"The present issue of the journal "Sprache und Datenverarbeitung" is part of a renewal of the field about formal or computational models of narrative. As part of the research project What makes stories similar? funded by the John Templeton Foundation, we organized the 2013 edition of the CMN workshop series in Hamburg as a satellite event to the 35th meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Berlin. We used this opportunity to invite the leading researchers of the renewed research field to contribute to a special issue that gives an overview of the current state-of-the-art with its methodological and historical background and answers some natural questions that readers who look at the research area from the outside might have. The special issue brings together researchers from different areas in formal and computational models of narrative (narrative generation, planning, corpora) and shows emerging trends (network analysis) and challenges from other narrative sciences (cognitive psychology, narratology). It also discusses an aspect of the impact the research in the field has (military)." (Vol. 37/1-2, Introduction)