

You are cordially invited to the lecture:

"Unnatural Endings and the Theory of Endings"

by

Prof. Brian Richardson
(University of Maryland)

Thursday, March 15th
16:00
Webb building, 401
Tel Aviv University

The talk discusses some problems in conventional theories of ending, particularly those associated with Aristotle and Peter Brooks. It explores several varieties of unnatural ending in contemporary narratives. These can be identified in the works' fabulas, in their sjužets, and in performance. The lecture touches upon various kinds of unnatural ending: the non-ending of a narrative whose last words return the reader to the text's beginning and thus continues on infinitely; the ending that erases itself and takes a different fork; and multiple, incompatible endings, and other unnatural forms. The talk concludes with outlining the theoretical implications of these extreme endings.

Prof. Brian Richardson is a leading international scholar in the fields of narrative theory, modernism/postmodernism, and the history of the novel. Much of his work has been engaged with narrative theory as he attempted to expand existing models to be able to incorporate more radical techniques and practices of modern and postmodern experimental fiction. He is the author of the books: *Unlikely Stories: Causality and the Nature of Modern Narrative* (1997), *Unnatural Voices: Extreme Narration in Modern and Contemporary Fiction* (2006), *Unnatural Narrative: Theory, History, and Practice* (2015). For his biography and a complete list of publications, please visit:

<https://www.english.umd.edu/profiles/brichardson>