

Kontaktzonen in Zentraleuropa

Zone di contatto nell'Europa centrale

ABSTRACTS

Martin Rohde

Ethnography in Transcultural Contact Zones. Imperial Cooperation and Regional Knowledge about Eastern Galicia

How was regional knowledge produced in hierarchized transcultural contact zones? This paper discusses strategies among the Ukrainian/Ruthenian scientific community in Habsburg Eastern Galicia through the prism of autoethnography and transnational cooperation with projects and institutions engaged in imperial ethnography (*Volkskunde*). In the state-sponsored popular science undertakings in question, public institutions exerted control in order to marginalize unwelcome or politically subversive currents and to support those loyal to the state. Once the Ukrainian community gained greater visibility through these projects, it was possible for experts to participate in more horizontally structured transnational networks and to extend the region's visibility further. Thus, autoethnography is considered as an important tool for regional or national actors to create agency in hierarchized transcultural contact zones, i. e. for the Ukrainian movement to present its own idea of Galicia through German-language media and thereby to produce legitimate knowledge about the region.

Sebastian Ramisch-Paul

With 'loving Care and strict Scientificness'. On the History of Knowledge about Subcarpathian Rus from the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century to the mid-1920s

This article deals with the region of Subcarpathian Rus (Uhors'ka Rus'/Podkarpatska Rus/Zakarpattja), a contact zone which belonged to the Habsburg-ruled Kingdom of Hungary before 1918 and to the Czechoslovak Republic up until 1938/39, before returning to Hungary during the Second World War. Since then, it has been part of Ukraine. Special emphasis is given to the year 1918 as a caesura in the production of knowledge about the region. Looking closely at the groups of historical actors involved, the author shows how this was a contact zone in which the interests of internationally active scientists encountered one another, as well as those of non-scientific publicists. In line with their respective political orientations, they wrote works directly opposed to one another or wilfully ignored each other's findings. In effect, they also interpreted the region over the heads of the local population through the fact that the knowledge they generated was increasingly politicized.

Alexander Piff

Activists on the National Border in the southern Administrative Districts of Tyrol around 1900 in a Field of Tension comprising Mobility, Loyalty and Sovereignty of Knowledge

Around 1905, the Touring Club Italiano (TCI) disposed of a finely meshed network of external representatives and contacts in the southern administrative districts of the Austrian Crownland Tyrol. Founded in 1894 in Milan, the TCI was initially a cycling association, but subsequently also functioned as an active promotor of tourism. Although not constituted as an association under Austrian law, in only a short time the club managed to gain numerous members in this region. Following investigations by Austrian officials, the state authorities came to classify as problematic the club's ongoing direct influence on the local population. By means of performative acts in public places on and around the border between Austria and Italy, the TCI consciously sought to use local activities to broach the issue of spatial conceptions of the region and to deconstruct existing relationships. Ultimately, however, the association was officially outlawed in Austria in 1912.

Frederik Lange

Cooperation and Confrontation. The Border Dispute in the Drina Basin, a Contact Zone between the Habsburg Monarchy and Serbia between 1878 and 1914

The article focuses on the Podrinje region – the basin surrounding the middle and lower course of the Drina River – as a contact zone between Austria-Hungary and Serbia in the period between the Berlin Congress of 1878 and the outbreak of the First World War. In particular, the author examines the decades-long dispute about the exact demarcation of the boundary in the Drina River. To this end, the article demonstrates the links between the dynamic bilateral relationship, the ever-changing natural space and the diplomatic progress and setbacks regarding the border dispute. At the same time, it points to the important role played by the exchange of knowledge and the potential for conflict in this contact zone, thereby indicating how Podrinje region can be characterized as a space of both contact and confrontation.

Andreas Gottsmann

Cooperation and Conflict in Istria. The Example of the district of Volosca-Abbazia

The object of analysis in this article is the history of public administration in the Istrian district of Volosca-Abbazia/Volosko-Opatija in the decades before the First World War. The predominantly Slav inhabited area on the eastern coast of Istria underwent a marked economic upturn in this period, due to health tourism in Abbazia/Opatija. This created new employment opportunities and led to immigration from nearby Croatian districts, as well as from Italy. Politically, the Istrian autonomists, who dominated in a number of localities, favoured a hybrid culture and worked closely with Italian-speakers. However, this movement came under pressure from Croatian national politicians, which led to frequent conflicts at the administrative level in a number of communities, as well as between church parishes and village councils. Some of these conflicts even became a matter of debate in the Austrian parliament and the state administration sought to adopt an intermediary role in such disputes.