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ARBEITSVORHABEN

The Faces of Crisis: Towards a Transnational Intellectual History of Europe in the 20th Century

My project is an attempt to rethink modern European intellectual history from the vantage point of the concept of crisis. Combining the methodology of conceptual history with a broader contextualist history of political thought and with a transnational perspective, I plan to focus on a number of key controversies that shaped European history and politics in the 20th century.

Its complex conceptual history having been memorably explored by Reinhart Koselleck, crisis has emerged as one of the pivotal notions of political modernity. Thus, reconstructing the ways the discourse of crisis functioned in various contexts and historical moments gives us a unique insight not only into a series of conceptual transformations, but also into the underlying logic of key political and intellectual controversies. I am particularly interested in the way the perspective of crisis actually opened up the possibility to fundamentally rethink some of the key assumptions of the given historical moment, and also to look for possible solutions beyond the closely knit local/national milieu and thus both to discover transnational entanglements and to listen to voices from other cultural contexts. Crisis is thus not only a framework of temporalization, but also of spatialization, of modernity, and thus can be turned into a vantage point for a transnational analysis. Along these lines, I would like to use my inquiry into the ways crisis is experienced, conceptualized, and negotiated to provide an even broader frame of understanding of how various visions of time and history shape political thinking and, conversely, how political reconfigurations frame our assumptions about temporality and historicity.

Recommended Reading

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Trencsényi, Balázs. *The Politics of 'National Character': A Study in Interwar East European Thought*. London: Routledge, 2012.

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'Regimes of historicity' in Southeastern and Northern Europe, 1890 - 1945 : discourses of identity and temporality

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The politics of "National Character" : a study in interwar East European thought

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Routledge studies in comparative political thought

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History and character : visions of national peculiarity in the Romanian political discourse of the 19th century

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Trencsényi, Balázs (Iași,2001)

The "Münchhausenian Moment": modernity, liberalism and nationalism in the thought of Ștefan Zeletin

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Trencsényi, Balázs (Iași,2001)

Nation-building and contested identities : Romanian and Hungarian case studies

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