

## **HST 601: European Borderlands. A Transnational History of Modern Europe**

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:30- 6 p.m., and by appointment. Office: Powers Hall 242a

Class times: Wed, 3:30-6:20pm, Powers Hall 135

### Course description:

What is transnational history? What can transnational approaches help us, as historians of Europe, to see? We will explore the methodological tools and categories of analysis that have helped historians to tell stories within a transnational framework. We will closely look at concepts of state and nation building, ethnicity, and national indifference by reading some of the best and most recent work that deals with these concepts (Ernest Gellner, Anthony D. Smith, Eugen Weber, Rogers Brubaker, Tara Zahra, Andreas Wimmer); by exploring the history of Alsace, Schleswig and Northern Ireland on the one hand and Polish-German, Polish-Ukrainian-Russian and Southeast European borderlands on the other we will develop a West-East-comparison within modern Europe and finally look at current developments of state building and separatism in Upper Silesia, Macedonia and the Post-Soviet space.

### Assignments:

- Discussion participation (30% of total grade)
- Book presentation in class (20-25 minutes) and discussion leading (40% of total grade): Take a look at the syllabus to consider the week in which you would like to present your book and lead discussion.
- Written final paper (30% of total grade): You will write a synthetic historical analysis based on the book you presented in class in which you bring multiple texts into dialogue with one another in the field of your expertise (around 1500 words). It will be due on November 28 (Week 14)

### Weekly class schedule

#### **Week 1 (8/29): Class Introductions**

#### **Week 2 (9/5): Theories of modern state and nation building**

Ernest Gellner: Nations and Nationalism, Ithaca 1983, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5.

Eric Hobsbawm: Nations and Nationalism since 1780, Cambridge, 1990, chapters 1+2.

Anthony D. Smith: The Origins of Nations, in: Ethnic and Racial Studies, 12, 3 (1989), pp. 340-367.

#### **Week 3 (9/12): New approaches to a (trans)national history**

Rogers Brubaker: Ethnicity without Groups, Harvard University Press, 2004, chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7.

#### **Week 4 (9/19): France and Alsace**

Eugen Weber: Peasants into Frenchmen. The Modernization of Rural France 1870-1914, London 1979.

Christopher J. Fischer: Alsace to the Alsatians? Visions and Divisions of Alsatian Regionalism, 1870-1939 (Contemporary European History), Oxford 2010. (book review1)

#### **Week 5 (9/26): German Studies Association-Congress, no class**

#### **Week 6 (10/3): Danish-German Borderland: Schleswig**

Inken Bruns: Von der Feindschaft zur Kooperation: Die deutsche Minderheit eines dänischen Dorfes von 1920-1990 in ihren interethnischen Beziehungen, Münster: LIT, 1995. [German required]

Peter Thaler: Of Mind and Matter: The Duality of National Identity in the German-Danish Borderland. PURDUE UNIV. Press 2009. (book review2)

Martin Klatt, M. & Nina Jebesen: The negotiation of national and regional identity during the Schleswig plebiscite following the First World War. In: First World War Studies. 5, 2, p. 181-211.

#### **Weeks 7 (10/10): Polish-German Borderland: Upper Silesia**

Sources: Franz Buhl's biography

Brendan Karch: Nationalism on the Margins: Silesians between Germany and Poland, 1848-1945. (book review3)

#### **Week 8 (10/17): Upper Silesia in the interwar period**

Sources: Locals into Poles and Germans – the community of Bierdzan, Upper Silesia.

Tara Zahra: Imagined Noncommunities: National Indifference as a Category of Analysis, in: Slavic Review 69, Spring 2010, 93-119.

Timothy Wilson: Frontiers of Violence. Conflict and identity in Ulster and Upper Silesia, 1918–1922, Oxford Univ. Press, 2010 (book review4)

#### **Week 9 (10/24): Upper Silesia after 1945**

Hugo Service: Germans to Poles: Communism, nationalism and ethnic cleansing after the Second World War, 2013. (book review5)

Sources: Als die Deutschen weg waren, 3Sat-Dokumentation + Stanislaw Ossowski, 1946. [German required]

Upper Silesian regional movement after 1989: Tomasz Kamusella: Poland and the Silesians: Minority Rights á la carte? In: Journal of Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2012, 42-74.

## **Week 10 (10/31): Transnational history of migration**

Andreas Wimmer/Nina Glick-Schiller: Methodological Nationalism and Beyond: Nation-State Building, Migration and the Social Sciences. In: *Global Networks* 2/4 (2002), 301-334.

Upper Silesian migrations – localness, mobility, and political agency 1830s-1930s

Tara Zahra: *The Great Departure. Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World*, New York 2016 (book review6)

## **Weeks 11 (11/7) Transnational history of migration (part2)**

Lutz Budraß: Von Birtultau nach Batenbrock. Oberschlesier in Bottrop. In: *Industrialisierung und Nationalisierung. Fallstudien zur Geschichte des oberschlesischen Industriereviere im 19. und 20. Jh.*, hrsg. Lutz Budraß, Barbara Kalinowska-Wójcik, Andrzej Michalczyk, Essen 2013, 111-145.

Brian McCook (2009). *Becoming Transnational: Continental and Transatlantic Polish Migration and Return Migration, 1870-1924*. A. Steidl, J. Ehmer, S. Nadel. In: *European Mobility: Internal, International, and Transatlantic Moves in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, pp.151-174.

(book review Felix)

## **Polish-Ukrainian-Belorussian Borderland**

Timothy Snyder: *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*, Yale University Press, New Haven & London, 2003. (book review7)

Sources: Statistics language and confession in Poland 1931

## **Weeks 12 (11/14): Bulgarian nation-building in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

R.J. Crampton: *Bulgaria*, Oxford 2007.

Miroslav Hroch (1986): *Social Preconditions of National Revival in Europe: A Comparative Analysis of the Social Composition of Patriotic Groups among the Smaller European Nations*.

## **Weeks 13 (11/21) Bulgarian-Greek and Bulgarian-Turkish Borderlands**

Teodora Dragostinova: *Between two motherlands. Nationality and emigration among the Greeks of Bulgaria, 1900–1949*. Ithaca [u.a.], Cornell Univ. Press, 2011.

Mary Neuburger: *The Orient Within: Muslim Minorities and the Negotiation of Nationhood in Modern Bulgaria*, Cornell University Press, 2011 (book review8)

## **Week 14 Macedonia between Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia**

Keith Brown: The Past in Question. Modern Macedonia and the Uncertainties of Nation, Princeton, 2003  
(book review9)

Andrew Graan: Skopje 2014.

Macedonia: documents and materials. Hrsg./Bearb.: Božinov, Voin Trajkov –[Hrsg.], Sofia, Izdat. na  
Bălgarskata Akad. na Naukite, 1969. (Preface)

**Week 15 (12/4): ASEEES-congress, no class**

**Week 16 (12/11)**

No assigned reading; summarizing discussion; evaluation