



Avril TYNAN

From Finland to France



Project: **Ethics and aesthetics of narrative representations of dementia in contemporary French fiction**

Research topic: **Humanities**

Finnish Institution: **University of Turku**

French Institution: **University of Bordeaux Montaigne**

Dates of mobility: **05/02/2022 to 11/02/2022**

Program: **Maupertuis Programme (SMR)**



PRESENTATION

[Avril Tynan](#) is a postdoctoral researcher in comparative literature at the [University of Turku](#) and the [SELMA](#) Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory. Avril Tynan has published widely on representations of dementia, ageing, memory and death in francophone and anglophone literatures, including in *Storyworlds*, *Narrative Works* and the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*. In her research, she focuses on hermeneutic and interpretative approaches to literature to show how experiences of illness, ageing and death may be represented and understood through narrative.

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

The aim of the research visit was to establish a better understanding of the work currently being conducted at the [Universities of Bordeaux](#) and [Bordeaux Montaigne](#), including the Diplôme Universitaire médecine narrative – the first such programme in France – and the role of the literature department in medical humanities and narrative medicine research and teaching.

Based at the SELMA Centre, Finland, Avril Tynan aimed to use this short research visit to the [Université Bordeaux Montaigne](#) to develop concrete plans for collaboration between [Plurielles](#) and SELMA, including symposia, seminars and research funding. She had the opportunity to participate in meetings, events, teaching and a tour of the [Institut de Médecine Intégrative et Complémentaire](#) (IMIC) at the Xavier Arnozan hospital in Bordeaux, directed by Prof. [François Tison](#). Avril Tynan continues to work with [Dr Isabelle Galichon](#) on a European funding application on narratives of chronic illness.