The Doctoral Thesis in Comparative History

by

Francesco La Rocca

on

“Writers of Tales: A Study on National Literary Epic Poetry with a Comparative Analysis of the Albanian and South Slavic Cases”

will be held on

Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 11:30 a.m

in

Gellner room, Nádor 9.
Central European University (CEU)
Budapest—1051

Examination Committee

Andrea Pető – Chair (Department of Gender Studies, CEU)
György Endre Szönyi – supervisor (Department of History, CEU)
Balázs Trencsényi – CEU internal member (Department of History)
J.T. Leerssen – external member (University of Amsterdam)
István Fried – external reader (Szegedi Tudományegyetem)
ABSTRACT

In this dissertation I intend to investigate the history and theory of national literary epic poetry in Europe, paying particular attention to its development among Albanians, Croats, Montenegrins, and Serbs.

The first chapters will be devoted to the elaboration of a proper theoretical background and historical framing to the concept of national epic poetry and its role in the cultivation of national thought in Europe. The second part will flesh out national epos among Albanians and South Slavs by the means of a comparative analysis of some epics belonging to these literary cultures. In order to carry a comparison methodologically as solid as possible, I will investigate how the authors of epos have dealt with three key elements which I regard as crucial in the context of cultural nationalism: The study of these three elements, i.e. kinship, religion, and patriotism, constitute what I would like to call the “Tripod model”.

Whereas the importance of folk traditions in European cultural nationalism has been the focus of many valuable studies, the elaboration and communication of national/nationalistic ideas by the means of literary epics has met with relatively little attention from the scholarly world, despite the relevance some of these epics had (and still have) in many East European countries. By investigating the theory and history of national epic poetry, this project aims at filling this gap by providing an original contribution to the study of cultural nationalism in Europe.
CURRICULUM VITAE

Francesco La Rocca

EDUCATION

2008–2010 MA in International Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MIREES). University of Bologna in cooperation with Vytautas Magnus University at Kaunas, Corvinus University of Budapest, Saint-Petersburg State University.


WORK EXPERIENCE

13/01/2014–04/04/2014 Teaching assistant. Central European University (CEU), History Department, Budapest (Hungary).

04/2013 Assistant researcher. Central European University (CEU), Budapest (Hungary).


03/05/2010–03/08/2010 Intern. Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Institute of Culture in Tirana, Tirana (Albania).


PUBLIC LECTURES

CONFERENCES


25 - 27 April 2013, Budapest, Hungary. 7th annual graduate conference in European history (GRACEH) Historians in Space: Concept of Space in Recent European Historiography. Paper: “Mythological and Political Spaces in Conflict: The Danish-German Intellectual Polemics and the Schleswig Wars (1848-1864)".


GRANTS AND AWARDS


2011-Present: Central European University Doctoral Fellowship.
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Book chapters


**Articles**

"The Viking Raids of Britain in Metal Music: From Ideology to Parody", forthcoming in *Metal Music Studies*.


**Book reviews**


*Voisinages fragiles: Les relations interconfessionnelles dans le Sud-Est européen et la Méditerranée orientale 1854-1923: contraintes locales et enjeux internationaux* by Anastassios


La Slovacchia e la Santa Sede nel XX secolo: Atti del Convegno promosso dall'Ambasciata della Repubblica Slovacca presso la Santa Sede in occasione del V anniversario della firma