



Social Memories and Historical Narratives: Sources & Methodology

September 15, 2023, FSV-UK, Jinonice, room C420

In 1969, literature critic and essayist Tzvetan Todorov called for moving away from the strict text-based analysis of narratives, that characterized the normative paradigm of novel studies (17th to early 20th century), to embrace rather the study of the logical and structural properties of storytelling. Coined for the first time as narratology, the science of narratives developed further into a new research program open to all domains of social sciences and humanities. It intends to understand the various codes of language (Barthes) and discourse (Foucault) that shape stories, tales, and social memories, as well as to reflect on the various tangible and intangible sources used for its analysis.

More recent propositions by historian Carlo Ginzburg open further the extent of narrative and memory studies, recalling that past and present narratives are formed by the intertwined fictional and non-fictional discursive contents that blur the border between truth and fiction, history and memory, discourse and ideology.

If the history of narrative's inquiries can be retraced from the birth of novel studies to the post structuralist and post-colonial momentum, little is said on the methodological implications of the growing variety of sources mobilized for its study.

In this respect, the Workshop on social memories and historical narratives proposes an interdisciplinary discussion on sources and empirical materials (texts, images, films, recordings, oral testimonies) and the definition of research objects in a constantly evolving research field. Participants of the workshop are invited to reflect on the articulation of their research domain, their methodology, and the possible restitution of field materials in academic writing.

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PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:30	Opening
10:30 – 11:30	Panel 1
	<i>Chair: Maria Asavei (IMS)</i> Comparison of commemorations of historical anniversaries in Czechoslovakia in the 1980s and 1990s Ondřej Matějka (IMS) Collective memory and history in post-totalitarian regimes: Narration of traumatic events in Spain (Civil War and Franco's regime) and Romania (Ceausescu's regime and Romanian revolution in 1989) in History textbooks Jose Francisco Espejo Jimenez (IMS)
11:30 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	Panel 2
	<i>Chair: Karin Roginer Hofmeister (IMS)</i> Iconoclasm in Czechoslovak Public Space after 1989. The Heritage of Socialism in Historical Perspective Petra Švarda (AVČR Praha) Distilling Czech National Identity: Street Naming in Small Towns, Townlets, and Villages in the Czech Republic Přemysl Mácha (AVČR Brno)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Panel 3
	<i>Chair: Kateřina Králová (IMS)</i> History and psychoanalysis – useful encounters? Ondřej Matějka (IMS) Discourses of homosexuality in 1920s/1930s and 1990s Czechia Zdeněk Sloboda (IMS)
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:30	Panel 4
	<i>Chair: Paul Bauer (IMS)</i> Working Migration from Serbia to Czechia and Slovakia Leona Kovar (IMS) Remembering Suffering and Resistance: Memory Politics and the Serbian Orthodox Church Karin Roginer Hofmeister (IMS)