

# WORLD DRIVES ASSOCIATION

## Presence and Future of Cultural Hereditary

Newsletter 1, April 2014

### Horizon 2020 – progress or backlash?

*Editorial: A narrative of the chaotic hereditary of 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Tinguely's Heureka, Zurich*



The 20<sup>th</sup> century did not end at the “end of history”. It started one hundred years ago with the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, one of the most dramatic periods of mankind. But the century continued and created the industrial progress diffusing to nearly all parts of world society. The waves of innovations passed from one invention to the next, from heavy and loud engines to the virtual smart systems. But the techno-civilizational progressive road contrasts hardly to the memory of wars, the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and the

series of conflicts, revolutions, counter-revolutions expanding to the nations and regions of global society until yet. The hereditary, the collective memories of our societies are divided into these opposite streams of events and it seems probable that the divergence between progressive and backlash trends are increasing in the next future.

Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach

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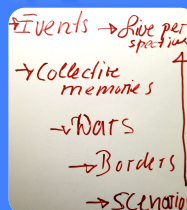


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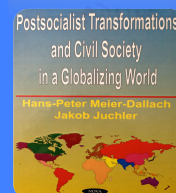
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### WOJNA I MIR – hereditary, presence, future (prov. Title WIM)

The Eastern European network of World Drives starts a project addressing the Eastern European partners and expertise from whole Europe. It targets the formation of collective memories, its

impacts on identities, perception of borders life perspectives of young people compared to the older generations between Eastern European states and regions.

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## Frame, Questions and Road Map

The blue italic terms see Glossary p. 4

On a conference in Georgia

**Selection of call:** The network addresses „Reflecting Societies: Cultural Heritage and European Identities“. Under that umbrella we focus on the topic „The cultural heritage of war in contemporary Europe“ (5), which is related to „Cultural opposition in the former socialist countries“ (4). Evidently the favoured topic has synergies to „Uses of past“, an ERA NET project (1). The priority for heritage of war derives from four reasons:

- (1) the countries of Eastern Europe look back to recent and current conflicts since 1989;
- (2) the experiences during the world wars are the gravest, however different, in the nations of Eastern Europe, mainly also in the states of the Balkan region;
- (3) the consequences laid to new- or the re-construction of borders and identities from the passed periods to the actual ones;
- (4) the composition and competences of the network concentrate on scholars and institutions with high reputation in empirical field work in the Eastern part of Europe.

**Frame:** The project starts from the present *streams of events*, i.e. the Zeitgeschichte als Zeitgeschehen. The international and nation-specific events that enter the horizon of groups, elites and the society will be observed; they build the actual layer of

*collective memory*. The actual situation in the Ukraine demonstrates the paradigm of how present events evoke those layers of memory, which go back to earlier periods of history and events: 2014 -1989, 1988 - 1945, 1944 - 1918, 1917 - 1870, and even further back.

Two crucial impacts by current events can be observed: Dramatic situations trigger, evoke and activate the experiences and remembrances of passed episodes, animating topics in older layers of memory. It refers to the *historical depth* of current events. Secondly a *regional scope* is noticeable: current events linked to memory traces in one country can migrate to other nations and groups, for instance neighbours sharing similar experiences.

The meaning of *wars* has to be differentiated: real against symbolic forms of revolutions and counterrevolutions, uprisings or protests, actions of movements. One of the most relevant impacts of war are *the peace effects*, its drivers and solutions.

History and current events illustrate how *borders and boundaries* between countries change following wars or war-like events. Borders are very relevant anchors and markers of regional, national as well as transnational identities rooted in memories.



*The network World Drives and its Eastern European branch goes back to the year 1990. Starting with a Chernobyl project it expanded to a cooperation which executed INTAS projects, conferences in different countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine. World Society Foundation funded initial projects.*



*20 years ago the network realized a comparative study covering the regions in the Ukraine funded by INTAS. It shows the geography of collective memory in the Ukraine in people's mind. The results mirror the cleavages and differences and impacts of collective memory shaped by the regional identities, which are very relevant in order to understand the current events in the Ukraine. The study is an example of the forecasting potential of recent events. The study was published for national and international audiences. SOCIS, Kiev, cultur prospectiv, Zurich, Humboldt University, Berlin.*

The project's framework concentrates the efforts on the dynamics of borders. Thereby the rivalries and deals of border issues reflect and express the wishes and options of how to live as a society among elites and groups, in people's mind. So the preference or deterrence vis-à-vis the borders involve tacit wishes or open choices of *scenarios* of societal development and corresponding perspectives of life.

