

1683 revisited: Media Representations of Ritual and Remembrance

Judith Pfeifer

judith.pfeifer@assoc.oeaw.ac.at

DOC-team 'The Turks at [and within] the Gates of Vienna'

Austrian Academy of Sciences and

University of Vienna

This paper seeks to show how the discourse-historical analysis (Wodak et al 2009), in combination with corpus linguistics (Baker et al 2009), can be applied to explore the functions and effects of commemorations of the 2nd Turkish siege of Vienna in 1683 within Austrian print media discourses.

Firstly, I will provide an overview of this current Austrian Academy of Science's (AAS) DOC-team research project 'The Turks at [and within] the Gates of Vienna'.

Secondly, I focus on media representations of the 2nd Turkish siege, on political slogans (e.g. 'Christian Bulwark') and the underlying significance of the anniversaries in 1933 (250th), 1983 (300th) and 2008 (325th anniversary). The repeatedly re-ignited memory of the 'Türkenzeit', the age of "Turkish" (i.e. Ottoman) invasions is frequently used to disavow political adversaries, but the specific memory of the Turks has faded. Because of their ritual character jubilees and commemorative events update and actualise interpretations of history for the present. Political scientist Murray Edelman stresses how language structures the view of political events. "It is language about political events, not the events in any other sense, that people experience [...] so political language is political reality; there is no other so far as the meaning of events to the actors and spectators is concerned." (Edelman 1988: 104). Finally, I would like to discuss the strengths and potentials as well as limitations of applying the Discourse Historical Approach (DHA) to exploring the discursive construction of memory and the past(s).

References

Baker, P. (ed) (2009). *Contemporary Corpus Linguistics*, London

Baker, P. (2006). *Using Corpora in Discourse Analysis*, London.

Edelman, M. (1985) [1964]. *The Symbolic Uses of Politics*, Urbana.

Halbwachs, M. (1992). *On Collective Memory*, Chicago/ London.

Hall, S. (1997). *The Spectacle of the 'Other'*, In: Hall, S. (ed). *Representation. Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*, London.

Nora, P. (ed). (1984 – 1992). *Les lieux de mémoire*, Paris

Ricœur, P. (2006). *Memory, History, Forgetting*, Chicago.

Wodak, R./ De Cillia, R./ Reisigl, M./ Liebhart, K. (2009a). *The Discursive Construction of National Identity*, Edinburgh.

Wodak, R./ Meyer, M. (eds) (2009b). *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*, London.

Wodak, R./ Richardson, J. E. (2009c). On the politics of remembering (or not) *Critical Discourse Studies*, 6 (4): 231–235.