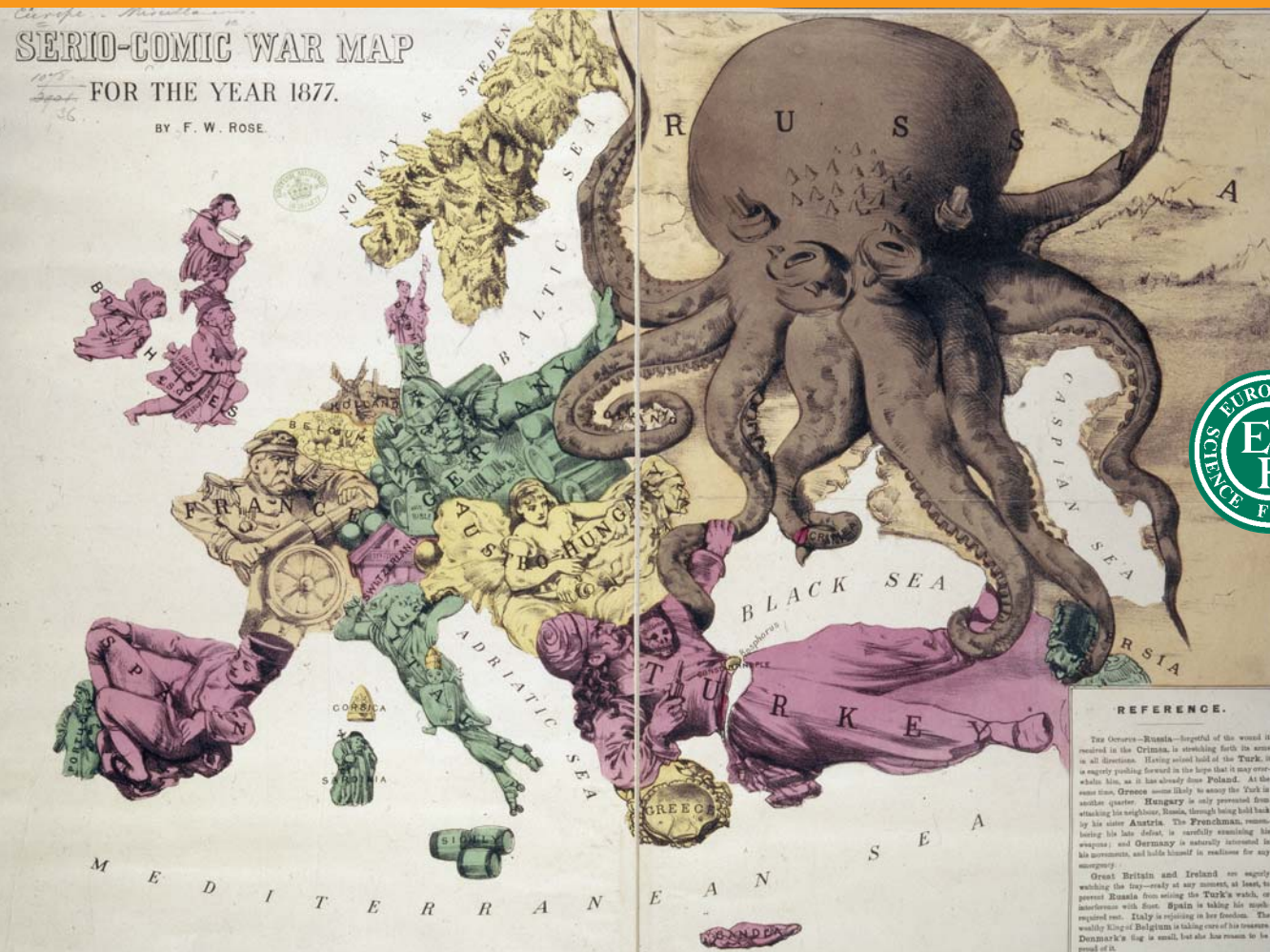


Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Europe



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Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Europe

NHIST Programme Annual Newsletter, 1 (2004)

Contents

Editorial:	2
On a path to success – NHIST in its first year	
<hr/>	
Keynote text:	3
National historiography as a transnational object	3
<hr/>	
Workshop and team reports	5
Team 1: Institutions, Networks and Communities	5
Team 2: Narrating National Histories	8
Team 3: National Histories and its Interrelation with Regional, European and World Histories	9
Team 4: Overlapping National Histories	11
<hr/>	
NHIST news	15
Steering and Executive Committee meetings	15
Travel and exchange grants	15
NHIST panel at the European Social Science History Conference	16
First cross-team conference	17
Publication plans	18
NHIST Steering Committee and Team Leaders	19

Editorial

On a path to success – NHIST in its first year

Stefan Berger and Linas Eriksonas

The NHIST has got off to a successful start. The programme was launched in May 2003 at the European Science Foundation's (ESF) headquarters in Strasbourg with the support of research agencies from 20 countries in Europe.¹ During the following summer months preparations were made to organise the first round of workshops that took place in November 2003. The meetings helped to consolidate the core groups of dedicated researchers clustered around the four major teams of the programme (for details see the programme brochure and website).

This newsletter will report on the first workshops and give an overview of the activities of all four NHIST teams throughout the first year of the programme's existence. Since its inception the NHIST has made every effort to involve the widest possible number of scholars working on the writing of national histories in a comparative and transnational way from all parts of Europe (see Figure 1). Contacts have been established and maintained with scholars from almost all European countries; from Iceland to Slovenia, from Luxembourg to Finland. Two articles penned by Professor Stefan Berger, NHIST Chair, and Professor Ilaria Porciani, leader of Team 1, introducing the programme to the wider community of scholars have appeared or are forthcoming in *Debate. A Review of Contemporary German Affairs* and in *Passato e Presente*.² Also, to improve the visibility of the programme a panel was organised at the 5th European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) in Berlin, which featured Stefan Berger, Christoph Conrad, Linas Eriksonas, Chris Lorenz and Guy P. Marchal.³ This newsletter includes a much abridged version of Christoph Conrad's keynote paper 'National Historiography as a Transnational Object' presented on that occasion.



Figure 1: Country of origin of scholars contributing to the NHIST programme.

NHIST has sought to expand its reach not only among individual scholars but also among major European networks of academic excellence in the field of history and related disciplines. Thus, contacts have been successfully established with prominent academic networks such as CLIOHnet, EUROHIST, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, and Central European University/Pasts Inc., Budapest. Further afield the NHIST has sought contacts outside Europe and made itself known in the Far East through the South East Asia National History Group in Tokyo and Seoul. In order to put the European experience of national history writing in a more global setting arrangements have been made to organise a panel at the world historical congress in Sydney in the summer of 2005. The panel itself will not be an ESF event; it will be organised under the remit of the International Committee of the Historical Sciences. However, the committee's acceptance of our panel proposal should be regarded as a major success. The panel will, after all, constitute a unique opportunity to develop global perspectives on the theme of the NHIST programme featuring papers on South and North America, Australia, the Far East, Africa and Europe. The aim of this event is to promote the NHIST on the international scene, and to place its agenda at the foreground of international academic collaboration.