The framework targets the reflection of how the present events evoke the traces of past but impacts the *identities and life perspectives* of people today. It demands a trans-disciplinary, sociological, historical and political scientific approach where quantitative methods combine qualitative reflections.



## Questions

**Questions to be answered by the partners looking on the nation-specific situations:**

- 1) Temporal Identities, cohorts shaped by joint experiences of past: Which are the relevant current events revealing memory traces among elites and people? Are there visible differences, for instance, between young groups and older generations?**
- 2) How deeply do such memory traces go back, mainly to dramatic events, and how do they emerge in actual debates on future?**
- 3) Spatial Identities: Are the perceptions of events and its effects in memory regional, national or transnational oriented?**
- 4) Social Identities: Which are the perceptions and wishes facing actual and future borders, societal and individual life perspectives?**

## Road Map

**Step 1: Opening and instalment of the network, partners and institutions with optimal reputation.**

**Step 2: Responses on the questions above, further questions and propositions by the partners.**

**Step 3: Discussion and formulation of a provisional draft of the proposal.**

**Step 4: Reflections and organisation of the network and further steps preparing the final proposal according to the requirements of the call.**

**Step 5: Finalisation and submission of the call (end of 2014).**

**Submission date: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 17.00 Brussels time**



## Glossary of terms and concepts

→ *stream of events*: The observation of daily news delivers empirical sets and sequences of events. This material can be read and interpreted as various elements of a developing stream. In contrast to generalised trends or “big scenarios” they facilitate the analysis of the current layer of memory more in detail. An observatory of events lets conclude from events like words to sentences and narratives of trends. (See “world observatory” deriving streams and frames of developments from events. Bulletin [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/bulletin\\_april\\_2012.pdf](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/bulletin_april_2012.pdf)). The problem is the multitude and selectivity of events since they base on different sources.

→ *collective memory*: The term goes back to the Durkheim school (Halbwachs) and there is a renaissance in theories and recent publications, for instance under new terms like “Erinnerungskultur” – “culture of remembrances” (Assmann). As an open term it allows applications using more differentiated sub-terms like the following:

→ *historical depth*: It is the way and degree of how societies interpret events through the lenses of its building in history and transmit it into the attitudes, identities and uses of past in order to shape strategies of influence and legitimation. One observes nations and groups mobilising mythic periods and/or selecting the positive, “heroic” stories independent from its real content. In that context the radicalism of tradition (Gottdiener) is a relevant topic in regard to border conflicts.

→ *regional scope*: The collective memory embraces those periods, which concern societies or nations looking back to the same fate and who experienced a similar history. But similar concerns by episodes or events do not mean the same interpretation, which can diverge or contradict each other, for instance a military offensive.

→ *wars*: It is defined normally as a real “imperata facere”, i.e. direct use of weapons. But an empirical typology of war has to differentiate the real from symbolic wars. The latter are more important in the modern time of medial and virtual communication. There are several forms of war-like situations: internal versus outer conflicts, revolutions or counterrevolutions, uprisings,

## Experience of War and Sociology of Memory



### GESCHICHTE ALS SCHLÜSSEL ZUR WELT

VORLESUNGEN IN DEUTSCHER  
KRIEGSGEFANGENSCHAFT 1941

It is one of the miracle that excellent scholars and writers produced their innovative works under the burden of experiences of wars. An excellent personality was Fernand Braudel, the founder of Annales, who wrote the famous essays on the “history as key to the world” in a German prisoner’s camp. It seems not to be hazardous that Maurice Halbwachs, the sociologist of collective memory, shared a similar fate as prisoner in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

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radical protests by cultural and social movements, occupations of public space. In order to understand wars it is necessary to discriminate between the roles: aggressor, victim, neutral, go-between positions, counter-, partisan or liberation roles. Dependent from such roles the interpretations of wars are controversial.

→ **peace effects:** The ending of wars is a complex process. From the exhaustion of one enemy to efforts in order to find an equilibrated peace one observes a scale of possibilities and outcomes. A long way lies between *imperata facere* and the facilities of negotiation. A paradoxical fact is the peace by deterrence (cold war) but it leads currently to symbolic wars basing on demonstration of military potentials. Still contested is the thesis that economical resources and cultural influences are significant drivers of peace and negotiation (Russett).

