



onama

realonline

Ontology of the Narratives of the Middle Ages.  
An onomasiological perspective on  
narratology via the Middle High German  
Conceptual Database

# Prerequisites



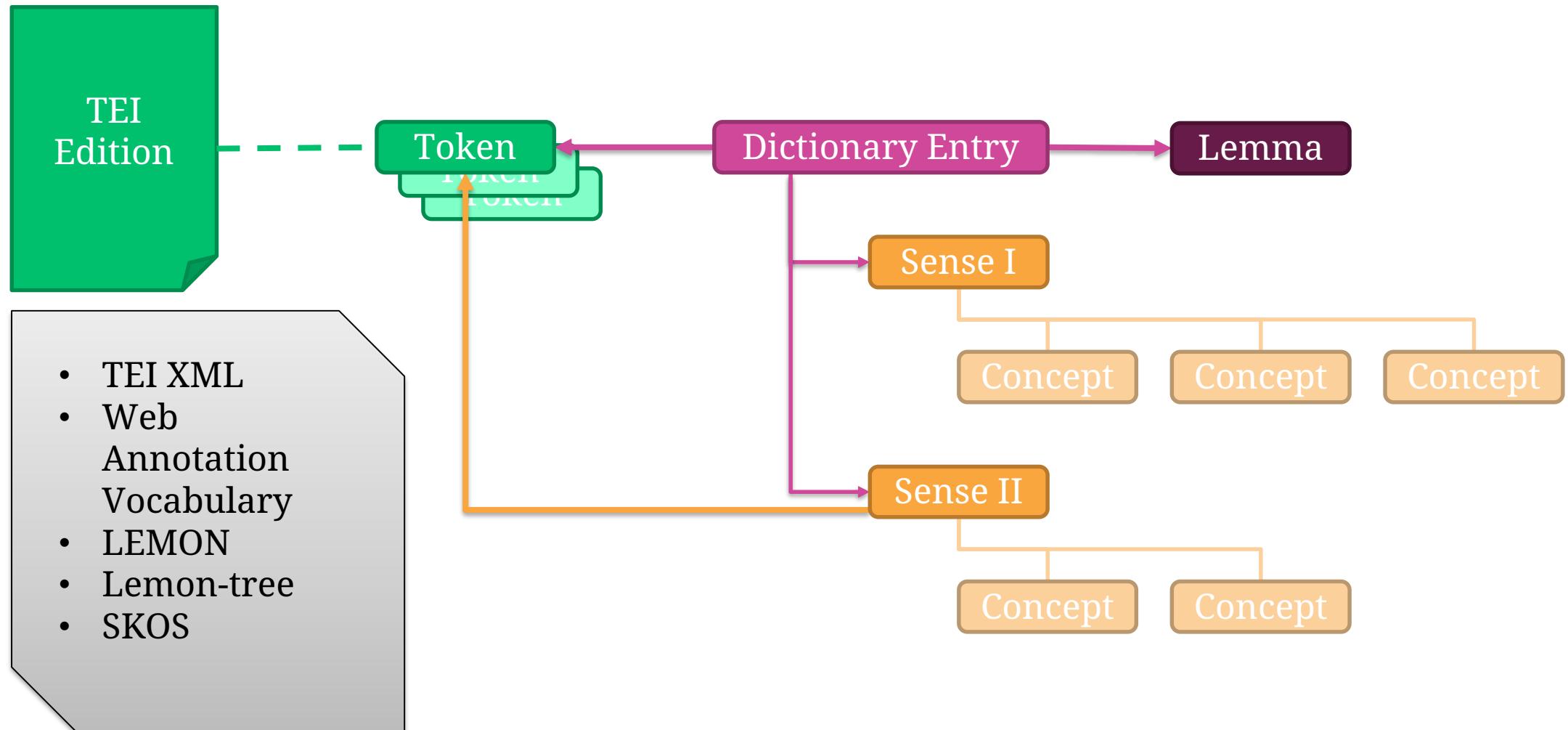
- The interdisciplinary ‘joint venture’ **ONAMA** is based on the extensive corpora of two long-term projects **MHDBDB** and **REALonline**
- Both are based on a **graph data model**
- **Narratives** are one of the connecting elements between **textual and pictorial tradition** of the Middle Ages