Within Europe the NHIST has worked towards bridging the void between scholars in the West and in the East. Each team has attempted to integrate scholars from central and eastern Europe and the teams are still in the process of extending their reach eastwards.

¹ Currently the NHIST is supported by the following countries (listed in alphabetical order): Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Spain and Luxembourg will be among the contributing countries from 2005.

² Stefan Berger, 'Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Europe', in: *Debate. A Review of Contemporary German Affairs* 12:1 (2004), pp. 73-96; Ilaria Porciani, 'Le Storiografie nazionali nello spazio europeo', in: *Passato e Presente* (Sept./Oct. 2005, forthcoming).

³ For the panel programme see <http://www2.iisg.nl/esshc/programme.asp>

Overcoming the cold war divide between historians of western and eastern Europe remains one of the main priorities and commitments of this programme. This was confirmed at both steering committee meetings in Strasbourg and Glamorgan (May 2003 and May 2004). A brief report about both meetings and the executive group meeting in Amsterdam (January 2004) will provide a summary of the major decisions taken by the governing body of the NHIST. The newsletter also contains brief reports about the first round of travel and exchange grants awarded by the NHIST in the spring of 2004, about the NHIST panel session at the 5th European Social Science History Conference in Berlin, and about the first cross-team conference organised by Professor Stefan Berger and Dr Linas Eriksonas at the University of Glamorgan in May 2004. It concludes with a brief report about future publication plans of the NHIST programme. The topic of national history writing in Europe is one that excites many scholars from different disciplines right across Europe (and beyond), and we look forward to further networking with these scholars over the coming years.

Keynote text

National historiography as a transnational object

Christoph Conrad

In her book on national identities in nineteenth century Europe, Anne-Marie Thiesse starts from a paradox: 'Nothing is more international than the formation of national identities' (Thiesse 1999, p. 11). The surprise effect of this formulation captures a point of view that is also put forward in this contribution and, more generally, in the NHIST project. Turned into a research programme the paradox involves a great challenge and a vast ambition. It means distancing oneself from the position of uniqueness that every nationalism presupposes and, at the same time, thinking about the history of individual nationalisms only in their interaction with other nationalisms as well as with parallel processes of transnationalisation.

The question is how to do a history of national historiographies that lives up to these expectations. Possible answers may be derived from the vibrant intellectual debate during the last 15 years, surrounding three consecutive approaches: first, the comparative method; second, the history of transfers and interactions (called differently in the various national contexts: *les transferts culturels*, «shared histories», *Beziehungsgeschichte*); and third, transnational and global histories. Although these approaches are neither internally homogeneous nor isolated from each other I will characterise them separately, then point out some of their problems, and finally sketch some propositions for future work. All this is focused on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Approaches

Historical comparison is first of all a methodology, or rather a set of analytical vistas and techniques. It is often identified with the social sciences but also has roots in the comparative study of languages, literatures, laws and constitutions, and religions – sub-disciplines that were established in the nineteenth century. One does not need to explain here the importance of historians such as Marc Bloch, Otto Hintze or Henri Pirenne who translated the impulses from the neighbouring disciplines into large historical research programmes. Like social and structural history in general, historical comparison has more recently come under attack from various strands of 'newer' histories such as microhistory, cultural history, the renewed preference for narratives and individual actors. However, one simple observation should be emphasised: in spite of some criticism and doubt, comparative history is alive and kicking. Not only in social and political history, but also in intellectual and cultural history a number of recent monographs comparing two, three or even four nations (Connelly 2000, Leonhard 2001, Lingelbach 2003) underline the impressive potential of this approach.

Les transferts culturels, the history of relationships and interactions, migrations and transfers is, in the first place, an object, or a family of objects, for historical analysis. It has developed through impulses from literary and cultural studies, from the history of education, language, and cultural practices. Case

4 Keynote text – National historiography as a transnational object

studies focus on the phenomena and representations left out by the research agenda of social science history of the 1970s and 1980s, and they put forward a research programme to transcend borders and to stress the limits of methodological nationalism. Many examples of this approach can be found among Franco-German cultural history of the nineteenth and early twentieth century (Espagne 2000).

The most recent arrival on the scene is *transnational history*. This eclectic approach has been influenced most prominently by post-colonialism and cultural studies. It emphasises the entanglement of histories of colonisers and the colonised, metropolises and peripheries and it prefers *metisage* or hybridity to the juxtaposition of neat national cases and clear borders. This is a point where method meets substance (Kocka 2003). Such studies take the historical reality of globalisation seriously. They start from the fact of hegemony and dominance and lead to reconstructions of appropriation, subversion, resistance and interconnectedness. These approaches pose a serious intellectual challenge to all social and human sciences. They in particular allow the empire finally to come home (Hall 2002). The multi-ethnic empires of continental Europe (Habsburg, Russian, German, and Ottoman) are attracting new attention alongside the overseas empires.

Problems

We can be brief on the problems since they are widely discussed among the protagonists of the three approaches themselves (for example Kaelble and Schriewer 2003, Werner and Zimmermann 2003). Comparative history has rightly been criticised for predominantly pursuing the analysis of different countries and thus corroborating and essentialising the nation-state or the national society as the basic unit of, for example, European, history. Today we see clearer that the transfer approach has also stayed trapped inside the national (often bilateral) mould. Moreover, ‘transfers’ can certainly be observed but the very word is rather misleading. These studies are more interested in transformation, reception, refusal or misunderstanding of cultural phenomena than in real transfers where an object is transported from A to B. As a consequence, notions of circulation, networks

and hybridity have come to replace the older language of exchange and influence. More seriously, the post-colonial challenge has raised the question of hegemony. ‘Shared histories’ or *Beziehungsgeschichten* too often appear power-blind and conflict-averse. The history of international relations as well as the recent study of nationalisms speak another language of conflict, racism and mutual traumatism.

The methodological toolbox of comparison has proved resilient and irreplaceable for transnational history whereas the history of *les transferts culturels* has not replaced historical comparison as Michel Espagne erroneously predicted in the 1990s. The latter has, however, helped comparative historians to become more sophisticated and encompassing. The protagonists of transfers have been challenged seriously by more ambitious attempts to develop an *histoire croisée*, an interconnected exploration of points of view, objects, and concepts, that flirts with radical constructivism (Werner and Zimmermann 2003). The monographs that would realise such ambitions for more than one country or society are still lacking. Current research projects on bilateral intellectual history that attempt to reconstruct the ‘totality of mutual references’ seem more likely to create big headaches than huge comparisons.

Outlook

The study of cultural exchanges and circulation has tremendously enriched comparative and transnational historical analysis. The number of conferences and projects in early modern and contemporary history is impressive; the objects of curiosity are innumerable. The good news is that these methodological advances have successfully been applied to historiography as an object of comparative, connected and even transcultural studies. The entities and levels of analysis are manifold: individual authors and works, methodologies, historical schools, institutions of higher education or research as well as national ‘master narratives’ can be put into comparative and interactive frameworks (see the examples in Conrad and Conrad 2002, Fuchs and Stuchtey 2002). The results change our perception both of the historical actors, our predecessors as historians, archivists, writers, on the

one hand, and of our own ‘tacit knowledge’ and of the categories that we use to tell our own stories, on the other hand.

