



Liberalism, Romanticism, Nationalism – Towards a Comparative Vision of Nineteenth-Century European Cultural-Political Thought

International workshop, 26-27 November 2009, Amsterdam

The idea of the workshop emerged from discussions on the ways universalism was particularized and particularism was universalized in different parts of Europe during the 19th century. It represents the joint effort of two research initiatives, Joep Leerssen's *Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms* (SPIN) project (www.spinnet.eu) operating under the auspices of the Huizinga Institute (Dutch National Research Institute for Cultural History) at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam and the "Negotiating Modernity. History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe" (www.negotiating.cas.bg) project, coordinated by Balázs Trencsényi, hosted by the Center for Advanced Study Sofia in cooperation with the Central European University and financially supported by the European Research Council (ERC). Both projects seek to develop innovative comparative approaches to deal with the multiplicity of European cultures and their multi-level entanglements.

Creating an occasion of bringing Eastern and Western European scholars together, the workshop aims at creating a more synthetic view of the internal and transnational dynamism of romantic nationalism in Europe. It seeks to discuss the possibility of generic and „regional” interpretative schemes (e.g. can we speak of Eastern and Western European romanticisms?). It also seeks to contribute to the rethinking of the European canon of thinkers and influential ideas on the basis of looking at the reception process of „central“ paradigms on the peripheries and semi-peripheries. In turn, rejecting the one-directional models of cultural transfer, we also intend to look at examples of the trans-national impact of Eastern European romantic cultural paradigms, such as the case of Polish revolutionary romanticism and Messianism which can be considered the classical example of cross-regional entanglement, also influencing the Western discussions. We also intend to look with a fresh eye at the heuristic value of the concept of romanticism beyond of the aesthetic sphere. How to use the concepts of political romanticism, romantic liberalism, pre-romanticism, post-romanticism, etc. in view of the multiple experiences of Eastern and Western European national contexts? Last but not least, we also intend to discuss the question of linguistic nationalization in this context. How did different elites operate in the context of multiple linguistic usage and how the romantic theories of authenticity influenced the linguistic and meta-linguistic paradigms of national revival movements?

As these themes hopefully generate a multi-level discussion we plan to use a flexible workshop format to leave space for an intensive exchange of ideas. Therefore, rather than reading research papers, we expect a more informal interaction with some keynote speeches followed by short (max. 15 minutes) rejoinders, provoking further interventions and discussions.

Programme

Thursday 26 November

Morning

Arrival of participants (unless they arrived the night before)

Checking in Hotel Le Coin, Nieuwe Doelenstraat 5

Tel.: + 31 20 5246800

Location:

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=le+coin&sll=52.372036,4.900374&sspn=0.018681,0.038581&gl=uk&ie=UTF8&hq=le+coin&hnear=&z=15

Afternoon

14.00-16.30 hrs.

Room 620, PC Hoofthuis, Spuistraat 134, Amsterdam

Welcome by Joep Leerssen (University of Amsterdam) and Balázs Trencsényi (CEU)

Panel I. Studying Cultural Nationalism in the Long 19th C.: Networks, Transnational Discourses and Local Contexts

Interventions:

- Joep Leerssen (University of Amsterdam): position paper* on rethinking the history of European cultural nationalism in the long 19th c.
- rejoinder** by Miroslav Hroch (Charles University Prague)
- rejoinder by Michael Wintle (University of Amsterdam)
- rejoinder by Maarten van Ginderachter (Antwerp University)

15.15-16.30 Open discussion

Late Afternoon

17.00

SPIN Lecture 2009 by John Breuilly: *A Global Approach to the History of Nationalism*

Agnietenkapel, University of Amsterdam, OZ Voorburgwal 231.

Evening

Free

* Position papers are calculated as 20-25 minutes, intended to shape the discussion, revisiting the state of the art of research and pointing out new prospects. Abstracts will be circulated prior to the workshop.

** Rejoinders are calculated as approximately 15 min. interventions, i.e. not conference papers but provocative reactions to the position paper based on the expertise of the speaker, and also posing issues for the open discussion.

Friday 27 November

Morning

10.00-12.30 Panel II. Enlightenment and Romanticism. Continuities and Discontinuities

Room 101, Bungehuis, Spuistraat 210, Amsterdam.

Interventions:

- Maciej Janowski (Polish Academy of Sciences/CEU): position paper on Late Enlightenment political discourses in Central Europe
- rejoinder by Paschalis Kitromilides (Institute for Neohellenic Research)
- rejoinder by Lea Ypi (Oxford University)
- rejoinder by Iván Zoltán Dénes (University of Debrecen)
- rejoinder by Franz Leander Fillafer (University of Constance)

11.20-12.30 Open discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

Afternoon

14.00-17.00 Panel III. Romantic Historiographical Narratives and the Legacy of the Romantic Discourse of National Peculiarity

Interventions

- Mónika Baár (University of Groningen) position paper on comparing European romantic historiographical canons
- rejoinder by Edoardo Tortarolo (Università del Piemonte Orientale)
- rejoinder by Tom Verschaffel (Catholic University Leuven)
- rejoinder by Marleen Rensen (University of Amsterdam)

15.15-17.00 Open Discussion

Evening

19.00 Joint workshop dinner

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<http://www.zeppos.nl/locatie.htm>