

HERE WE GO 'ROUND IN CIRCLES

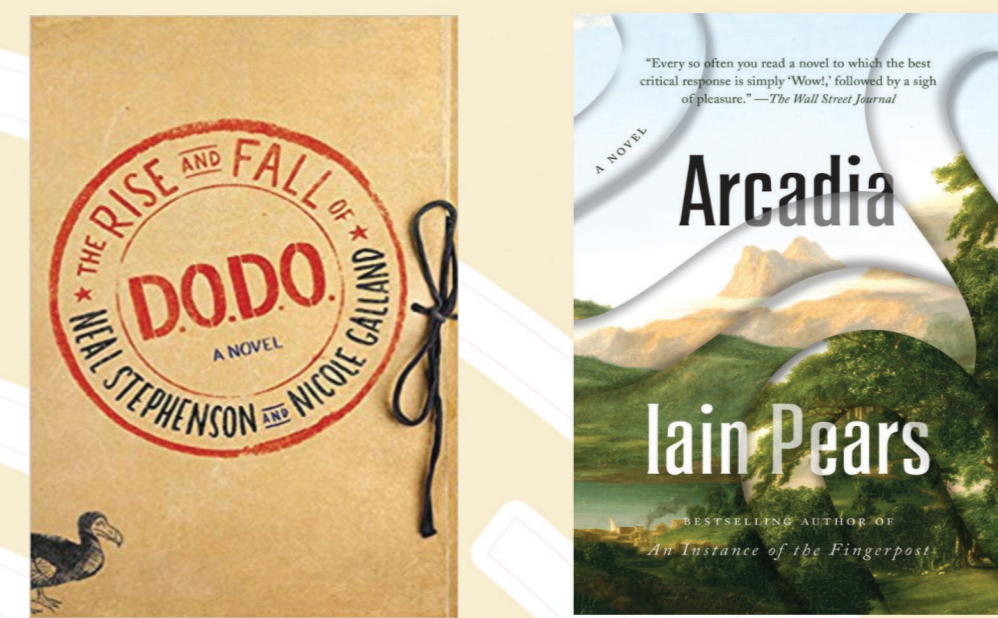
Circular Narrative as a New Form of Story Structure

1. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH:

There is a current gap in the narratological knowledge base, existing between the polarities of linear/non-linear narrative and unnatural narrative. I have discovered a new type of narrative typology that exists in this in-between entitled *circular narrative*.

Circular narrative emphasizes the use of *teleological retrospect*, *structural coincidence*, *anagnorisis* and *denouement* as its narrative building blocks.

2. PRIMARY SOURCES:



6. SIGNIFICANCE:

Circular Narrative is a distinct typology worthy of being studied that has largely been overlooked in narratology studies. As a whole, many yet-to-be-discovered typologies exist between the polarity of linear/non-linear and unnatural storytelling.

Circular Narrative is only example of new narrative typologies to be discovered, defined, and submitted to the academic field as a legitimate area for future exploration.

5. IN FAVOR OF CIRCULAR NARRATIVE:

"Such a timeline partially mimes but ultimately transforms the linear chronology of everyday existence; it always returns to and departs from its origin which is also its conclusion."

Alber, Jan. *Unnatural Narrative: Impossible Worlds in Fiction and Drama*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2016. p159. Print.

"A narrative can circle back on itself, as the last sentence becomes the first sentence, and thus continues for eternity."

Richardson, Brian. "Unnatural Stories and Sequences." *A Poetics of Unnatural Narratives*. Edited by Jan Alber, et. al., The Ohio State University Press, 2013, pp. 16-30.

4. METHODOLOGY:

+ Using a structuralist and narratological framework, *circular narrative* typology will be defined and examined in singular works of fiction as well as multi-volume series according to the four building blocks set forth.

3. BUILDING BLOCKS OF CIRCULAR NARRATIVE

+ Teleological Retrospect

Teleological retrospect is the act of looking back on an event from a future point in time.

+ Structural Coincidence

Structural coincidences are events or persons whose significance grows over the course of a plot as they intertwine with other plot points or characters leading up to a point of recognition.

+ Anagnorisis

Anagnorisis, or the 'point of recognition,' as coined by Aristotle is where the events or character identities woven into a story via structural coincidence come together, revealing a more complex context or making sense of seemingly unrelated story elements.

+ Denouement

Generally associated with the 'end' of a work, but more accurately, the point where all plots are wrapped up in a narrative.



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