After 15 years of discussion, future work may be happily eclectic. The three approaches have proved their critical edge but they are better understood as cross-fertilizing than as competing. But crossing the borders between them has been difficult in large areas of intellectual and institutional history and in a number of countries. But even local, regional and national groundwork gets a different twist when conceived as part of a larger market of ideas and models. Against the horizon of this comparative, interactive and transnational enterprise two questions or themes seem to emerge, one daunting, the other ironic. On the one hand we will soon be asked how constellations of shared, entangled history or *histoire croisée* can be compared among each other. *Comparing relationships* could become the next frontier. On the other hand we might want to somewhat relativise the scramble for global and transnational approaches. Benedict Anderson’s influential description of a nation as an ‘imagined community’ can be usefully adapted to reconstruct the many instances of *imagined internationalism* – from mere good will to completely fake expertise – among Clio’s followers from 1800 to the very present.

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Workshop and team reports

The aim of the first workshops was to constitute teams and develop a work schedule for the future. This was vital in confirming the commitment of individual scholars to the programme. During the four workshops some 50 research proposals covering over 20 European countries were discussed at some length. Teams 1 and 2 collected papers into dossiers with workshop materials; Teams 3 and 4 prepared collections of extended abstracts. Most importantly the workshops helped the teams to get their immediate and longer-term goals set and agreed upon. Each team adopted a schedule of its activities for the period leading up to at least the mid-term of the programme in May 2005.

Team 1 – Institutions, Networks and Communities

Team Leader: Professor Ilaria Porciani (University of Bologna)

This team focuses on the social actors who construct national histories. It investigates, in particular, their networks, communities and institutions. It seeks to explain the relationship between the professionalisation of the historical discipline and the

6 Workshop and team reports

emergence of national histories during the last two centuries. The following six key areas of research were originally selected.

1. How do the institutionalisation and professionalisation of history shape the different national historiographies?
2. What is the role of historical institutions in the process of nation-building?
3. What is the role of specific networks of sociability and communication?
4. What impact did politics have on the institutionalisation of the historical discipline?
5. What was the contribution of exile institutions, networks and communities to the writing of national histories?
6. When, where and why did women enter the historical profession?

The main task of this team is to publish an 'atlas' of the institutions, networks and communities which were critical for the writing of national histories. The volume proposed will consist of a series of brief accounts and a chronology documenting the main developments in the professionalisation of history in each country listed. There will also be bibliographies of essential reading and maps. The second section of the volume will examine at greater length transnational and comparative questions. The atlas will provide essential information on the professionalisation of history and the role of institutions in that process. It will thus be an indispensable reference base for the entire project.

The title *Institutions, Networks and Communities for the National Histories: a European Atlas* is a paraphrase of Franco Moretti's innovative book *Atlas of the European Novel*. It hints at the interrelations between social and political spaces within the geography of the national historiographies.

The aim of the atlas is to compare the varying chronological patterns as well as institutional developments in different European countries and to examine, in particular, the following questions.

1. The diverse chronologies of the foundation and growth of national institutions for the writing of history in different countries.

2. More specifically we will explore the delay and 'backwardness of the centre' (*Verspätung des Zentrums*) in multinational empires in contrast to the precocious activity of networks in nations striving for political unity. The paradigmatic case of the Habsburg Empire can be compared with that of the Russian Empire and with Prussia's role in the Bund.
3. The importance of private networks in launching projects relevant to national history in countries where the nation state was relatively recent (for example, Belgium, Greece, Italy).
4. The role of the churches in accelerating or impeding the process of the construction of national histories.
5. The importance of exile institutions, networks and communities in the writing of national histories (for example, the Librairie Polonaise in Paris, the University of Boulder, Colorado and Santa Barbara during the cold war).
6. The role played by institutions founded abroad such as the Ecole Française de Rome and the Ecole Française d'Athènes or the German historical institutes.
7. The relatively early access of women to the writing of national history in countries with a strong national problem (such as Italy and Ireland) in contrast to their late entry to the historical profession in countries where strong historical institutions were supported by the nation state (for example, Prussia; the German Reich). The gender issue should not be studied separately. It should be an indicator of the general structure of the national historical profession.

Answers to these questions as well as general information about the diverse chronologies of the formation of national historical communities will be made more visible through detailed maps and graphs dealing with, for example, chairs of national histories in Europe; exile institutions; relevant historical museums; dates of publication of the first national master narratives; the effects of the opening of archives etc.

The first and more traditional part of the atlas will present separate chapters on political units (such as the Habsburg Empire) or individual nation states written by separate contributors. Each chapter will include: a short text highlighting the specificity of each case; a short chronology; and a short, essential bibliography. The second part will provide transversal maps and graphic representations relevant to the development of a comparative overview, and comparative essays.

The first workshop of Team 1 was organised by Professor Ilaria Porciani at Scuola Superiore di Discipline Umanistiche at the University of Bologna on 1 and 2 November 2003. The members of the NHIST steering committee, Professors Paolo Prodi and Jan Eivind Myhre, as well as the programme co-chairs Professors Christoph Conrad and Guy P. Marchal, were joined at this event by 20 participants from 16 countries, who gave papers on various institutions relevant to national history writing. The first workshop was devoted to the presentation of the programme by the members of the team as well as to an identification of the issues and topics to be dealt with.

The team formed a sub-group for preparing the final grid of the atlas. This five-person strong planning group consists of Mary O'Dowd, Gabriele Lingelbach, Mauro Moretti, Jan Eivind Myhre and Jo Tollebeek. From November until June 2004 this group refined the research areas for the atlas. Many other members of the team took part in a very lively on-line discussion and offered important contributions. At the first cross-team conference (University of Glamorgan, from 20 to 22 May 2004) the scheme of the atlas as well as the grid, which will be filled in by each contributor in order to collect data for the maps and graphs, were finalised and approved. The team has developed as a group and has fostered a good sense of mutual cooperation.

According to the established schedule, between June 2004 and September 2005 the members of the team will work on the individual chapters and answer specific questions in order to collect the information for the construction of the maps and graphs. In September-October 2005 a short article written by the team leader on the project as a whole (Ilaria Porciani, 'Le storiografie nazionali nello spazio europeo') will appear in the Italian journal *Passato e Presente*.

On 1 October 2004 a workshop was organised in Galway (local organiser: Professor Nicholas Canny, National University of Ireland, Galway); it was devoted to the discussion of the first results of the atlas and to the cartographic project. On 2 October 2004 a separate workshop, which was also organised in Galway and led by Ilaria Porciani and Mary O'Dowd, dealt with the issue of women in historical profession, and networks and communities relevant to the writing of national histories. The space and time span considered were very broad and truly European. In this sense the workshop opened up a new theme comparing women's advancement in the historical profession in very different situations.

