



AN
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LES

IN PERSPECTIVE:
DESIGNS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Vol. 1

EDITED BY
DRAGO ROKSANDIĆ
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CENTAR
ZA KOMPARATIVNOHISTORIJSKI
I INTERKULTURNE STUDIJE

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Introduction: Mapping the <i>Annales</i> Network.	9
<i>Drago Rokсандić / Nikolina Šimetin Šegvić / Filip Šimetin Šegvić</i>	
The <i>Annales</i> Today. Editorial Mutations and an Intellectual Project	13
<i>Antoine Lilti</i>	
The Globalization of Knowledge: Intellectual, Organizational, and Cultural Obstacles	19
<i>Immanuel Wallerstein</i>	
Fernand Braudel and the Fernand Braudel Center	23
<i>Richard E. Lee</i>	
In the Wake of Braudel: New Perspectives on Maritime History	31
<i>David Abulafia</i>	
Braudel and the Cities	37
<i>Thierry Paquot</i>	
Braudel, Le Roy Ladurie, Environmental History...and Me	45
<i>J. R. McNeill</i>	
American Foundations and Braudel's Institution-building	49
<i>Giuliana Gemelli</i>	
Demystifying or Rethinking Mentalities.	65
<i>André Burguière</i>	
In the Shadow of the <i>Annales</i> School.	73
<i>Anne Zink</i>	
<i>Annales</i> in Britain.	85
<i>Peter Burke</i>	
An English Empiricist Meets the <i>Annales</i> in the 1960s.	89
<i>Robin Briggs</i>	
The Reception of Vernant in the English Speaking World.	97
<i>Oswyn Murray</i>	
Experiences of a Curious Student with the <i>Annales</i> in the 1965-70	109
<i>Peter Hersche</i>	
The <i>Annales</i> Come to Spain: The Impact of Jaume Vincens Vives.	119
<i>Victoria L. Enders</i>	
Enthusiastic Discontinuities: American Social Historians and the <i>Annales</i>	129
<i>Samuel Kinser</i>	
Marc Bloch – On the Difficult Timeliness of a Leading Authority of the Historical Science . . .	169
<i>Peter Schöttler</i>	

Silent Dialogue: Lucien Febvre, Hippolyte Taine, and an <i>Annales</i> Paradigm	187
<i>Jonathan Dewald</i>	
On “Historical Psychology”	199
<i>Monique Cottret</i>	
The <i>Annales</i> , Woman and Gender	207
<i>Danièle Voldman</i>	
At the Crossroads of the <i>Annales</i> School and Historical Innovation: The Life and Scholarship of Marc Ferro	211
<i>Kevin J. Callahan</i>	
On the Integration of Philippe Ariès into <i>Annales</i> Historiography	221
<i>Patrick Hutton</i>	
Peasant Crimes: The Evolution of <i>Annales</i> on Screen	231
<i>Naomi Greene</i>	
Bernard Lepetit and the Early Years of European Urban History	243
<i>Peter Clark</i>	
Roger Chartier and Cultural History	247
<i>Benjamin C. Sax</i>	
The Reception of the <i>Annales</i> School in China	285
<i>Chen Xin</i>	
The Impact of the <i>Annales</i> School on Russian/Soviet Historiography	291
<i>Nikolay Kuposov</i>	
En Route with the <i>Annales</i>	307
<i>Mirjana Gross</i>	
The <i>Annales</i> School and My View of History: Paths and Signposts	323
<i>Zdenka Janeković-Römer</i>	
In Search of the <i>Annales</i> Spirit	335
<i>Ines Sabotič</i>	
The Durability of an Architectural Type: Single-nave Churches with Semicircular Apses	345
<i>Ivo Babić</i>	
A Chronicle of Attempts to Research the Everyday Life of a Medieval City... (Drawing on the Example of Dubrovnik)	359
<i>Gordan Ravančić</i>	
The Mediterranean, Braudel, Dubrovnik	367
<i>Filip Šimetin Šegvić / Tomislav Brandžolica</i>	
The Influences of the <i>Annales</i> School on Church Historiography	383
<i>Marko Medved</i>	
History of Mentality, Historical Imagology and Historical Anthropology: Convergencies and Divergencies	397
<i>Zrinka Blažević</i>	

Mirko Dražen Grmek and the <i>Annales</i> School	405
<i>Marko Lovrić / Marta Fiolić</i>	
Yugoslavia, Historical Concioussness and the <i>Annales</i> School	411
<i>Pavle Milenković</i>	
François Furet in Socialist Yugoslavia	421
<i>Branimir Janković</i>	
Social and Economic History in the Work of F.C.A. Tomislav Raukar	431
<i>Tonija Andrić</i>	
Is Fernand Braudel the Predecessor of Environmental History?.....	437
<i>Hrvoje Petrić</i>	
The <i>Annales</i> School, EHESS, and <i>École de Paris</i> : Memories of an <i>étudiant libre</i> in 1980/1981 ..	443
<i>Drago Rokсандić</i>	
Index	451
List of contributors.	464