→ **borders and boundaries:** Evidently one could suggest as many borders as the number of existing nations. But there are several types of borders and boundaries:  
*borderlines*, *Scheidegrenzen*; the actors are strictly separated by lines of borders. This type results often before, during or after wars (Schlögel).  
In Europe the *overlapping* borders are frequent; minorities in one country are simultaneously part of a neighbour nation. Overlapping borders are one of the most conflictive borders in history.  
An opposite effect has the *pass- or passage-border*. It guarantees a communicative way, a kind of interaction, between various nations. The difference remains preserved and is used rather as a resource to interact and respect the otherness as enrichment to the own identity.  
In modern periods the open or *portal-borders* get relevant – rather than borders they enhance the flow of men, goods, money and information. They are located in cities, for instance Kaliningrad, or in modern infrastructures, metropolises, airports, railway stations, routes and the ITC complexes around the world.

The *island borders* result from a strategy reinforcing the national autonomy or identities, they build an actual trend in many places of global society. Its characters are varying on a scale between natural islands, protected zones against influences, ethnic or social groups living in circles as well as untouchable zones until to gated communities of rich inhabitants or economical districts.

However the most important type of border could become the “*outfall border*”: independent from a membership to a regional body people is concerned by catastrophes, climate change or big events transcending given borders (mass events, flights, tourism), that is also a planetary kind of borders.

→ **scenarios:** The identity within a set or play of borders is interconnected with trends and developments of a society and its members. The borderline type evolves from strong orders of a centre in order to establish, respect and control strictly a line border. It is the scenario of imperial, extraverted states and polities: the *domesticating world*. The scenario opposing the latter is the promoting of communalities and trans-border integration: the *negotiating world*. It favours the type of pass- and passage borders as well as it uses overlapping borders as integrative potential. In recent periods one observes the recurrence or revitalisation of a further scenario: the *own world*. The recovery of national or regional self-regard and identity. In the *holy world* as an actual scenario borders regain sacral meanings and become rooted in religious or ultimate secular values; island borders emerge in various regions of global society. It is evident that the scenario *one world* targets the portal borders. The scenario *civil world* addresses universal laws; borders are legitimised by civil rights and the liberal idea of world citizenship.

→ **identities:** The term is used rather as a general formula, ranging from socio-psychological concepts emphasising identifications as constructs of the self to macro-sociological topics. The latter anchors the identities in social, regional, national or macro-cultural contexts.

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They use variants of the term to understand developments where identity seems to work as an “ideal factor” (Max Weber) as against “real factors” of history. One of the relevant question is of how identities interact with interests, which is evident expressed by the formula: who wants “to have” something should “to be” someone. Identities are factors playing a crucial role in wars, as drivers of peace, in rivalries and contests concerning borders as well as developments.

> *life perspectives*: This term subsumes the different concepts of values, expectations, needs, styles in order to orient the life of individuals and groups.



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## Selected Literature and Links

Schlögel, Karl (2013), Grenzland Europa, München: Hanser Verlag.

Langer, Josef ed (2011), Analysis and Visions for Europe – Theories and General Issues, Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.

Darwin, John (2011), Der imperiale Traum, Campus Verlag.

Plokhly, Serhii (2006), The Origins of the Slavic Nations, Premodern Identities in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, Cambridge: University Press.

Snyder, Timothy (2003), The Reconstruction of Nations, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999, New Haven & London: Yale University Press.

Wilson, Andrew (1996), Ukrainian Nationalism in the 1990s: A Minority Faith, Cambridge: University Press.

Hans-Peter Meier-Dallach, Jakob Juchler ed. (2001), Postsocialist Transformation and Civil Society in a Globalising World, New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Links to previous projects and proposals:

- See documentation of publications and papers: [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/en:world\\_drives](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/en:world_drives)

- Tua res agitur paries cum proximus ardet. Neighbourhood Strategies for the Future, (threshold passed but finally not funded)

- See documentation of publications and papers: [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/en:world\\_drives](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/en:world_drives)

- Five Readings of Transformation (Eastern Europe day, University Fribourg): [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/documents/georgia\\_compared.pdf](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/documents/georgia_compared.pdf)

- Images of Europe [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/de:wo\\_euro\\_im\\_i.pdf](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/de:wo_euro_im_i.pdf)

- Images of World Society [http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/de:wo\\_world\\_09\\_09.pdf](http://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/de:wo_world_09_09.pdf)