The first session was devoted to the role of women in the nineteenth century in the production of history as correspondents of important historians and members of Academies in France and Italy (Casalena); as wives of leading figures such as Ranke (Boldt). We then moved towards the first steps of professionalisation and the writing of national histories considering the case of the first women historians at the London School of Economics (Pomata); in Switzerland (Herrmann); in Poland (Wierzbicka), in Ireland (Smith). The third session dealt with the interwar period and more precisely with the topic of the woman exile (Darby and Dauks) and the relationship between politics and historiography in the case of Greece (Gazi). The workshop then discussed more recent developments and considered the presence of women in the historical communities in Finland (Kaarninen and Kinnunen) and Bulgaria (Parusheva and Daskalova). Finally, as the organisations of women historians were critical in shaping the participation of women in scholarship and, in the long term, introducing a gender dimension to the writing of national histories in many countries, one of the papers explored these themes in relation to the cases of Italy and Spain (Scattigno). Ilaria Porciani introduced the workshop discussing recent literature and leading historians of the field such as Mary O'Dowd, Jo Tollebeek, Mary Nash and Ida Blom acted as discussants.

By the end of the year the papers of the workshop on women will be sent to the editors of *Storia della Storiografia* who will publish them in a monographic special issue (spring 2005).

The next workshop will be organised by Jo Tollebeek at the University of Leuven, Belgium, in the autumn of 2005. It will be devoted to (1) the institutions of national historiography (from the archives to university chairs; (2) its networks (from academies and other learned societies to international networks); and (3) its communities (from ethnic minorities to the persisting role of aristocracy in national historical writing). Each topic will be studied in a comparative way.

Team 2 – Narrating National Histories

Team Leader: Professor Chris Lorenz (Free University of Amsterdam)

The workshop of Team 2 took place in Cardiff from 7 to 9 November 2003. It was organised by Stefan Berger, Programme Chair, and Chris Lorenz, Team Leader. Maurice Bric attended this event as rapporteur for the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities. The event attracted 23 participants from 16 countries.

Since the Cardiff conference, Team 2 has been working hard on putting together a coherent volume on national master narratives and its alternatives (class, ethnicity and religion being the main ones; with particular attention focused on the gendering of national narratives) for the proposed five-volume book series. Chris Lorenz and Stefan Berger have been working on the concept of the book and have opted for a comparative makeup within each of the chapters, based on the interaction (for example, in terms of a friend-foe relationship, or in terms of a positive example) and transfer between national historiographies. Besides the comparative aims of the programme, clustering of national cases was necessary because a Europe-wide coverage was one of the team's aims, including many national historiographies that are largely unknown to the general reader as yet. Therefore several new authors have been attracted in order to attain this goal (while at the same time avoiding the 'Unesco principle' that every country must be involved at all costs regardless of the quality).

The book will begin with an introduction, dealing with the theoretical framework of the book, including the notion of master narrative. The second section contains four thematic chapters exploring the relations between the national and other master narratives across Europe. The third section will contain some 12 country comparisons of two or more European countries which will take account of processes of cultural transfer. This section will also contain a chapter on discontinuous states (for example Poland or Norway) and one on Jewish historiographies as an example of early transnational historiography in Europe. The book will conclude with a final chapter by the editors. The book as it is planned now consists of a team of authors representing 22 European states. For the makeup of the book at the moment see below:

Stefan Berger and Chris Lorenz (eds), *The Nation and its Other: Ethnicity, Religion, Class and Gender, 2006/7* (Volume 2 in the planned NHIST book-series).

Outline by chapter

- **Ch. 1.** Introduction: the nation and its other, by Stefan Berger (University of Glamorgan) and Chris Lorenz (Free University of Amsterdam)
- **Ch. 2.** Master narratives in national historical cultures in Europe, by Krijn Thijs (ZZF, Potsdam)

Part 1: Thematic overviews

- **Ch.3.** The nation and ethnicity, by Joep Leersen (Amsterdam)
- **Ch.4.** The nation and religion, by James Kennedy (Free University of Amsterdam)
- **Ch.5.** The nation and class, by Thomas Welskopp (Bielefeld) and Gita Deneckere (Gent)
- **Ch.6.** The nation and gender, by Jitka Malečková (Prague/New York)

Part 2: Europe and its nations: a comparative approach

- **Ch. 7.** Germany and France, by Stefan Jordan (Munich) and Alexandre Escudier (EHESS, Paris)
- **Ch. 8.** Great Britain and the British Isles, by Keith Robbins (University of Wales, Lampeter)

- **Ch. 9.** Scandinavia and Finland, Peter Aronsson (Linköping), Narve Fulsås (Tromsø), Bernard Jensen (Copenhagen) and Pertti Haapala (Tampere)
- **Ch. 10.** Netherlands and Belgium, by Marnix Beyen (Antwerp)
- **Ch. 11.** Switzerland, Germany and France, by Franziska Metzger (Fribourg)
- **Ch. 12.** Italy, Germany and France, by Mauro Moretti (Siena)
- **Ch. 13.** Spain and Portugal, by David Mota Alvarez (Salamanca) and Sérgio Campos Mattos (Lisbon)
- **Ch. 14.** Austria, Hungary, Czech and Slovak lands, by Gernot Heiss (Vienna), Pavel Kolář (Potsdam), Dušan Kováč (Bratislava) and Árpád v. Klimó (Berlin)
- **Ch. 15.** Russia and the other empires, by Alexei Miller (CEU Budapest)
- **Ch. 16.** Poland and the Czech lands, by Maciej Janowski (CEU Budapest)
- **Ch. 17.** The Baltics, by Vero Wendland (Leipzig)
- **Ch. 18.** The Balkans, by Mirela-Luminita Murgescu (Bucharest)
- **Ch. 19.** Greece and Turkey, by Hercules Millas (Athens)
- **Ch. 20.** Discontinuous nations in Europe, by Miroslav Hroch (Prague)
- **Ch. 21.** Jewish historiographies in Europe, by Ulrich Wyrwa (Berlin)
- **Ch. 22.** Conclusions, by Stefan Berger and Chris Lorenz

Apart from the primary aim of writing this book, the team is also exploring the possibility of putting together a volume of 'microhistorical' case studies on specific 'grand national narratives' and their respective authors (for example, Henri Pirenne in Belgium and Pieter Geyl in the Netherlands).

The next workshop will take place in conjunction with a larger conference on Theory and Historiography at the Central European University in Budapest from 21 to 24 October 2004. It will discuss chapter drafts of the planned volume and pave the way for the preparation of a full book proposal.

Team 3 – National Histories and its Interrelation with Regional, European and World Histories

Team Leader: PD Dr Matthias Middell (University of Leipzig), Professor Lluís Roura y Aulinas (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Team 3 held their first workshop in Leipzig from 21 to 23 November 2003. Twenty participants from 10 countries took part in this event. Professor Christoph Conrad attended this workshop on behalf of the programme co-chairs.

The team will organise its work through preparatory groups that will be planning the next workshops. All in all, three preparatory groups have been set up. The first group, to which Professor Anne-Marie Thiesse and Dr Irène Hermann belong, will prepare this year's Budapest workshop on the relationship between empires, nations and regions. This event will be organised in cooperation with Team 4 which is thematically very close to the agenda of this workshop.

This next major workshop, which takes place between 26 and 28 November 2004 in Budapest is entitled Imperial, National and Regional Historiography: Influence and Relationship. The aim of the workshop is to examine individual cases of regional and imperial history writing and their impact on national histories. The main question is whether regional and imperial historiographies simply represent the transfer of national historiography to a different level or whether they are totally different forms of representing the past. In this context one can also ask about the influence of national history writing on regional and imperial historiographies.

