

Research Project

Haunted Narratives: The Politics and Poetics of Identity Formation and Life Writing

Third-party funded project

Project title Haunted Narratives: The Politics and Poetics of Identity Formation and Life Writing

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Co-Investigator(s) [Steffen, Therese](#) ; [Sutrop, Margit](#) ; [Kirss, Tiina](#) ;

Organisation / Research unit

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / Fachbereich Englische Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / Amerikanistik (Schweighauser)

Department

Project start 01.01.2009

Probable end 31.12.2009

Status Completed

During the 20th century the project of the Enlightenment reached its peak in Europe and the Western world in general. However, in retrospect it is clear that the civilizing efforts of the Enlightenment, the striving for individuality, emancipation, and free-dom, have been thwarted in many respects. Throughout the last century, power poli-tics violated social and political core values to an almost unbelievable extent. Due to Verdun, Vietnam, Auschwitz, the Gulag Archipelago, and Guantanamo the 20th cen-tury will un-doubtedly be remembered as the century of ethnic conflicts and genocides.

Political oppression, persecution, ethnic cleansing, wars, and ultimately experiences of exile, transculturation, and cultural hybridity created fault lines in the lives of many people and deeply affected the construction of both individual and collective identi-ties.

Haunted Narratives – The Politics and Poetics of Identity Formation and Life Writing is a joint research project of philosophers, and literary, and cultural scholars from the Universities of Berne (Prof. Gabriele Rippl), Basel (Proffs. Philipp Schweighauser, Therese Steffen) and Tartu (Proffs. Margit Sutrop, Tiina Kirss). This effort is aimed at gathering insights into how individuals and communities deal with haunting memories and traumatic experiences, i.e. how they represent the past orally, acoustically, visual-ly, and in written form. The focus of the project is on both the poetics and the politics of life writing (trauma narratives, memoirs, biographies, fictional autobiographies, biopics, and so on).

Two week-long graduate conferences ("Haunted Narratives I & II") have been held at the Universities of Tartu (25-31 May 2007) and Berne (8-11 May 2008). A collection of essays based on those conferences is forthcoming in 2010.

Financed by

Foundations and Associations

Add publication

Published results

619798, Rippl, Gabriele; Schweighauser, Philipp; Kirss, Tiina; Sutrop, Margit; Steffen, Therese, Haunted Narratives: Life Writing in an Age of Trauma, 978-1-4426-4601-8, Publication: Edited Book (Herausgeber eines eigenständigen Buches)

619801, Rippl, Gabriele; Steffen, Therese; Schweighauser, Philipp, Introduction: Life Writing in an Age of Trauma, 978-1-4426-4601-8, Haunted Narratives: Life Writing in an Age of Trauma, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

619802, Schweighauser, Philipp, Trauma and Utopia: Benjamin, Adorno, and Elie Wiesel's Night, 978-1-4426-4601-8, Haunted Narratives: Life Writing in an Age of Trauma, Publication: Book Item (Buchkap., Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden etc.)

Add documents

Specify cooperation partners

ID	Kreditinhaber	Kooperationspartner	Institution	Laufzeit - von	Laufzeit - bis
80729	Schweighauser, Philipp	Rippl, Gabriele, Prof. Dr.	University of Berne	01.01.2006	30.10.2010
80730	Schweighauser, Philipp	Kirss, Tiina, Prof. Dr.	University of Tartu	01.01.2006	30.10.2010
80734	Schweighauser, Philipp	Sutrop, Margit, Prof. Dr.	University of Tartu	01.01.2006	30.10.2010
80735	Schweighauser, Philipp	Steffen, Therese, Prof. Dr.	University of Basel	01.01.2006	30.10.2010