

Eighteenth-Century Ego Documents: The Individual in Society

University of Zürich
9th – 10th of March 2017

Convenors

Anne-Christine Gardner, English Department
Marianne Hundt, English Department
Angelika Linke, German Department



“The eighteenth century in ego documents: The individual in society”

Universität Zürich, 8–10 March 2017

Programme

Wednesday 8 March

Welcoming reception in the evening

Thursday 9 March

9.00 – 9.15	Opening
9.15 – 9.45	Louise Penner & Cheryl Nixon (Boston): Negotiating Independence and Servitude: Lady Mary Hamilton’s Positions as Sub-Governess and Companion
9.45 – 10.15	
10.15 – 10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.45 – 11.15	Anne Gardner & Marianne Hundt (Zürich): That <i>idle chit chat</i> ? How Conversing Creates Female Friendship: Evidence from Eighteenth-Century Diaries and Letters
11.15 – 11.45	Gillian Skinner (Durham): <i>My dearest Friends – I am glad you read all this so long after!</i> : Time, Writing, and Trauma in the Court Journals of Frances Burney
	<i>Lunch</i>
13.15 – 13.45	Elizabeth Eger (London): Life and Death in the Correspondence of Elizabeth Montagu (1718-1800)
13.45 – 14.15	Anni Sairio (Helsinki): Grey Goose Quills and Scripts of Self-discipline: The Linguistic Biography of Elizabeth Montagu (1718-1800)
14.15 – 14.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14.45 – 15.15	Anita Auer (Lausanne): The Effect of Variation in Education on Letter Writing Practices
15.15 – 15.45	Amanda Vickery (London): Polymorphous Uniformity: Packaging Identity in Eighteenth Century England
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15 – 17.15	Discussion: Susan Fitzmaurice (Sheffield), Claudia Opitz (Basel)

Friday 10 March

9.15 – 9.45	Britt-Marie Schuster (Paderborn): An Education in Natural Style – The Correspondence between Christian Fürchtegott Gellert (1715-1769) and Christiane Caroline Lucius (1738-1833)
9.45 – 10.15	Angelika Linke (Zürich/Linköping): <i>Liebste Freundin!</i> – Friendship as a Relational Concept among Women?
10.15 – 10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.45 – 11.15	Eve T. Bannet (Oklahoma): Ego Vobis: Writing the Occasional Self
11.15 – 11.45	Elise Voerkel (Basel): 'How to be good'. Childhood and Education in Bourgeois 18 th -Century Letter Writing
	<i>Lunch</i>
13.15 – 13.45	Rebekka Horlacher (Zürich): The Educational World from the View of a Child
13.45 – 14.15	Gudrun Emberger (Berlin): 'Was ich bin, was ich kann, lehrte ich mich selbst' ['Who I am, what I know, I taught myself']
14.15 – 14.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
14.45 – 15.15	Roberto Zaugg (Lausanne): Between Individual Reminiscence and Public Memory: Pastry Baker Georg Anton Oettinger, the Battle of Leipzig, and the Reawakening of Germany (1806-1831)
15.15 – 15.45	Jörg Riecke & Kerstin Vockel (Heidelberg): Self-reflection in the so-called Herrnhuter Lebensläufe – A Semantic and Syntactic Analysis
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15 – 17.15	Discussion: Stephan Elspaß (Salzburg), Arianne Baggerman (Amsterdam)

Between individual reminiscence and public memory: Pastry baker Georg Anton Oettinger, the Battle of Leipzig, and the reawakening of Germany (1806-1831)

Roberto Zaugg (Université de Lausanne)

Throughout Europe the Napoleonic Wars fuelled an impressive wave of self-narratives. In this context, an unprecedented number of men (and to a lesser degree women) from the middle and lower classes, who had witnessed the dramatic events of war as military or civilians, grabbed a pen and wrote down their memories and reflections. When doing so they often interlaced reminiscences about individual experiences with public memorial discourse. The personal chronicle by Georg Anton Oettinger (1745-after 1831) – which is part of a larger family archive stretching from the 1680s to the Nazi period and containing various self-narratives of male family members – constitutes a highly interesting example of post-Napoleonic autobiographical writing. Written on the blank pages of two almanacs (*Schreibkalender*), the chronicle (1806-1831) of this old Leipzig grocer and pastry baker does not only narrate events the author had personally witnessed during the French occupation of Saxony and the Restoration, it also includes lengthy excerpts from newspapers, satirical poems and political pamphlets. In this sense, it allows us to analyse the entwining of individual experience and discourse spread by print media in the creation of a German national consciousness and memorial culture.

DÜDING, Dieter, «Das deutsche Nationalfest von 1814. Matrix der deutschen Nationalfeste im 19. Jahrhundert», in *Öffentliche Festkultur. Politische Feste in Deutschland von der Aufklärung bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg*, hrsg. von Dieter DÜding, Peter Friedemann und Paul Münch, Reinbek 1988, 67-88.

DWYER, Philip, «Public Remembering, Private Reminiscing. French Military Memoirs and the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars», *French Historical Studies*, 33 (2010), 231-258.

HOFFMANN, Stefan-Ludwig, «Mythos und Geschichte. Leipziger Gedenkfeiern der Völkerschlacht im 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert», in *Nation und Emotion. Deutschland und Frankreich im Vergleich, 19.-20. Jahrhundert*, hrsg. von Etienne François, Hannes Siegrist und Jakob Vogel, Göttingen 1995, 111-132.

PUSCHNER, Uwe, «18. Oktober 1813. "Möchten die Deutschen alle und immer dieses Tages gedenken!" – die Leipziger Völkerschlacht», in *Erinnerungstage. Wendepunkte der Geschichte von der Antike bis zur Gegenwart*, hrsg. von Etienne François und Uwe Puschner, München, 2010, 145-162.

SCHÄFER, Anne Kirstin, «Die Völkerschlacht», in *Deutsche Erinnerungsorte*, hrsg. von Étienne François und Hagen Schulze, München 2002, vol. II, 187-201.

SCHNEIDER, Ute, «Die Feiern der Leipziger Schlacht am 18. Oktober 1814 – eine intellektuelle Konstruktion?», *Blätter für deutsche Landesgeschichte*, 133 (1997), 219-237.

VON GREYERZ, Kaspar, «Erfahrung und Konstruktion. Selbstrepräsentation in autobiographischen Texten des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts», in *Berichten, Erzählen, Beherrschen. Wahrnehmung und Repräsentation in der frühen Kolonialgeschichte Europas*, hrsg. von Susanna Burghartz, Maike Christadler und Dorothea Nolde, Frankfurt am Main 2003, 220-239.

ZAUGG, Roberto, «Les siècles des Oettinger. Écrits et mémoires d'une famille allemande au fil des générations (1682-1936)», *Études de lettres* 300 (2016), numéro thématique *Appel à témoins. Écrits personnels et pratiques socioculturelles (XVIe-XXe siècles)*, sous la direction de Danièle Tosato-Rigo, 183-216.