The planned workshop will address the outlined issues by looking at regional history writing from five possible perspectives, each of which presents a different angle of interpretation.

1. Regional histories could be seen as building blocks of national histories that are synthesised in a chronological and geographical manner; often, regional history could be dressed in the national robes by making the region a domain of a particular national history.

2. Regional history writing could be interpreted as an alternative to the nationalist school of history writing; in this case a region is presented on a par with the nation as an historical entity which has been contested by various nations throughout history.
3. In the cases of nations with imperial pasts, imperial historiography could be used as a matrix for writing national histories that are often the nationalised versions of earlier all-imperial narratives. In such cases one might ask about the relationship between national historiographies of a former imperial nation and a history-writing about that empire.
4. Imperial historiography could be moulded out of individual national histories describing the nations within the empire, and emphasising the specificity of individual national history writings; this also could be the result of thematic or methodological choices.
5. Regional or imperial history writing could be examined as an alternative and innovative way of representing the past occasioned by a new theoretical approach to national history and its limits. In this case imperial history writing could emphasise those agents in history that are not directly linked to political and narrative history.

The workshop will aim to test these theoretical considerations on individual cases. The contributors will be asked to consider the following aspects in analysing their selected imperial and/or regional history writings: (1) imperial history writers in the context of a wider historical culture of the analysed period; (2) the reach and influence of imperial history writings. Also, the publishing history of regional and imperial histories (including their estimated circulation numbers) will be considered together with the question about the dominant, 'privileged' regions in historiographical terms.

The second sub-group within Team 3, which consists of four team members, namely Sebastian Conrad, Matthias Middell, Hanna Schissler und Edoardo Tortarolo, will plan a workshop for September 2005 on world history in Europe and its relationship to the paradigm of national history. The workshop will take place in Leipzig in

conjunction with the first European Congress of World and Global History organised by Matthias Middell (for more details on the planned congress see www.uni-leipzig.de/zhs/ekwg). This will provide an opportunity to involve more external experts in the work of Team 3.

Finally, the third sub-group will organise a larger workshop in autumn 2006 on the complex issue of the relationship of key events and the canon of European history on the one hand and the territorialisation of historical representations on the other. It will be preceded by two smaller preparatory workshops due in 2005. The first of these will be held in Paris and will be organised by Professor Jean-Clément Martin. It will deal with the impact of the history of the French Revolution on the writing of national histories in Europe. The planning group for the third sub-group consists of the following team members: Professors Jean-Clément Martin, Lluís Roura, Antonis Liakos, Gunda Barth-Scalmani and Brigitte Mazohl-Wallnig.

After the First World War regional history has been a prominent feature in a new ethnohistory, so popular in the interwar period. This development will be critically assessed in a planned collection of essays that will analyse the role of regions in national history writing. Innovative concepts and methods such as the theory of cultural space and an interdisciplinary investigation of cultural space will be applied to the works of literary scientists, historians, ethnographers and geographers. As regarding the planned series, Team 3 will contribute with a volume on territorial alternatives to national history writing such as regional, imperial, European and world or global histories. These will be put in a chronological perspective where the changing relations between national history writing and other territorial descriptions of the past will be reflected. Especially, the incorporation of regions into national histories, or the tension between the two, during the process of 'nationalisation' of history in the late nineteenth century and in many European countries in the twentieth century will be analysed. The volume will also discuss how national histories have opened up towards the narratives of world history and the narratives that cover empires from around 1900 until the Second World War. In this context the use of regional history for the highly politicised national history after 1918 and the attempts to find a balance

between national history and transnational history, such as attempts to write European or global history in the 1920s, 1970s and 1990s, will be put under scrutiny as well. The names and the titles of the contributors to this volume will be discussed at the next workshop where a possibility of further research topics will also be explored.

Team 4 – Overlapping National Histories

Team Leaders: Dr Frank Hadler (GWZO, Leipzig) and Professor Tibor Frank (ELTE, Budapest)

Team 4 held their workshop in Leipzig from 28 to 30 November 2003. On behalf of the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities Professor Przemysław Urbanczyk attended this event as rapporteur. Professors Stefan Berger, Programme Chair, and Guy P. Marchal, Co-chair, were also present. Twenty-two participants from 14 countries gathered to discuss their potential contributions to the work of this team, which, like Teams 1 and 2, plans to focus initially on its volume for the planned five-volume book series. For the list of essays to be included in the volume the following rules were agreed upon: the essays shall focus on border areas; overlaps have to be conceived first of all in geographical terms; all essays must be transnational and comparative in their design; and the research essays shall be conceived as key studies and should have a geographical and thematic focus.

This team would start from the assumption that deep political crises as well as military conflicts leave an important mark on national histories. Virtually all national histories depend on the narration of heroic struggles, battles, wars and war heroes. They deal with hostile and aggressive neighbours, talk about national suffering and perceive national ‘destinies’ in the task of bridging various national traditions. Yet major victories for one nation were always defeats for others. Hence, what is urgently needed is a European map of narratives of mutual harm done by nation states to others, and the subsequent pattern of narrative ‘scar tissue’ emerging on this European map. Arguably that scar tissue played a major role in the interaction of nation

states in Europe, determined to a considerable extent the writing of national histories and dominated the memory space of European nations. In particular, where nations share common territories or where national ambitions conflict with multinational empires such scar tissue becomes a major characteristic in the description of one’s own history and that of the ‘other’. Identities are formed on the basis of distancing one’s own history from that of another. Borderlands and transitional geographical zones formed foci for a nation’s problems with its national identity and therefore alone deserve more sustained and detailed study. After all, a map of European regions probably would have very little in common with a map of European state borders at any time during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The team focuses on an exploration of the different ways in which national histories in Europe were interdependent. In multinational states and empires, a common past and a common territory could unite histories but it could also increase attempts to assert differences and construct borders. The team has identified three main areas of research: (1) The construction of ‘other’ nation states in the construction of one’s ‘own’ nation state; (2) territorial overlaps in different national histories; and (3) the impact of territorial changes on the construction of national histories.

1. The first major area of research analyses the ways in which the portrayal of ‘one’s own’ national history has almost always been bound up with the portrayal of ‘others’ against which ‘the own’ is subsequently defined. The team is asking whether national historiographies tended to compare the national development of their own country with that of others? Such comparison often took place within the framework of European history. In this context we find the development of certain models of ‘backwardness’. Especially in the discourse about central and eastern European nation states, notions of overcoming one’s own ‘backwardness’ could be very strong. Alternatively, we find notions of an undue exposure to ‘foreign’ manners, norms and behaviour allegedly destroying the national core. Nationalist histories often have their origins in attempts to delineate the specifics of one national history against that of another. For

example, national history writing in much of Europe received a great boost from the Napoleonic wars, as national movements started to define themselves and embarked on various projects to construct their national histories against the hegemonic claims of the French nation. A Russian nationalist discourse only really came into being in the second half of the nineteenth century as a reaction to the emerging Ukrainian and Polish nationalisms.