# MHDBDB



- Founded in the 1970s and online since the mid 90s
- Onomasiological dictionary of Middle High German
- Over 650 digitised scholarly editions of Middle High German texts
- About 40,000 dictionary articles based on the Hallig/von Wartburg conceptual system

# MHDBDB data model

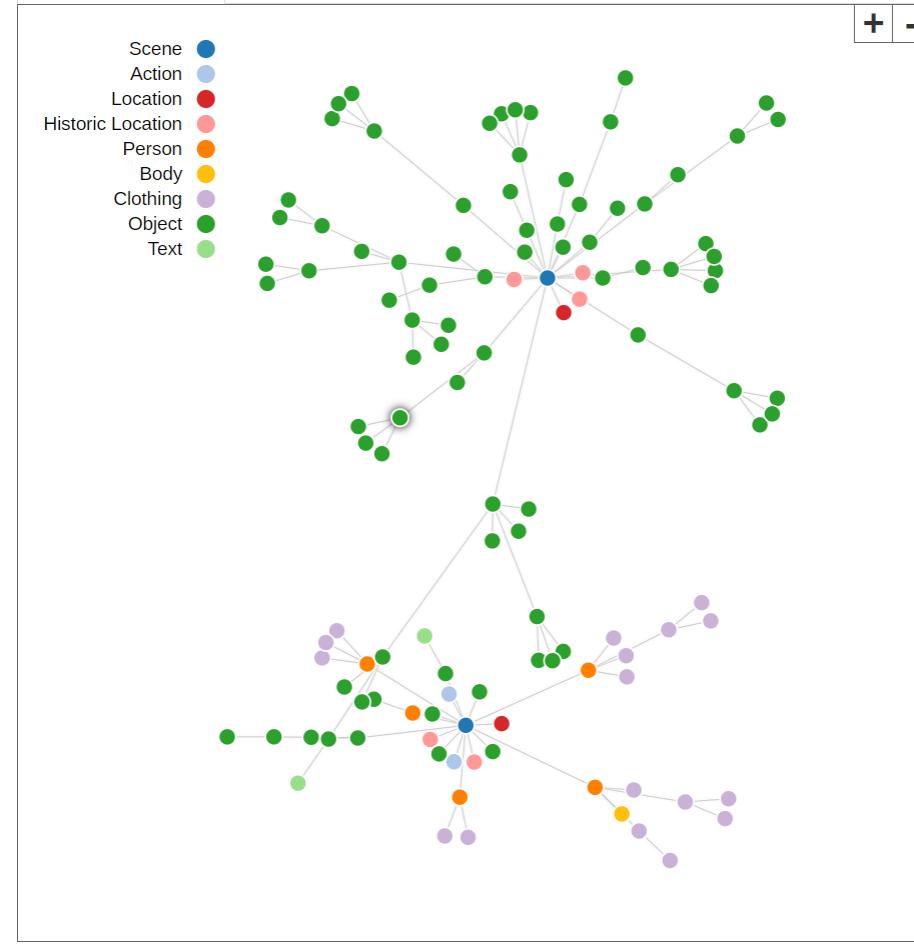


# REALonline



- Project of the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Material Culture (IMAREAL)
- The beginnings of the REALonline database also date back to the 1970s
- Exploration of depicted objects and their significance in image discourse
- More than 22,000 data sets consisting of over 28,500 photographs of objects and pictures from 13th to 16th century

# REALonline scene graph



- Iconclass
- GND
- Thesauri (SKOS)

# ONAMA



- Funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Start in 2019/03, End in 2021/03
- **OWL-Ontology** for describing narratives
- **Annotation of narratives** in the corpora of both database, starting with
  - Narratives in the journey of the argonauts
  - Narratives that focuses on fighting and taming wild creatures
- Publication of query tools and frontend

# ONAMA Research Questions



- How can medieval narratives (regardless of their medium) and their building blocks be modelled in an ontology?
- How do medieval narratives evolve and change?
  - How are narratives realised?
  - What is the extended context of the realisation?
  - Which impact has the change of medium?
  - What are the constants and variables of narrative structures?

