Different Narratives, Different Stories: The Language of Narrative and Interpretation

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Abstract
The establishment of nation-states has created along an official history which has a certain type of narrative. In Cyprus, there are two main, supposedly opposing, official narratives. These histories function for both the Turkish and Greek Cypriots with their own narratives as identity constructions.

This paper will examine how narratives produce different stories. As Yiannis Papadakis has demonstrated in Perceptions of History and Collective Identity: A Comparison of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Perspectives, the official Greek Cypriot narrative focuses on the period of 1955-1960 and 1974, while the official Turkish Cypriot narrative focuses on the events of 1963-1967. As a result, although the two narratives are different in terms of their focus, they are similar in terms of the used methods and definitions.

Keywords: Narrative, official narrative, selective memory, memory and forgetting, language, totality, Other.