Furthermore, many, if not all, national histories showed a remarkable zeal in demonstrating the uniqueness (exceptionalism) of their particular nation states, leading to a historiography of special paths that often obscured the common characteristics of the European heritage. Many of these claims to uniqueness (exceptionalism) were connected to the notion that one's own nation was superior to other nations. The tradition of liberty and progress made Britain a 'better' nation than others and justified its 'civilising' mission in the Empire. French historians could lay claim to a universal mission in spreading their revolutionary values, whilst for their German counterparts, true culture, in opposition to shallow western European civilisation, could be represented only by German history. Yet not all definitions of one's own nation lived off a negative image of another nation. It is the task of this team to explore how far benign images of the other could also be an important ingredient in self-definitions.

Yet ideas of national uniqueness (exceptionalism), and superiority were almost always defined in contrast to negative counter-examples of nations that were somehow inferior. The celebration of German culture included the denigration of western European civilisation as well as Slav 'barbarity'. British notions of 'progress' were connected to the perceptions of others, notably Ireland but also to continental countries, as being 'backward'. The championing of ancient Rome in Italy often meant little respect for Germanic and Celtic cultures. The revolutionary traditions in France made all other nation states side-shows to the real progress of humanity that could, of course, take place only in and with France. Some of the central and east-central European nations suggested that they were culturally and/or socially

superior to their neighbours. Specific national characteristics thus entailed the repression and denigration of others, particularly as we go from west to east.

2. The second major area of research investigates territorial overlaps in different national histories; that is, geographical regions in which contesting national histories coexist. After all, several nations often share the same geographical memory space (for example Israel, Cyprus, Transylvania, Sudetenland). Within contested regions and borderlands questions of political and institutional power are often decisive for the victory of particular national histories over others.

In many of these cases national histories interact with each other: they compete for greater authority and authenticity. The history of one nation is intimately related to the history of the 'other' nation, as this 'other' shares the same territorial space. Questions to be asked include: (1) How was the history of neighbouring nations with overlapping territories portrayed in one's own national history? (2) What kind of relations were emphasised (war, peace, betrayal etc.)? (3) What stereotypes of other nations were readily available in national histories? Czech national histories, for example, contain many negative national stereotypes about the Germans, but some, especially early nineteenth century ones, were perfectly capable of distinguishing between Germans from the empire (referred to as 'our Germans') and foreign Germans.⁴

Interdependency of national histories sometimes becomes the very basis of these regions' identities (Alsace for example). In other cases, one identity can at times dissolve and become part of another (for example, Austrian history between 1938 and 1945 becomes de facto part of German history). Another important case is those people in Europe whose history never really had a firm spatial dimension, (namely, European Jews as well as the Sinti and Roma).

⁴ Miroslav Hroch and Jitka Malečková, 'The Construction of Czech National History', in: *Historiein* 1 (1999), p. 106.

In central and east-central Europe in particular, national history emerged within various multinational empires (the Habsburg, the Ottoman, and the Russian Empires are paradigmatic cases). Here, historiographies were often tied to particular dynasties and dynastic history produced many tensions to national history. Equally, pan-Slav or pan-Turkish ideologies were used to stabilise the Russian and Ottoman Empires. National histories could be combined with histories of the empire, they could be written as conscious alternatives to the empire and result in calls to destroy the empire, and in turn empire histories could be written against national movements.

In the first case, national histories were often encapsulated within the histories of the empire. One of the key problems that empire historians encountered was how to draw firm lines between core areas of the empire and its peripheries and how to describe the relationship between core and periphery. The integration of nations into empires formed a major theme of empire historians in the nineteenth century as did the delineation of national histories from empire and the construction of intellectual boundaries and borders for national historians. For example, the Habsburg rule and Habsburg attempts at state formation deeply influenced the emerging national historiographies in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire in the nineteenth century. One of the first major Czech national historians, Palacký, described periods of the rise and fall of the Czech nation almost exclusively in relation to the position of the Habsburg Empire, which he perceived as a body dominated by the German nation. Empire histories often strove to construct heroes and myths that different peoples in their respective empires could potentially identify with. As, by definition, they could not hope to exploit a national consciousness, they were trying hard to foster a common cultural consciousness that would in effect run counter to the powerful national sentiments. Thus, in nineteenth-century Russia, for example, one could be a Russian imperialist without being a Russian nationalist. Eventually, however, none of these efforts to put empire before nation succeeded against the strong pull of the nation in the

nineteenth century. A great number of stateless nations managed to construct convincing national narratives directed against empires or states purporting to be nations. Some failed. A comparative approach will shed light on the factors that allowed national histories to stake out a successful claim for a nation state.

3. The third area of research focuses on territorial change and its impact on national histories. Young nation states have often been part of older territories, and territorial changes are often reflected in the specific constructions of national history in those young states. Territorial changes cry out for new national histories. National histories also sometimes aggressively claim territories as their own which are not currently part of the territory of 'their' nation, thereby legitimating future moves to change borders. In Italy, for example, both Gioachino Volpe and Frederico Chabod were closely involved in justifying and even preparing ideologically Italy's expansionism in the 1930s. Geography was an important anchor for national identity, even where a country's border remained relatively stable over time.

In several European nation states we encounter references to nature as a prime force determining national character. In Switzerland, for example, we see the sustained construction of the notion of a 'mountain people' whose history is closely intertwined with the climatic and geographical nature of the Alps.⁵ New smaller states can emerge out of older empires (the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires; the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia), larger states can come about as a result of voluntary or enforced mergers between national or sub-national units (Spain, United Kingdom). In the second half of the twentieth century, several of these larger states have experimented to varying degrees with forms of devolution, and the impact of devolution on historiographical traditions needs to be analysed in comparative perspective. The construction of national histories out of different territories, some of which might be acquired at different times often involves teleological constructions which define a 'point

⁵ Oliver Zimmer, 'In Search of Natural Identity: Alpine Landscape and the Reconstruction of the Swiss Nation', in: *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 40 (1998), pp. 637-65.

of no return' from when on the development of the nation state in its present or aspired form was allegedly inevitable. Those notions are often connected with territorial constructions of a 'cradle of the nation'. In nations where this territorial cradle comes to lie outside the borders of the nation state, this can be particularly traumatic and lead to demands for a reconstitution of national borders.

Given the complex interrelationship between national histories and territorial change it will be virtually impossible to analyse one national history without taking into account others. Hence it is particularly important for this team to adopt an approach that focuses on the question of cultural transfers. Borderlands cutting across national boundaries were extremely receptive to the flow of transnational messages (for example,; Danube and Oder-Neisse regions, the Balkans). The intercultural dialogue within these regions needs to be explored more closely.

Based on the results of the first meeting in Leipzig, members of Team 4 are working on the draft of their papers for the upcoming meeting to be held in Budapest, from 26 to 28 November 2004.

The aim of the Budapest meeting is to come closer to a definition of the term 'overlapping national histories' and to prepare a volume on the topic within the planned NHIST-book series.