# Narrative



“one will define narrative [...] as the representation of an event or sequence of events”

(Genette *Narrative Discourse* 1982, 127)

# Narrative

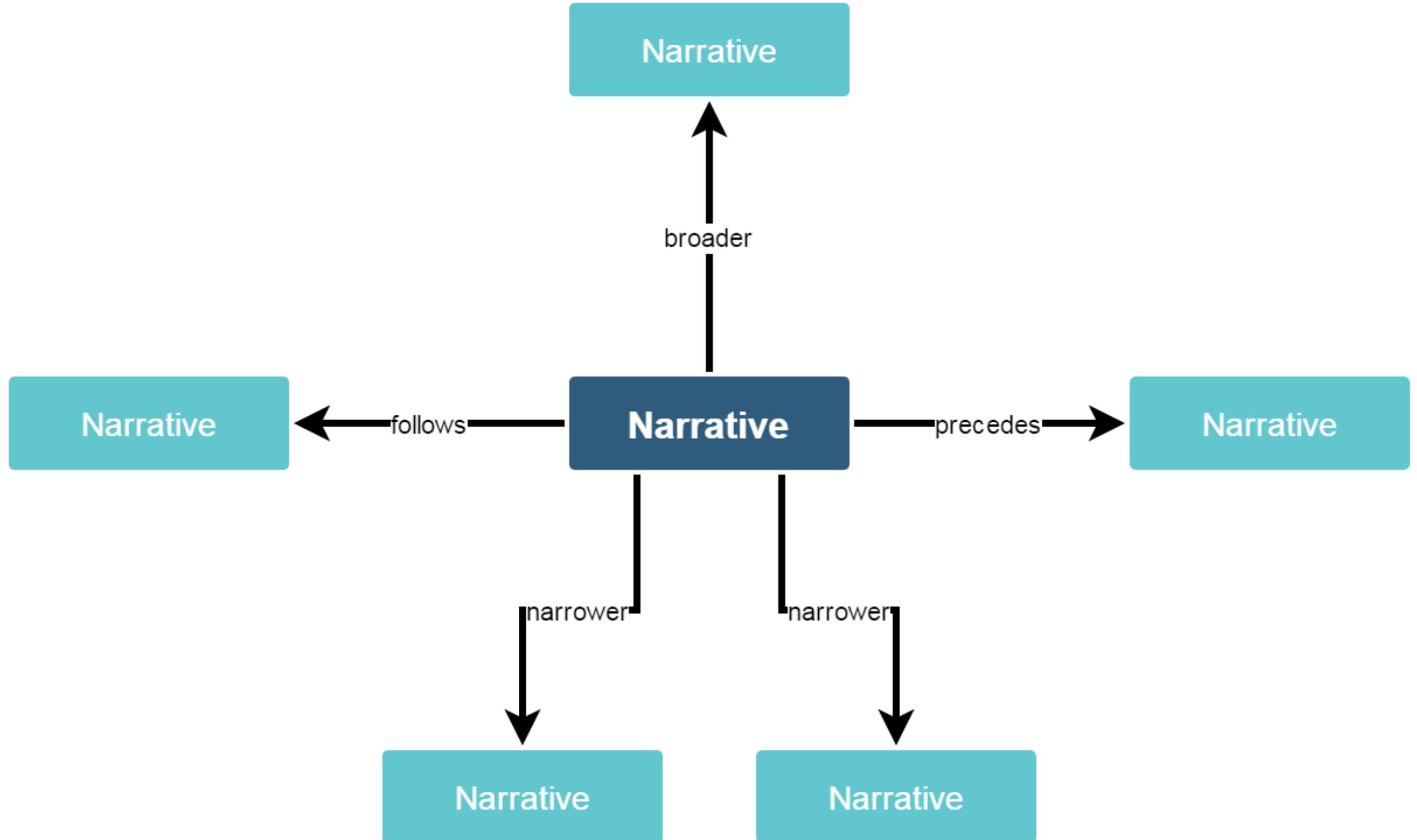


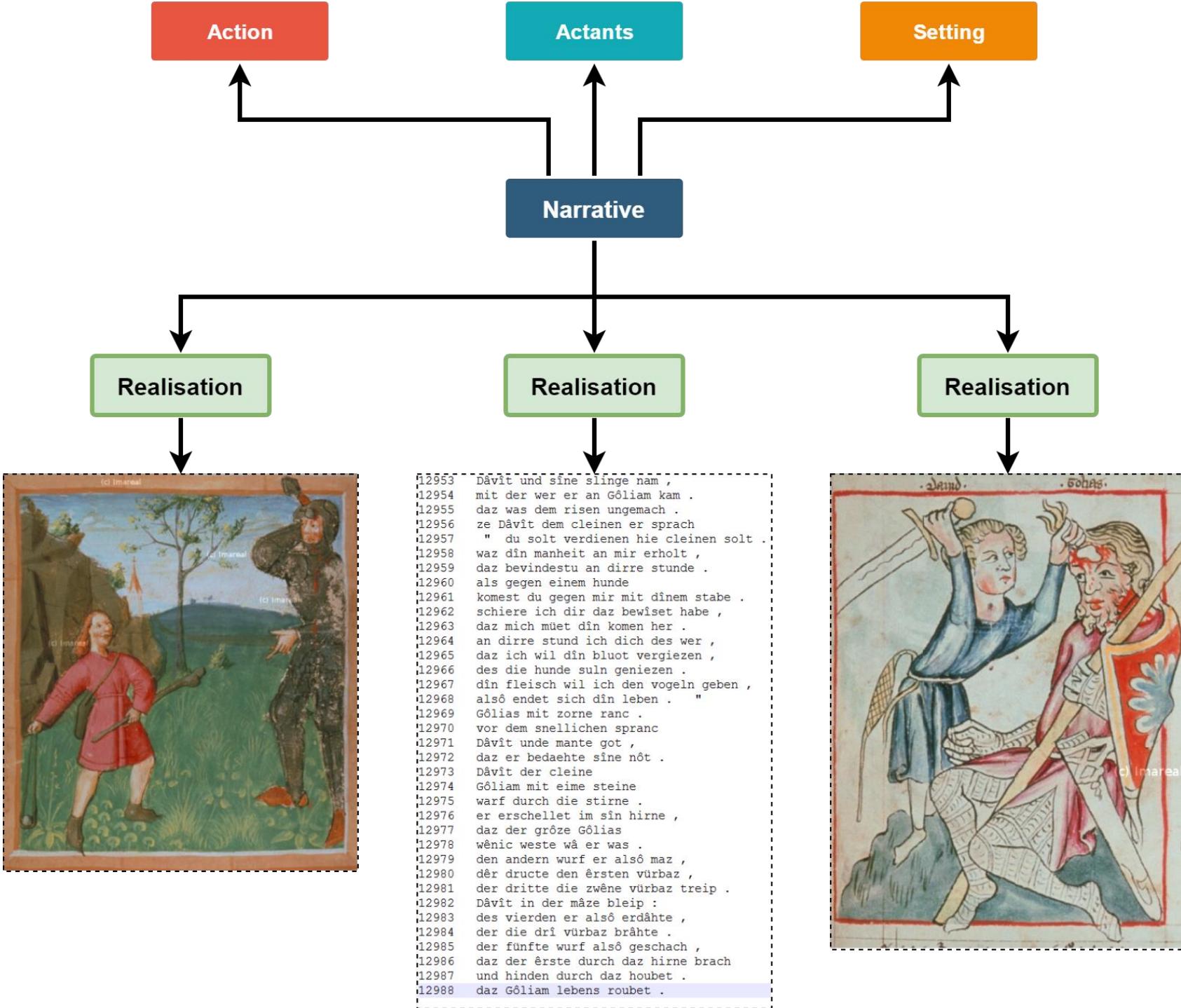
- There is no strict definition
  - an approach that focuses on events and sequences seems promising to us for the exploration of narratives in image and text
- related terms include
  - motive, topic modelling, story ...

