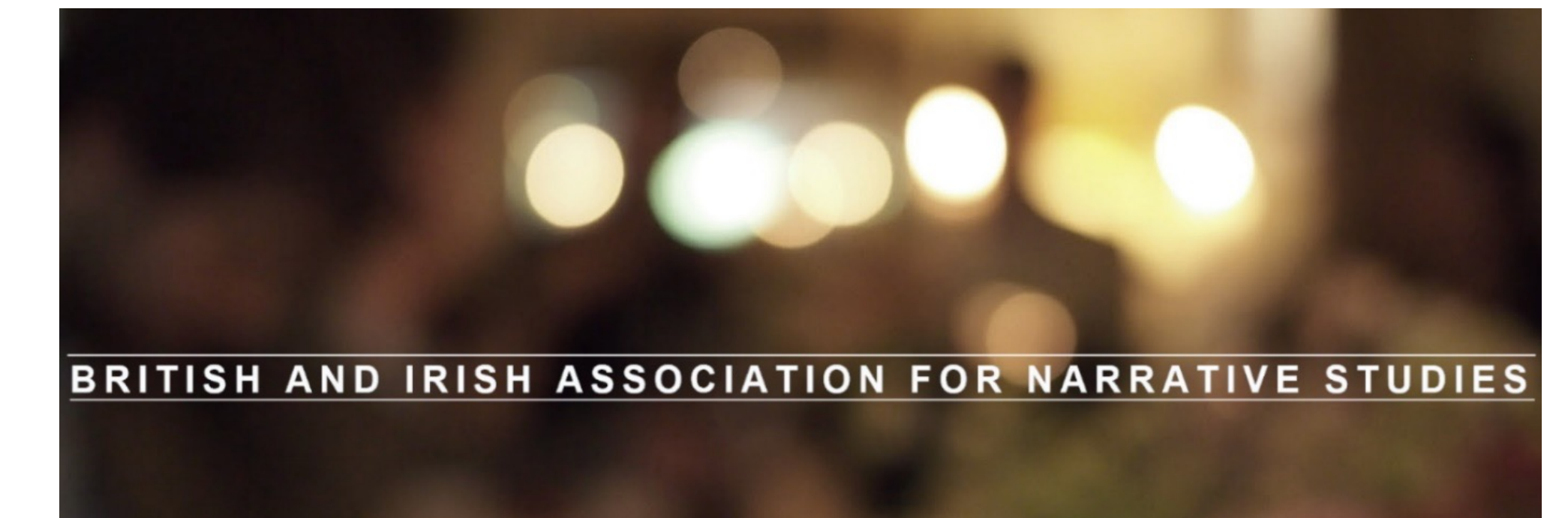


Narrative and Complex Systems (2012-13):

A radically interdisciplinary series of exploratory workshops.

NarCS

Narrative and Complex Systems

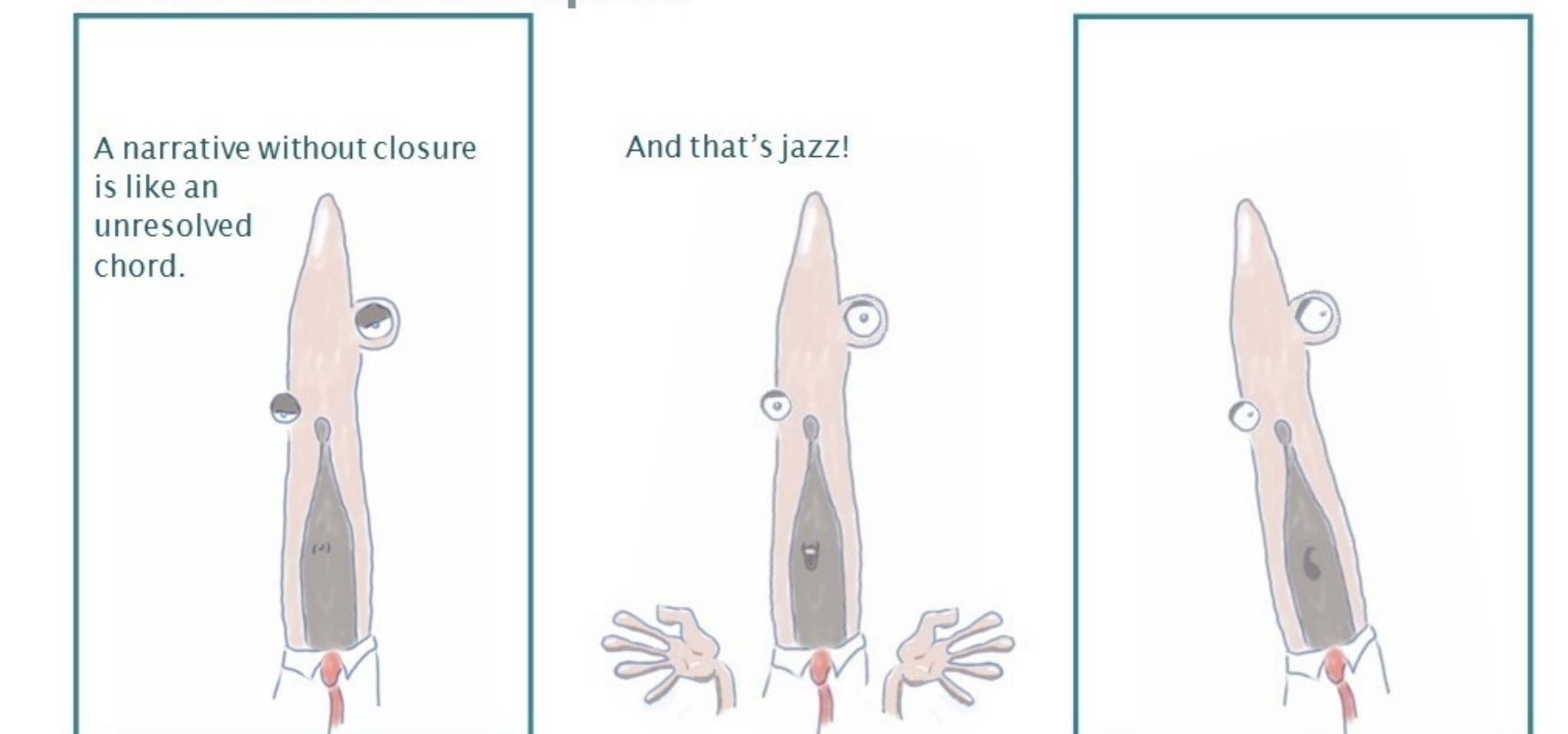


Activities

The ICNS has sustained a regular programme of seminars, workshops, symposia, storytelling performances, conference panels and reading groups; hosted visiting fellows and guest lectures; developed networks, project bids and outreach events. A 2019 symposium led to the formation of the British and Irish Association for Narrative Studies, and the ICNS now hosts a regular BIANS hybrid seminar, "Current Research in Narrative Studies."



Wilbur Carmichael Opines



Website:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/narrative-studies/>