

International interdisciplinary conference

Multiculturalism.

The Central European experience and its impact on identity-formation in a globalized world

Bellagio (Italien), Rockefeller Conference and Study Centre, September 11th–14th, 2006

Conference in the framework of Memory – Remembrance – Identity of the Commission of Culture Studies and History of Theatre (Austrian Academy of Sciences) in cooperation with the Center for Austrian Studies in Minnesota

This proposed reappraisal of concepts of identification departs from an essentially multivalent notion of culture. New strategies of building collective identities are at stake, and the conference group intends to connect identity and memory. Identity and memory are crucial elements of culture. Culture is conceptualized here as a system of orientation constituting identity by means of memory, appropriation, and ascription of meaning. Points of reference and identification in culturally diverse societies are essentially trans-national and trans-cultural. Drawing on the research of the applying institutions, the conference will initiate a critical reassessment of recent research in insular, “national” sites of memory (*lieux de mémoire*).

The conference aims at formulating an alternative model of European identity-formation contrasting with the prevalent “methodological nationalism.” A conglomerate model that simply amalgamates various parochial “national narratives” is insufficient to understand an overarching European identification that appreciates cultural diversity and comprises a dynamic mixture of shared and diverse cultural elements. The conference proposes to take into consideration obliterated and suppressed currents that may contribute to the construction of a European identity transcending the European continent and including its various colonial and ethnically marginalised memories or pasts (e.g. African, Asian, Muslim and others).

Using the Central European experience of cultural diversity as a starting point, the conference will suggest ways to alleviate the negative impacts of globalisation and trans-cultural migration on inter-cultural understanding and accommodation. It will reflect intensely on various possibilities to preserve cultural diversity and to secure inter-cultural coexistence.

The meeting will be organised under the auspices of the Commission for Culture Studies and History of Theatre of the Austrian Academy of Sciences seated in Vienna (http://www.oeaw.ac.at/kkt/index_e.html) and the Center for Austrian Studies in Minnesota (<http://www.cas.umn.edu/>). The conference is designed by the directors of these research institutions Prof. Dr. Moritz Csáky (Vienna) and Prof. Dr. Gary B. Cohen (Minnesota) and by Dr. Johannes Feichtinger (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) who organizes the Bellagio meeting.

Participants

Prof. Dr. Fikret **Adanir**, Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany
Prof. Dr. Pamela **Ballinger**, Bowdoin College, Brunswick ME, USA
Prof. Dr. Anil **Bhatti**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
Prof. Dr., Gary B. **Cohen**, Director of the Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
Dr. Laurence **Cole**, School of History, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, UK
Prof. Dr. Andre **Corbea-Hoisie**, Ambassador of the Republic of Romania in Austria, Vienna; University of Iasi
Prof. Dr. Moritz **Csáky**, Director of the Commission for Culture Studies and History of Theatre, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
Dr. Patrice **Dabrowski**, independent scholar, Natick, Mass., USA, 2006/07 IREX Research Fellow in Poland
Dr. Johannes **Feichtinger**, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria
Mag. Franz **Fillafer**, International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna; University of Goettingen, Germany
Dr. John **Fox**, Department of Sociology, University of Bristol, UK
Prof. Dr. Alison **Frank**, Dept. of History, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass.
Prof. Dr. Milos **Havelka**, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
Prof. Dr. Michael **John**, University of Linz, Austria
Prof. Dr. Pieter M. **Judson**, Dept. of History, Swarthmore College, Swathmore, PA
Doz. Dr. Éva **Kovács**, Teleki Lázló Institute, Budapest; University of Pecs
Jurko **Prohasko**, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Lviv, Ukraine
Prof. Dr. Shalini **Randeria**, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Prof. Dr. Dr. Michael **Rössner**, Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany
Prof. Dr. Daniel **Unowsky**, Deptl of History, Univ. of Memphis, Memphis, TN, USA
Prof. Dr. Michelle M. **Wright**, Dept. of English, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

Multiculturalism

The Central European experience and its impact on identity-formation in a globalized world

Meeting at the Rockefeller Foundation's Conference and Study Center in Bellagio
11.-15.9.2006