# Modelling Narratives

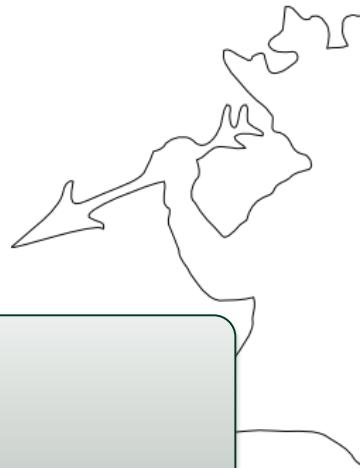


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# ONAMA Narrative



## Thematic Role

### Actant

### Setting

### Predicative

Causer

Participator

Under  
-goer

Agent

Stimulus

Benefacti  
ve

Experien  
cer

Possessor

Recipient

Patient

Theme

Causal

Local

Modal

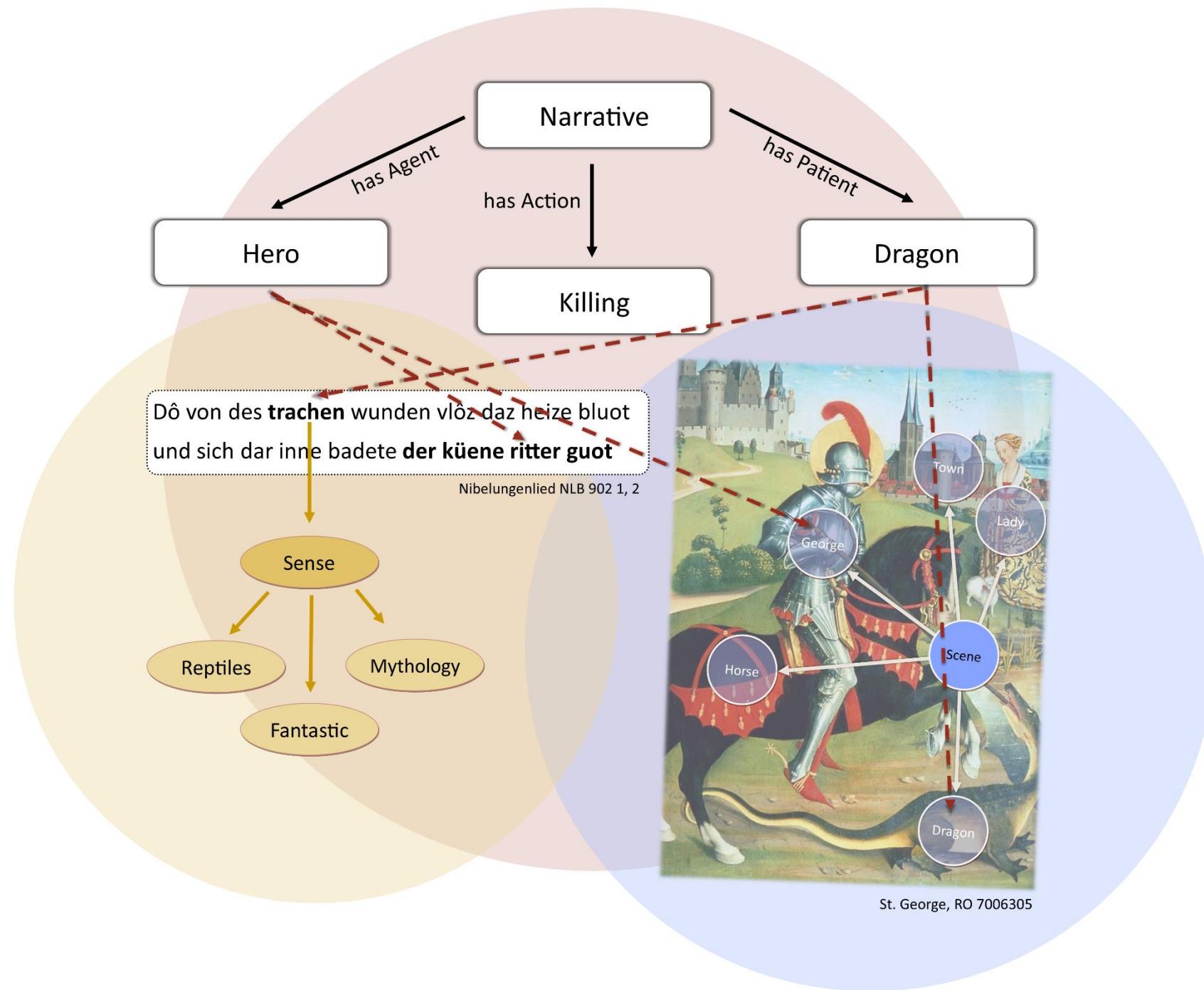
Temporal

Dimensio  
n

Goal

Place

Source



# ONAMA



Mittelhochdeutsche  
Begriffsdatenbank

# realonline

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