
The Conceptualization of the Modernity in the Central and Southeast European Cultures. Notions, Discourses, Languages

Timișoara, 9-10 October 2014

The adaptation and linguistic transformation of modernity has become the topic of several historical approaches during the past decades. Reinhart Koselleck, Werner Conze were the firsts to focus their attention on this topic through conceptual history and the history of concepts. Rolf Reichardt, Willibald Steinmetz, Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink advocate for a “historical semantics”, diversifying their researches from methodological point of view. Michel Foucault highlighted by the means of the history of the discourse the importance of the language as a social circumstance, as cognition of the world socially built, contested and placed in a certain time. Conceptual history, historical semantics and the history of the discourse have proved their force of interpretation in the case of Western Europe and are understood more and more as a diversification of instructive perception about Central and Southeastern Europe.

The Centre for Advanced Studies in History, the „Reinhard Koselleck“ International Doctoral School of Conceptual History, both functioning within the West University of Timișoara, and the Institute of History of RWTH Aachen (Modern History Chair) invite you to participate on 9-10 October 2014 to the international conference entitled ***Conceptualization of Modernity in the Central and Southeastern European Cultures. Notions, Discourses and Languages***, organized at the West University of Timișoara (Romania).

Interested researchers to participate in interdisciplinary dialogues among historians, linguists, philosophers and sociologists are invited to present their original researches. The central theme is how modernity is reflected in the languages, notions, concepts and discourses in Central and Southeastern Europe and what kind of local, regional, national and transnational breaches have existed in this area. Dichotomist approaches such as local-national, national-European, centre-periphery, we-you, friend-enemy etc. are cogent in this respect. More exactly, the theme is centred around „cultural pluralism” and „identity code”. The exclusive focus on the „classical texts” needs to be challenged and

replaced by a wider perspective towards everyday language, press, literature, arts, music, architecture, food, attire and their symbolic weight in the Central and Southeastern European languages. The texts and presentations could touch upon the topic of setting between the East and the West, the social-cultural heterogeneousness/ eclecticism of the regions or the feeling of being in-between, for example. Unlike the previous conferences organized in Timisoara, this time the focus will be on the social-historical and cultural-historical phenomena, therefore pure political-historical studies should be avoided.

The language of the conference will be English for practical reasons.

Interested participants should submit their articles in either English or German as the organizers will publish them in a collective volume in Germany.

Participants are invited to announce the title and submit an abstract (max. 7000 words) no later than **15 July 2014**. The articles (which will not exceed 35-40.000 characters, Times New Roman font, with footnotes) will have to be submitted by **15 September 2014** the latest.

Each author of the selected texts will be invited to the international conference *Conceptualization of Modernity in the Central and Southeastern European Cultures. Notions, Discourse, Languages – Timisoara 2014*. The roundtrip costs and accommodation will be covered by the Volkswagen Foundation and the Romanian Authority for Research UEFISCDI-CNCS. Additionally, each author who submitted his/her contribution will receive a honorarium of 150 EUR.

The abstracts and the texts will be sent to the following addresses:

Ms. Flavia Bembea, istorie.conceptuala@yahoo.com or

Professor dr. Victor Neumann, victor.neumann@litere.uvt.ro

Prof. dr. Victor Neumann, Prof. dr. Armin Heinen