

MTA–ELTE Atelier, European Historiography and Social Sciences

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Report on the Results of Atelier Research Group in 2007-2008

Our consortium coordinated by the Atelier Department European Historiography and Social Sciences (ELTE Faculty of Arts, Institute of History) has worked since January 2007. The Department of Modern and Contemporary History of Hungary at ELTE (Faculty of Arts, Institute of History), the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economy at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Business and Economics (the PhD Program of Regional Politics and Economy at Univ. Pécs) and the Centre for Regional Studies of HAS also participate in the research program. The project is called *Spatial frames in the history of identity: civilization, nation, regions and towns*.

The aim of our problem oriented basic research is to examine the relation between society and space through the problem of identity. In the course of the project, we realise the multi-level analysis of the components of modern identity from the 18th century to the present time.

The members of our research group study the complex problem of identity from different aspects, using various historical sources. The research is focused, on the one hand, on the **national, regional or urban frames of identity** of the Hungarian aristocracy, the economic elite and the bourgeoisie of Hungarian cities. On the other hand we examine the ways of shaping collective identity through e. g. the codification of citizenship and the modern constitutionalism, the problem of the exercise of power, or more generally by analysing the history teaching, the role of cultural heritage or the regional policy and regional developing programs in Hungary. Thirdly we deal with the history of experiencing identity and the representation of identity so we lay special emphasis on the study of denominations, the Central-European regionalism, the mechanisms of collective memory and the intercultural role of translations etc.

In order to intensify the scientific and personal cooperation of researchers we organised three workshops the last two years (28. September 2007, 22. January and 19. September 2008). We discussed the methodological questions and harmonized the concepts of our project. Finally, a

conference will be held to sum up the results of the first two and half years with the participation of all research sub-groups in May 2009. We also tend to edit the papers of this conference in a volume of essays.

During 2007-2008 we presented regularly the results of our researches in plenary conferences, and we wanted to show the most possible aspects of identity so we invited well-known Hungarian and foreign historians too. In 2007 we organized an international conference on the topics of identity and memory (*Memory, Counter-Memory, Historical Experience*) at the Palace of Hungarian Academy of Sciences (participants: Maurice Aymard, Francois Hartog, Zsolt K. Horváth, Gábor Klaniczay, Krzysztof Pomian, András Szekeres, Ádám Takács, László Tengelyi, Nicolas Verdier, Michael Werner, András Zempléni). In the same year we made a discussion at the University of ELTE about the denominational question as a factor of cardinal importance in identity in the 19th century (*Denominations and Modern Nation in Hungary during the 19th Century*). Participants: Gábor Czoch, Juliane Brandt, Iván Bertényi, Botond Kertész, Miklós Nadasdy, Judit Pál, Anikó Prepuk, Csaba Sasfi, Márton Szilágyi, Árpád Tóth, András Vári). In July 2008 was held an international conference in Pécs about the regions of Europe (*Structures for Europe: Answers of Country Planning and Country Organizing to the Questions of Decentralisation and the Regions*), and in September we made a round-table discussion on the topic of the relations of social sciences and the national identity (participants: Gábor Czoch, György Granasztói, Rose-Marie Lagrave, Jacques Revel, Gábor Sonkoly, Ádám Takács).

Our group wants to continue its interdisciplinary work in this year too. We intend to organize an international conference about the historical aspects of the reconciliation of nations.

In our research plan of 2006 we have already attached cardinal importance – in accordance with the fundamental idea of the mission of the research group-network of HAS – to harmonise the scientific research and university education. Most members of our group constantly participate in the gradual, doctoral and tutorial education in Budapest and in Pécs. We could excellently take advantage of the results of our research in university education by giving seminars and lectures. We also undertake to organize the exchange of professors between Pécs and Budapest: e.g. in the spring semester 2008/09 György Granasztói (ELTE) gave a lecture at the PhD Program of Regional Politics and Economy at Univ. Pécs.

We lay special emphasis on the compilation of textbooks first of all for university education. During the last two years we published some books, e.g. on history writing (László L. Lajtai ed. *History as a science. Development of the Profession of Historian in 19th Century France*. Budapest, Napvilág – Atelier, 2007. 423 p.) and on the methodology of translation (Marianne Lederer, *Translation Today*.

An Interpretative Model. Trans. Dominika Csizmadia, Kata Keresztély. Budapest, Equinter – Atelier, 2008. 269 p.). In 2009 we intend to translate and publish in select edition the fundamental work of Pierre Nora (*Les lieux de mémoire*) on the shaping of collective memory.

Moreover, continuing the two decade tradition of Atelier and basing on its international relationships – and thanks to the official supporting of HAS –, we invited well-known foreign scholars working on our research topics to give PhD seminars and lectures (ELTE). In 2007 four French scholars gave lectures on the topic of *The Frames of European Identity: culture, heritage, cultural transfer* (Heinz Wisman, philosopher, EHESS; Henriette Asseo, historian, EHESS; André Burguiere, historian, EHESS; Jacques Revel, historian, EHESS). In the semester 2007/08 we welcomed six professors from France to give lectures on the topic of *Nation ad Nationalism* (Enric Porqueres i Gené, antropologist, EHESS; Christophe Prochasson, historian, EHESS; Kapil Raj, historian, EHESS; Marie-Vic Ozouf-Marignier, geographer, EHESS; Gilles Bertrand, historian, Université Grenoble II.; Sabina Loriga, historian, EHESS).

HAS and the Institute of France (Budapest) played a decisive role in the uninterrupted working of our international relationships, we hope for their support henceforth too.

We could also obtain auxiliary resources to our research project: in 2007 we got 13 million forints and in 2008 33 million forints from two other research funds. One of the joint programs analyses the political use and scientific representation of territorial units in European context. The TEMA Erasmus Curriculum Development Project is based on intense cooperation of six European universities and research institutes, coordinated by Atelier and supported by the EU. During three years this consortium elaborated a common European Interdisciplinary Master Program. In 2009 the team started to prepare the launching of an Erasmus Mundus Master Course. The other project is supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA). The members of this scientific school examine the process of the nation-building in Hungary during the “long” 19th century. The researchers are convinced to get to the root of the mechanism of national identity and nationalism by the help of new approaches and new historical sources.

In Autumn 2007 our research group also got a three-year post for a young research fellow from HAS. The young research fellow with his topic is successfully integrated to our project.

Beside the collective results we are proud of the individual successes of our researchers. During this short period the members of the group published about seventy scientific books and articles in Hungarian and foreign languages and they gave circa ninety lectures at conferences (the third of them were international conferences). We have also to mention the prizes and scholarships of our researchers: in 2007 György Granasztói won a Charles Simonyi Research Fellowship, András

Cieger had János Bolyai Research Grant between 2006 and 2008, moreover he won a Prize for Young Hungarian Scientists of HAS, Judit Klement was a holder of Ferenc Deák Scholarship and last year she defended her PhD Thesis at ELTE successfully.