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<https://doi.org/10.35765/hw.2025.2570.01>

Data zgłoszenia: 05.05.2025

Data akceptacji: 07.05.2025

Data publikacji: 30.06.2025

## ***Editorial: Stories That Unite, Stories That Divide***

Over the past few years, the word “narrative” has appeared several times on the covers of “Horizons of Education”. Each time, we closed the issue with a sense of dissatisfaction and the conviction that the considerations that we had undertaken, certainly, had not run out the topics that interested us. Therefore, handing in this issue to you, we return with great joy once again to the reflection on narrative.

Some of the articles that can be found in this issue are inspired by the 9th Conference of Narrative Psychology „Stories that unite, stories that divide”. The conference, held at the Ignatianum University in Cracow on September 2023, was an event during which we were looking at both the adaptive and maladaptive facets of narrative, as well. Meeting with psychologists – both practitioners and theoreticians, as well as representatives of other scientific disciplines, was an extraordinary opportunity to delve into the area of the “power and shadows” of narrative. The intention of these meetings, and then the thematic editors of this issue, was to seek answers to questions about when the narrative thinking allows constructing a more authentic, nuanced vision of the world, and supports harmonious coexistence, and when it deepens the divisions between people.

The articles in this issue take up the threads initiated during the conference, but they are not limited to this perspective. Narration, as Urszula Tokarska rightly notes in her text, is understood in social sciences as one of the forms of the communication process, its product, and the structure of understanding the world. The texts included in this volume refer to each of these approaches to narrative and also analyze different narrative forms.

Every story needs a listener/reader – so we count on you, as recipients and co-creators of the voices presented in this issue.

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