Many of the team members are dealing with conflicting perspectives on national histories in central Europe. Various overlapping problems concerning Polish history are tackled by Rafal Stobiecki (Łódź) focusing on Russian-Polish disputes and Jörg Hackmann (Greifswald) dealing with German-Polish overlaps. The Czech-German overlap after 1945 will be presented by Milan Řepa (Brno), the Austro-German before 1918 by Werner Suppanz (Graz). Tibor Frank (Budapest) is discussing the Hungarian-Romanian overlap in Transylvania. Frank Hadler (Leipzig) works on the national split of Czech and German historiographies in Moravia in the mid-nineteenth century. Monika Baár (Berlin) will present nineteenth century east-central European historians such as Mihály Horváth, Joachim Lelewel,

František Palacký and others in a comparative perspective. Different national historical perceptions of nature in the Alpine Region are presented in a paper by Jon Mathieu and Simona Boscani Leoni (Lugano).

Several team members are working on overlaps to be found in other parts of Europe. Niek van Sas (Amsterdam) will compare the historiographies of the Netherlands and Belgium in the formative years of Belgium. Ciaran Brady (Dublin) will discuss British versus Irish nationalism. Attention will be given to Iberian overlaps in a paper by Xosé Manoel Núñez Seixas (Santiago de Compostela). The struggle for mastery and national master narratives in northern Europe is part of the work of Ragnar Björk (Södertörns) dealing with Scandinavia. Ilkka Liikanen (Joensuu) and Ilja Solomesch (Petrozavodsk) focus on the Russian-Finnish overlap in Karelia. Jacob Barnai (Haifa) selected a topic outside of Europe, discussing the Christian versus Jewish historiography of the Holy Land.

Professor István Deák of Columbia University, New York and Robert J. W. Evans, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford University will act as commentators on all papers. Frank Hadler and Tibor Frank are the moderators of the Budapest meeting. This second meeting of Team 4 is organised by Tibor Frank.



NHIST co-chairs and ESF liaison officers: Guy P. Marchal, Monique van Donzel, Christoph Conrad, Stefan Berger, Madelise Blumenroeder – ESF headquarters, Strasbourg, 27 August 2004

NHIST news

Steering and Executive Committee meetings

The **first Steering Committee meeting** took place in Strasbourg in May 2003. It confirmed the programme's chair, co-chairs, and it elected an executive committee that would be able to take important decisions during meetings of the whole Steering Committee. For the first year, Professors Rolf Torstendahl (Sweden) and Nicholas Canny (Ireland) were elected to form the Executive Committee. It also agreed on the constitution of an executive group comprising all chairs, team leaders and members of the Executive Committee. The meeting furthermore discussed and endorsed all planned activities of the programme for its first year.

The **first Executive Group meeting** took place in Amsterdam on 17 and 18 January 2004. Professor Chris Lorenz acted as local organiser for this event. The meeting confirmed that as far as possible all further meetings, workshops and conferences will be organised in places of knowledge and research. Furthermore it discussed the progress of the four teams and planned the activities of the programme during 2004 and 2005. It also defined the role of the programme co-ordinator. The programme co-ordinator, Dr Linas Eriksonas, who is based at the University of Glamorgan, facilitates the communication between the scholars involved in this project and the representatives of national research agencies who make up the NHIST Steering Committee. The programme co-ordinator assists the chair and the Steering Committee in achieving the programme's aims and objectives. He takes care of day-to-day administration and is responsible for the full documentation of the NHIST. Furthermore, he produces documents for the Steering Committee meetings following an agenda agreed in advance with the ESF, attends Steering Committee meetings and writes minutes, organises scientific activities (workshops, cross-team conferences, exchange visits) in collaboration with the specific convenors responsible for each event and in liaison with ESF staff. He assists with the publication and dissemination of working papers, and prepares and

distributes the programme's newsletters. He also develops and maintains the content of an external website, acts as the day-to-day contact point for researchers concerning the programme and for the ESF office, and provides assistance to the chair and the co-chairs in the preparation of reports and other documentation. The programme co-ordinator maintains the archive of relevant materials for the programme. The ESF representative encouraged the programme chair to draft articles on the NHIST for the ESF's in-house journals *Communications* and *Reflections*. Overall, the Executive Group meeting was regarded by all participants as a vital event to prepare the annual Steering Committee meetings and a further executive group meeting was planned to take place in Barcelona in January 2005. Professor Lluís Roura y Aulinas will be the local organiser for this event.

The **second Steering Committee meeting** took place in conjunction with the first cross-team conference held at the University of Glamorgan in May 2004. It was extremely well attended. Fifteen representatives of national funding councils were present, as were all team leaders, the two co-chairs of the programme, the programme co-ordinator, with the programme chair presiding over the proceedings. The ESF Science Officer gave a budget report, and the chair, co-chairs and team leaders reported on the programme's progress during its first year. The planned activities of the programme for its second year were discussed and agreed nem con by the steering committee.

Travel and exchange grants

Early in 2004 the programme issued its first call for travel and exchange grants. Forty-nine applications from 22 countries in Europe were received, and 23 applications from 16 countries (12 of which are contributing to NHIST) will be funded following the decision of the Executive Group and the approval from the ESF.

List of short term grant awardees and their projects

1. Dr Silvia Cresti (Florence), *National Histories in the Jewish Press of Germany, France and Italy*

2. Dr Sérgio Campos Matos (Lisbon), *Historiography and Nation-Building in Contemporary Portugal and Spain* (together with David Mota Alvarez)
3. Ms Sigrid Dauks (Bremen), *Archival Research on German Émigré Female Historians in Denmark and Sweden*
4. Ms Maria Grazia Furnari (Florence), *Lost in Tradition: Field Day and the 'Mistress' Narrative of Irish Writing*
5. Dr Fotini-Effi Gazi (Thessaly), *Language and History in Greece*
6. Dr Markku Jokisipilä (Turku), *Writing Finish National History*
7. Dr Sonja Kmec (Luxembourg), *The Myth of Foreign Domination in Luxembourg Historiography*
8. Dr Peter Lambert (Aberystwyth), *Fritz Rörig, the Medieval Hanseatic Bürgertum and German Nationalism, 1919-1950*
9. Dr Jitka Malečková (Charles University, Prague), *Gender in National Histories*
10. Mr David Mota Álvarez, *Historiography and Nation-Building in Contemporary Portugal and Spain* (together with Sérgio Campos Matos)
11. Dr Dobrinka Parusheva (Sofia), *Patterns of Institutionalisation and Professionalisation of History in the Balkans*
12. Ms Svenja Ruhrberg (Bielefeld), *Narratives of Politics and Gender: The Example of German-language National Historiography in the 19th and Early 20th Century*
13. Ms Daniela Saxer (Zurich), *Visions of the Source: Practices of Historical Scholarship in Austria and Switzerland, 1840-1914*
14. Dr Marius Turda (SEEES, London), *National Specificity and National Building in Greece, 1890-1920*
3. Dr Paraskevi Gkotzaridis, *Trials of Irish History: Genesis and Evolution of a Reappraisal* (NUI, Maynooth)
4. Dr Matthew Martin Jefferies (Manchester), *Writing the History of Kaiserreich in East and West Germany, 1949-89*
5. Ms Anu Pirkko Katariina Heiskanen (Helsinki), *Heroic Sons and Disobedient Daughters: Gender Images in Finish National Histories*
6. Mr Frode Molven (Bergen), *National History in Norway*
7. Dr Mirela-Luminita Murgescu (Bucharest), *National Histories and Their 'Other' in South-eastern Europe: Competing Origin Myths in South-eastern Europe*
8. Ms Katja Naumann (Leipzig), *The Construction of Europe: The Historiography of the Modern Age at Educational Establishments and Research Institutions in Chicago, Paris and Leipzig, 1945-1980*
9. Ms Eglė Rindzevičiūtė (Södertörns), *Representations of National History in Lithuanian Cultural Policy, 1990-2005*

A second call for travel and exchange grants for no longer than three months' duration will go out early in 2005. Applicants will be asked to give specific information as to how their work will contribute to the research programmes of individual teams.

