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, Swarthmore, 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

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**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

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**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

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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

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

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 Lutar**, 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

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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