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Preface

In the last few decades, the field of narrative studies has been vastly enriched by a wide spectrum of original studies in the philologies, the social sciences, and the arts, including linguistics, history, theology, art history or psychology. And it has also seen a growing number of attempts to survey and summarize the results of such studies in the form of handbooks or encyclopedias. In this background, the present *Handbook of Narratology* of Hamburg University Press is a welcome addition to the field. The 32 entries present international research regarding the theories, methods, and concepts of narratology in the form of original articles structured in a parallel manner: each entry starts with a concise definition followed by a more detailed explanation of the term in question and then proceeds, in its main part, to a detailed description and critical discussion of the various positions, and controversies in their historical development, concluding with topics for further research and a select bibliography. The articles will subsequently be made available as an online version of the *Handbook* on the Internet by Hamburg University Press. The articles will be updated and new articles made available at regular intervals, both in the printed and in the online versions.

This handbook grew out of the work of the Narratology Research Group at Hamburg University (2001–2007) and the Interdisciplinary Center for Narratology (founded in 2007).

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