

RoRI NARRATIVES project



- **Team members:** Judit Varga, Wolfgang Kaltenbrunner
- **Timeline:** May 2023 to July 2025
- **How are narrative CVs are used in competitive grant funding evaluation panels?**
 - How do Narrative CVs impact review practices over consecutive funding rounds?
 - How are funders' instructions taken up?
- **Cases:** 3 **funders**, 2 disciplines, 2 career phases, over time
 - **3 funding schemes:** NWO Rubicon grant (early career), SNSF Ambizione grant (early career), Volkswagen Foundation Momentum grant (professors)
 - **2 disciplinary** categories (Social Sciences & Humanities AND Natural Sciences)
 - **2 subsequent rounds**
- **Methods:** panel **meeting observation, interviews** with a subset of **panel members (reviewers)**, and **review of a sample of CVs**

Narrative CVs' impact and uses

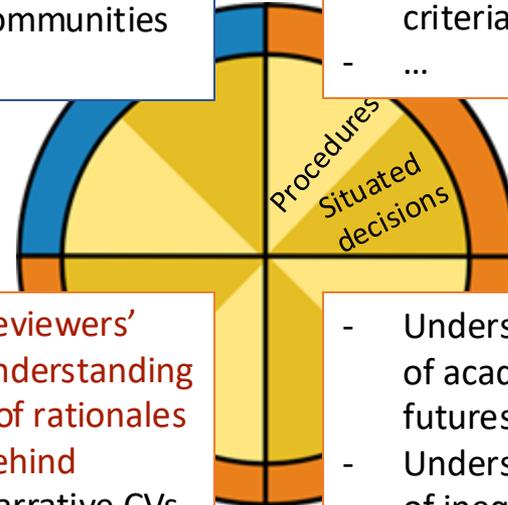
- Narrative CVs prompt reviewers to articulate new scientific virtues, activities and contributions. Across our case studies, we found various examples:
 - **Resisting** the idea to not assess journal prestige/publication counts
 - **Being surprised** about applicant's **collaborative** approach
 - **Noting** applicant's interdisciplinarity
 - **Appreciating** contributions to **academic culture**
 - **Hesitating about traditional** assessment of **excellence**
 - **Valuing non-academic experiences; leadership and management** approach; **self-reflection** and **coherent story-telling; vulnerability and resilience** in narratives
- However, **how** these articulations **happen, unfold,** and **the extent to which they get valued depend on** the broader **context**

Narrative CV use in context

- Our framework: map factors that impact CV use based on our empirical study & theoretical research
- 4 + 1 dimensions
 1. Practices related to **evaluative categorisation**
 2. Practices related to **changing academic hierarchies**
 3. Practices related to **change management**
 4. **Key actors**
- + **Mode of engagement** with the contingency of evaluation:
procedures / situated decisions

- Panel composition
- Panel chairs
- Researcher communities
- ...

- CV format and relevance of info for reviewers
- New evaluative criteria
- ...



- Reviewers' understanding of rationales behind Narrative CVs
- Managing resistance
- ...

- Understandings of academic futures
- Understandings of inequalities in the academic system
- ...

Reviewers' understandings of rationales behind Narrative CVs

- **Procedures or/and values** behind adoption of Narrative CVs?
- **Procedural:** e.g. Narrative CVs as a purely methodological intervention, independent of broader considerations of academic culture. E.g.
 - DORA as a narrow intervention counter journal impact factors, or
 - DORA as a policy to ban all evaluative uses of quantitative metrics
- **Values, e.g.:**

*“Help those **hidden champions (...)** to tell their stories” (Interviewee_10)*

*“And then I very strongly argued against one particular applicant that looked great on the numbers, but in the back of his [CV] like **this is this is toxic work environment squared**. I mean (...) we don't want more of this. We want less of this!” (Interviewee_6)*

Follow-up & future opportunities

- **UKRI project** *Everything we (think) we know about narrative CVs*
- **CWTS service project: Help organizations** (universities, funders) **prepare for the introduction of narrative CVs**, using a train-the-trainer approach
 - State-of-the-art of narrative CVs, available formats and technicalities
 - Address broader debates about reform in research evaluation
 - Instruct program officers/research managers how to deal with challenges in the implementation, e.g. critique and resistance
 - ...