NHIST panel at the European Social Science History Conference Humboldt University, Berlin, 26 March, 2004

To give the programme more visibility among the academic community in Europe, the programme chair organised a panel at the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) in Berlin that introduced the programme to a wider community of European historians. It was also agreed to have the programme brochure inserted into the 1 500 delegates' packs at the ESSHC – the biggest regular gathering of historians in Europe.

The NHIST panel was chaired by Professor Guy P. Marchal who introduced each of the four panellists to the audience and gave a brief summary of the origins

List of exchange grant awardees and their projects

1. Dr Péter Ápor (CEU, Budapest), *The Birth of the History of Downfall: A Comparative Investigation of Romantic Historiography of Bohemia and Hungary*
2. Dr Maria Pia Casalena (Bologna), *The Hidden Place of Women in the Construction of National Histories*

and development of the programme. He emphasised in particular the important role of the head office of the European Science Foundation and the continuing support of its staff for the realisation of the project. Professor Stefan Berger introduced the audience of about 100 scholars from approximately a dozen countries to the NHIST, explained the main foci of this programme and raised some of the key theoretical and methodological problems.

Professor Christoph Conrad picked up on the theoretical theme; he talked about national historiographies as an object of transnational comparison (see an abridged text of his paper above). Dr Linas Eriksonas touched upon some problems that the project organisers faced in their attempt to bridge the methodological divide between scholars from western Europe and their colleagues from the post-communist countries. He mentioned the EU enlargement as a factor which spurs national history writing in the accession countries. Professor Chris Lorenz, through his perceptive comments as a discussant for that session, helped to start off a fruitful discussion, in which the audience participated with great interest.

First cross-team conference at the University of Glamorgan May 2004

The first cross-team conference took place at the University of Glamorgan from 20 to 22 May 2004, and was organised by the programme chair, Professor Stefan Berger and the programme co-ordinator, Dr Linas Eriksonas. Entitled 'Forms of Representation and Representational Techniques: Narratives and Genres', the conference aimed to discuss broader issues pertaining to the work of all teams, namely to look at the multiplicity of forms and genres available for national history writing.

Each conference session addressed a particular type of narrative in which national histories can be dressed. Thus, Session 1 dealt with national history as science. Mark Bevir (Berkeley) and Alan Megill (Virginia) provided thoughtful analyses of the development of the human sciences from the nineteenth century to the present and their strong interrelationship with

nationalism and the nation state more generally. In his commentary as a discussant, Michael Bentley (St. Andrews) raised the problem of the relationship between 'scientific' history and memory more generally.

Session 2 analysed the portrayal of national history in literature. Ann Rigney (Utrecht) highlighted the importance of the historical novel for national narratives and Sigrid Weigel's (Berlin) paper focused on the importance of generational conflict for German literary representations of the National Socialist past. The discussant, John Neubauer (Amsterdam), in his commentary emphasised the importance of the institutional structures of literary text production for the relationship between literature and history.

Session 3 looked at the representation of national history in film. Wulf Kansteiner (Binghamton) provided a comparative analysis of holocaust narratives in Polish, German, French and US-American films highlighting the very different development of memories of the holocaust in different national settings. Isabelle Veyrat-Masson (Paris) analysed the way in which Napoleon was depicted in diverse French TV series and dramas. In his commentary, the discussant Frank van Vree (Amsterdam) questioned the specificity of national film cultures in an era of continuing globalisation.

Session 4 discussed the depiction of national history in monuments and the visual arts. Heidemarie Uhl (Vienna) argued that the monuments to the National Socialist past erected in Vienna showed a clear transformation of the national memory culture in the 1980s: it moved from a self-perception of having been Hitler's 'first victim' to questions of guilt in the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. Michael Wintle (Amsterdam) found that national history was almost all-pervasive in the visual images which could be found not only in high art (paintings, sculptures), but also on maps, collectors' cards, cartoons and flags. Ilaria Porciani (Bologna), in her commentary, raised the question of whether visual representations of the national pasts were more continuous than the representations provided by historical texts.

Session 5 had as its main focus the diverse representations of national histories outside Europe, in South East Asia and North America. Peter Seixas (Vancouver) problematised the impact of 'people's

history' in the school classroom, demonstrating the continued importance of simplistic historical myth to the historical consciousness of schoolchildren in North America. Jie-Hyun Lim (Seoul) traced the impact of Eurocentric images of the nation state on the histories of South East Asia. The last session helped to put the European dimension of the ESF programme into a more global framework and in his commentary Stefan Berger (Glamorgan) emphasised the need to look more closely at the processes of transformation, when ideas of the nation move from a European to a non-European context.

More detailed conference reports have been written by Uffa Jensen (Sussex) and Katja Naumann (Leipzig) as well as by Peter Lambert (Aberystwyth).⁶ The conference was attended by approximately 60 participants from over 20 countries, including many members of the programme's Steering Committee. The next cross-team conference will take place at Chateau de Coppet, Geneva (local organiser: Professor Christoph Conrad) on the theme of Collective Identities, Memory and History. The final cross-team conference will take place at the University of Oxford (local organiser: Professor Robert Evans) on the theme of Myths, Medievalism and Modern National Histories.

Publication plans

The central results of the programme will be published in a multivolume book series. Oxford University Press (OUP) has expressed an initial interest in publishing such a series, but their final decision will be taken after the submission of full book proposals for all volumes in the proposed series. Each team will propose one volume in the series with the programme chairs taking responsibility for the overall series and the final volume. To prepare the book series, team leaders and programme chairs will meet in Barcelona in January 2005 (local organiser: Professor Lluís Roura y Aulinas) to prepare a special edition of the journal *Storia della Storiografia* on the question of national history writing (to be published in summer/autumn 2005). Detailed book proposals for the planned volumes of the series are to be prepared by the end of 2004.

Besides this, each team will publish further books with other publishers or produce special issues of journals. For example, Team 1 is planning a volume on women historians, while Team 2 will explore the possibility of a volume of microstudies on major works of national history. The programme chairs will also explore the possibility of having the proceedings of the cross-team conferences published. The proceedings of the first conference will be edited by Professor Stefan Berger and published by Berghahn Books (Oxford/New York).



Professor Stefan Berger, Programme Chair, introduces Professor Sir Adrian Webb, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glamorgan to the NHIST cross-team conference delegates – University of Glamorgan, 20-22 May 2004

⁶ Uffa Jensen and Katja Naumann, 'Tagungsbericht: Representations of the Past: The Writing of National Histories in Europe. Forms of Representation and Representational Techniques: Narratives Genres and Media, University of Glamorgan, 20-22 May 2004', in: H-Soz-u-Kult, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=525>
Peter Lambert's conference report will be forthcoming in *Contemporary European History*

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