

Why do we tell the stories?

Why do we tell the stories? What is the impact of stories on relationships, on those who tailor them, and those who listen to them? Storytelling, i.e. creating stories or the art of tailoring the stories, has not only accompanied mankind since the dawn of history, but is also one of the most frequently undertaken topics in the humanities and social sciences.

The work of authors such as Pinker, Boyd, and Gottschall, and Harari led to heated discussions among scientists about the role of storytelling in human evolution. Does storytelling give an advantage in intra-group competition? Is it an adaptation at the individual level or group level? Does storytelling play a role in transmission of survival-relevant informations? Or maybe it increases social cohesion? It is a surprising fact that all these considerations are based very little on empirical data and much more on guesswork, assumptions, and individual observations.

Therefore, as part of the project, we will test the basic and, at the same time, the most important hypotheses about storytelling in the field of evolutionary, cultural and social psychology, which have never been empirically tested before. The research will be carried out in traditional populations, where this type of project is justified not only due to the type of population, but also because storytelling is an important part of the life of indigenous tribes.