

ABSTRACTS

OTT PUUMEISTER. Non-identificational politics and the political subject

The present article proposes that it is necessary to re-evaluate the concept of the political subject. Traditionally, the political subject is thought on the basis of identification. The following, however, is based on three authors of what could be called critical theory: Giorgio Agamben, Jacques Rancière and Alain Badiou. They hold that in order for there to be emancipative politics at all, it must be grounded on non-identification. These three thinkers are connected by the understanding that identity and identification processes are principal tools in the establishment of power relations and thus it is necessary to base emancipative politics on rupture and refusal. Identities are used to create social structure and government based on identities has as its goal the deployment, the putting into their rightful place, of individuals and bodies. Non-identificational politics, on the contrary, searches for a way out of this kind of governmental structure by creating a different kind of political subject, or, by subjectivation. A new political community must be created that would be able to question or to put under doubt the established social order.

Keywords: *politics, political subject, power, subjectivity, critical theory*

MERIT RICKBERG. Two contradicting tendencies in the education of history

In today's European Union the debate over teaching history revolves around two contradicting approaches: multiperspectivity and national history. Both approaches are aimed towards greater social cohesion, however the means of achieving this varies greatly. In this paper, I will discuss this current situation in EU education politics from the viewpoint of the universal mechanism of cultural dynamics, which is based on the simultaneity of two opposing tendencies: on the one hand, constant striving towards plurality and creation of new languages, and on the other, the need for unification and singularity. Teaching national history aims towards unification through one dominating narrative that takes the place of the metalanguage and reorganizes the way the history of a nation is perceived. Everything that does not fit the self-description is cast outside the border as incorrect. Multiperspectivity in contrast

works against the unifying power of one central narrative by revealing its mythological nature. It brings out other texts that were cast to the periphery or beyond the border and reminds us that the self-image doesn't reflect the whole complexity of the semiotic world around us. However, both approaches have their deficiencies which, instead of greater social cohesion, can lead to disintegration and a divided Europe.

Keywords: *cultural self-description, unity vs plurality, national history, multiperspectivity, EU educational politics, social cohesion, semiotics*

AGNE PILVISTO. Theoretical viewpoints from the history of Estonian nationalism

In recent years, discussions about nationalism have polarized public opinion, and strong opposition exists now on both sides of the ideological front line, i.e. between supporters and opponents of nationalistic attitudes. Many public figures have appealed to a more balanced viewpoint, stating that the current confrontation is somewhat artificial and motivated by psychological rather than political reasons. The question of how to give meaning to nationalism in 21st century Estonia remains nevertheless unanswered. In the following essay I will search for possible answers from recent Estonian history, when nationalism was a more organic part of public discourse. I will examine selected writings from the history of Estonian nationalism, i.e. from "Valik II. Artikleid eestluse ajaloost", which was put together by Toomas Haug in 1988. The collection includes passages from authors such as Villem Reiman, Juhan Luiga, Eduard Laaman, Johan Kõpp, Oskar Loorits, Uku Masing, Hans Kruus, Karl Ast-Rumor and Ants Oras, from 1901 to 1956. I take a theoretical approach to the ideas represented in the texts, indicating their historical background and interconnectedness. The dominating aspects are language, Finno-Ugrism and historicism.

Keywords: *Estonian nationalism, theories of nationalism, national history, Estonian theory*

ANDREAS VENTSEL, MARI-LIIS MADISSON. Post-truth discourse and semiotics

The article adopts a semiotic viewpoint in order to characterize the specificities of post-truth meaning making. The goal is not so much to argue for or against the label “post-truth” or to give a definitive value judgment on the phenomenon. The main objective is to sketch a preliminary framework of semiotic tools to better analyze and understand the signification mechanisms of post-truth discourse. The article focuses on how such a semiosis is constructed, which tools are used to attract attention in a contemporary context of information overflow, and which kinds of signification practices contribute to texts becoming viral.

Keywords: *post-truth discourse, misinformation, semiotics, social media, virality, affective communication*

TIIT REMM. On the re-semiotization of manor space

This article studies the signification and re-semiotization related to manor estates and houses in Estonia. I outline a frame of analysis that integrates basic elements of spatial signification and layers of socio-cultural semiosis. Dynamics of these elements and layers appears in the variety and fluctuations of the significance of spatial environment, as well as in purposeful designs of meaningful environments. Handling of manors has been practically and ideologically important in Estonia for a considerable amount of time. The relation to the space of manors has been a central trait in the formation of Estonian culture, on both individual as well as cultural levels of reflection. Exemplary here for spatial semiotic dilemmas for re-semiotization is the case of the entrance to a school located in a specific manor house. The significance of this seemingly elementary case ranges from establishing social relations to the actualization of the history and design of the school experience of children.

Keywords: *semiotics of space, manor, manor school*