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Narrative Form and Content in Post-national Governance - The Case of Political Mythology

Vince Della Sala

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Vince Della Sala, University of Trento

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Kontakt:

WiSo-Forschungslabor
Von-Melle-Park 5
20146 Hamburg

E-Mail: experiments@wiso.uni-hamburg.de

Web: <http://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/forschung/forschungslabor/home/>



Narrative Form and Content in Post-national Governance: The Case of Political Mythology

Vince Della Sala | University of Trento

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Abstract

The paper draws from narrative theory to establish a cleared understanding of what we mean by narrative and how it may help us to understand social phenomena. It argues that the recent interest in narrative in the social sciences has emphasized narrative content but not necessarily narrative form. The paper argues that narrative form can help us understand how political actors understand and shape the social world. It can also help us understand why some narratives are more successfully in shaping social world will others are not. It does this by looking at political myth in transnational governance. More specifically, it looks at the European Union’s foundational myth and its limited success in establishing a cognitive and normative map that gives meaning to governance in the EU.