ANNALES IN PERSPECTIVE: DESIGNS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Vol. 1

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As we enter 2019, we find ourselves also marking a significant anniversary for the *Annales* journal, founded in Strasbourg in long ago 1929. We today may write, as one of the journal’s famous early editors did, that, for us too, the “*Annales continue*”… A number of recent publications dedicated to the journal’s tradition have demonstrated how relevant a question the influence of the historiographical approaches that emerged from what Roger Chartier and Jacques termed the *Annales nebula* continues to be; despite the existence of so extensive and comprehensive a literature on the topic. Its timeliness is confirmed by how vital so many of the problems and theses broached by the *Annales* during and since the late 1920s remain within so many different historiographies, albeit to varying degrees. Certain newer trends in world historiography, like the history of emotions or the powerfully resurgent interest in global history, draw directly on the ideas and so the original designs and accomplishments of the *Annales* or of some at least of those universally recognised as *Annalistes*, from Marc Bloch, Lucien Febvre and Fernand Braudel to Robert Mandrou on the “periphery”.

Peter Burke’s categorisation of the *Annaliste* historians in this volume opens up access to a further important level – the highly personal but nonetheless generational reception of approaches and theories drawn from the rich intellectual treasury of that *nebula*. This volume doesn’t just bring together different perspectives from national historiographical traditions or global viewpoints. It also, even primarily, is a look at how some of the representative ideas, chapters, stages, or encounters with the *Annales* tradition, each inevitably incomplete and partial, are implicated in historiographical networks, which themselves span the relatively long period from the first half of the 20th century down to the present. In contrast to many other “reception narratives” in historiography, this *nebula*, its tradition, and its reception have generally served to open up a more profound debate on the problems, peculiarities, linkages, and special paths of particular historiographies – certainly the French, but also many others from around the world, including the Croatian. Consequently, these historiographical networks are exceptionally complex and multi-layered. Nor was the *Annales* journal always the key or only starting point, any more than it was always Paris or even France (in some cases, including in Croatia during certain phases, there was a “mediated” form of reception through other countries/historiographies), or than certain theses and concepts were always understood in exactly the same way. Consequently, studying the reception and meaning of the *Annales* today helps reveal the contemporaneity of the noncontemporaneous in so many ways.

In generational terms, moreover, this volume is an opening-up of communication between very different authors. Even in its editors, this has been a space of intergenerational encounter. On the one hand, it arose out of an initiative from the editors of *Pro tempore*, the journal of the Zagreb University Faculty of Philosophy history students (Filip Šimetin Šegvić, editor-in-chief, Nikolina Šimetin Šegvić, Marko Lovrić, Tomislav Brandolica, and Marta Fiolić), who, back in 2010, inspired by their “encounters” over the course of their studies with various *Annaliste* historians, whether in the French originals or in Croatian or other translations, determined to dedicate a special volume to the legacy and presence of the *Annales* in Croatia, as well as in global historiography. This intention came to realisation along two trajectories. The historiographical section of the *Pro tempore*
Mapping the Annales network

... amongst the theoretical texts, critical reviews, and translations published on the thematic, a central place was given over to oral history of the Annales tradition, realised through interviews with various members of the Annales editorial group, as well as with prominent individuals identified as “heirs and guardians” of the tradition and agents of its reception in different countries. Given the thematic, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Annales (1929–2009) offered a good excuse for organising a roundtable, a duty the editorial group of Pro tempore also accepted, with the support and cooperation of the History Department of the Faculty of Philosophy and the French embassy in Zagreb. The main liaison between the history department and the Pro tempore editorial group was Prof Drago Roksandić, who had previously played a role as mentor in developing Pro tempore’s thematic focus on the Annales. He also willingly accepted the editors’ proposal to help organise and then flesh-out conceptually the roundtable on the above-mentioned anniversary of the Annales journal. So it was, in April 2010, that a roundtable was organised on the topic of Annales in Perspective: Designs and Accomplishments. The keynote speaker was André Burguière, who spoke on the topic of interrogating the new generation of Annales...
The editors would also like to acknowledge gratefully the assistance of Marta Fiolić, Samanta Paronić, Tomislav Brandolica, and Marko Lovrić in preparing the manuscript for the press, not least because of the short deadlines they all too often had for completing the work. Mr. Boris Bui, the editor of FF-Press, the publishing arm of the University in Zagreb’s Faculty of Philosophy, and his colleagues there have worked closely with the volume editors in ensuring that this publication expresses our editorial vision, for which we are particularly thankful.

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Zagreb, February 11th, 2019.

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5 See Pro tempore 8-9 (2010). The interviews were conducted by the editors. Participants included: André Burguière, Peter Burke, Roger Chartier, Carlo Ginzburg, Lynn Hunt, Patrick Hutton, Nenad Ivić, Jacques Le Goff, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Otto Gerhard Oexle, Jacques Revel, Jean-Claude Schmitt, and Walter P. Simons. Interviews may be consulted in Croatian translations on the following webpage: https://hrcak.srce.hr/index.php?show=toc&id_broj=15007.
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