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Mapping the *Annales* network

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*¹ continues to be,² despite the existence of so extensive and comprehensive a literature on the topic.³ 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,⁴ 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*

journal was increasingly dedicated to the *Annales*. 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* editorship, as well as with prominent individuals identified as “heirs and guardians” of the tradition and agents of its reception in different countries.⁵ 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 editorship 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 *Annalistes* and their concept of mentalities. Participants presenting papers at the roundtable included Nenad Ivić, Boris Olujić, Drago Roksandić, Mario Streha, Branimir Janković, Marko Lovrić, Marta Fiočić, Tomislav Brandolica, and Filip Šimetin Šegvić. The inaugural addresses were given by the then Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy Damir Boras and the chair of the history department Iskra Iveljić, as well as by the French ambassador to Croatia Jérôme Pasquier.

Profesor Roksandić was himself an *étudiant libre* at the *Écoles des hautes études en sciences sociales* in Paris in 1980/1981, but spent both the decade preceding, during his own student years, and the decades that followed, as a teacher and researcher at the Belgrade University Faculty of Philosophy (up until 1989) and at the Zagreb University Faculty of Philosophy (from 1990 to 2018), developing his own interests in line with the problems, approaches, and methods of the members of the *Annales* circle and encouraging his younger colleagues to engage with them themselves. It was ultimately thanks to this shared inspiration and interest that this volume came into existence.

Indeed, at a time when the historical sciences have long been engaged in a process of self-examination, seeking new paths and new approaches and in constant self-redefinition, the themes, achievements, and legacy of the French *Annales* are once again proving timely. It is not just that discussion of their position and status within the historical sciences imposes itself as a link between different generations of historians, but that “readings” and “appropriations” of the *Annales* are increasingly being compared and contrasted within their specific contexts.

The inherent logic of individual national historiographies, reception-perspectives with their different degrees of contact, and of personal “narratives,” more or less faithful to *égo-histoire* approaches, has resulted in generations of researchers carrying out major extensions of the original “space” of the *nebula*. If this volume has proven a significant challenge, it has been because it was clear from the very beginning of work on it that it would not be enough to categorise its contents by subject matter and theme. The structure of each section would have to be planned separately. Expanding the initial idea behind the round table, this volume has been imagined as a collection of works by scholars each of whom is connected in their own way with the *Annales* and their legacy. Consequently, we find here works both by students and heirs, the recipients of methods and themes, and by those who have studied and published on individual *Annalistes* and/or their impact on various areas of historiography. While this first volume is concentrated on various *Annales* “traditions” and their (re)appropriations in different contexts, from the personal to the national and/or transnational, we would like to take this opportunity to announce a second volume which will focus on some other aspects and issues - designs and perspectives on the *Annales* in more recent processes.

The editors are sensible of the need to express their gratitude to all the authors whose works are included in this volume and the confidence they have shown by making their texts available in this way. This debt of gratitude is all the greater, given that communication with most of them was possible only *online* or by telephone. Some of the texts were originally written in English. Others had to be translated, which was not always a simple task. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this aspect of our work: Jihane Billacois, Ines Jelovčić, Domagoj Karanušić, Mirela Landsman Vinković, Desmond Maurer, Tina Miholjančan, and Vivijana Radman.

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Zagreb, February 11th, 2019.

¹ BURKE, *The French Historical Revolution* 1. Also: Hervé COUTAU-BÉGARIE, *Le phénomène nouvelle histoire: grandeur et décadence de l'école des Annales*, Paris 1989, 274.

² For example, André BURGUIÈRE, *L'école des Annales: une histoire intellectuelle*, Paris 2006; Joseph TENDLER, *Opponents of the Annales School*, New York 2013; Anzar ABDULLAH, *Social History, Small People History: Annales School of Thought Perspective*, *Journal of Basic and Applied Scientific Research* 5/7 (2015) 22–26. There is a new and very recent, from 2015 in fact, expanded and revised edition of Peter Burke's already standard work on the history of historiography, Peter BURKE, *The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School 1929-2014*, 2nd revised edition (1st edition, *The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School, 1929-89*, 1990), London 2015.

³ Most importantly, François DOSSE, *L'histoire en miettes, des Annales à la Nouvelle Histoire*, Paris 1987; Stuart CLARK (Ed.), *The Annales School: Critical Assessments*, 4 vols., London – New York 1999.

⁴ Cfr. Peter SCHÖTTLER, *French and German Historians' Network: The Case of the Early Annales*, in: Christophe CHARLE et al., *Transnational Intellectual Networks: Forms of Academic Knowledge and the Search for Cultural Identities*, Frankfurt – New York 2004, 115–133.

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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