Commission for Culture Studies and History of Theatre
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

in cooperation with the

Center for Austrian Studies, Univ. of Minnesota

Organizing Committee

Moritz CSÁKY
Gary B. COHEN
Johannes FEICHTINGER

Rockefeller Foundation's
Study and Conference Center
in Bellagio

Draft Program, July 2006

1st day (Monday, September 11th evening, 6 pm)

Moritz Csáky/Gary B. Cohen

Address of Welcome, Introduction and Mission Statement

Johannes Feichtinger, Vienna

Inventing Europe beyond methodical nationalism. The Challenges of multiculturalism

2nd day (Tuesday, September 12th morning, 9 am)

Post-Colonial and Immigrant Perspectives

Impulse Statements (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Anil Bhatti, New Delhi

The pluricultural question. Postcolonial reflections on Europe compared to India

Shalini Randeria, Zurich

Beyond Eurocentrism: Postcolonial Perspectives on Legal and Cultural Plurality

Break

Experiences of multiculturalism in Europe

Impulse Statements (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Fikret Adanir, Bochum, Izmir

The pluricultural experience in Ottoman Southeastern Europe: New perspectives

Éva Kovács, Budapest, Vienna, Pecs

The Fact of Gipsyness – Roma Identities in a Multicultural Perspective. A Case from Hungary

Tuesday afternoon, 2.30 pm

Approaches to a transnational memory

Impulse Statements (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Michael Roessner, Munich

Mestizaje and hybrid culture: Towards a trans-national cultural memory of Europe in comparison to the development of cultural theories in Latin America

Michelle M. Wright, Minneapolis

Invisible at the Center: Black European Identities and the African American 'Model'

Break

Diversity: urban and rural

Impulse Statements (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Patrice M. Dabrowski, Natick, Mass.

Multiculturalism Polish style. Glimpses from the Interwar Period

Daniel Unowsky, Memphis

Poles and Jews in Nineteenth Century Galicia: Cooperation and Conflict

Alison F. Frank, Harvard, Cambridge, Mass.

Natural Environment and Localized Identities in Multicultural East-Central Europe

Break

Multiculturalism: coexistence and conflict

Impulse Statement (or Lecture) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Jurko Prochasko, Lviv

Ein Ticket für die galizische Titanic

3rd day (Wednesday, September 13th morning, 9 am)

Neighbors and "others": diversity and coexistence

Impulse Statement (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Andrei Corbea-Hoisie, Jassy, Vienna

Über "Nachbarn" und "Fremde". Eine rumänische Erfahrung des 20. Jahrhunderts

Jon Fox, Bristol, UK

Making ethnic friends and making friends ethnic: reproducing ethnicity at a multicultural university in Romania

Break

Laurence Cole, Norwich, UK

"Multinational" or "multicultural"? *The situation of Italian-speakers in late imperial Austria*

Pamela Ballinger, Brunswick, ME

Multiculturalism against the State: Lessons from Istria

Maureen Healy, Corvallis

Between *Erbfeinde* and Brothers-in-Arms: Turks in Early Twentieth Century Central Europe

Wednesday, afternoon, 2.30 pm

New borders in the nation state

Impulse Statements (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Pieter M. Judson, Swarthmore

Creating borders where none existed: The language frontier in Imperial Austria

Michael John, Linz

Migration in Austria, an overview: 1920's to 2000's

Break

Intercultural practices versus national loyalties

Impulse Statement (10 minutes) and Discussion (15 minutes)

Oto Luthar, Ljubljana

The Languages of Love and War. Intercultural practices versus national loyalties in the peripheral multiethnic society throughout the 20th century

Summation and Final Discussion

Moritz Csáky and Gary B. Cohen

Summation: implications of Central European experience for concepts and theories of multiculturalism and identity-formation in a globalized world

Conference languages: English, German

Franz Fillafer, Vienna/Goettingen, Assistant of organisation, translation and reports

4th day (Thursday, September 14th morning, 10 am)

Final Meeting

Impulse Statements and Discussion

post-processing (theories and concepts of multiculturalism), planning of the Multiculturalism-Project, publication of proceedings of the Bellagio Meeting

Center for Austrian Studies:

Represented by

Pieter Judson

Daniel Unowsky

Michelle Wright

Jon Fox

Austrian Academy of Sciences:

Represented by

Johannes Feichtinger

Anil Bhatti

Franz Fillafer

Eva Kóvacs

Michael John