

Pré-rapport du mémoire de M2
Pre-report of the Master's thesis
Édition/Edition (2018—2020)

Étudiant(e)/Student :

Prénom, Nom / First Name, Family Name : Elisa Chazal

Titre du mémoire M2 / Title of the Master's thesis : La circulation d'un divertissement historique au sein des Expositions européennes : la reconstitution des 'vieilles villes' de Prague, Budapest et Paris (1890-1900)

Mobilité / Mobility :

Veillez souligner les établissements !/ Please, underline the institutions !

Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, Budapest (ELTE)

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales de Paris (EHESS)

Univerzita Karlova, Prague (CUNI)

Directeurs de recherche / Supervisors¹ :

Prénom, Nom / First Name, Family Name : Ondřej Daniel

Titre /Title : Ph.D.

Université/University : Univerzita Karlova, Prague (CUNI)

Évaluation/Evaluation:

Note dans l'établissement / Grade at the institution (Charles University) : A

Note dans le 2eme établissement (ELTE) / Grade at the 2nd institution (ELTE): 5

Note dans le 3eme établissement / Evaluation – grade at the 3rd institution (EHESS): 18

Note TEMA+ / TEMA+ grade: Excellent.

Pré-rapport / Pre-report :

Master's thesis of Elisa Chazal represents an excellent example of a successful student's exercise. In a particularly mature style of writing, she discovers a partly forgotten world of history representations in the form of popular culture. By the end of the 19th century, urban history was considered both, the entertainment and the education. This period also broadly corresponds with the very beginnings of the appreciation of a modern popular culture, as we know it since then. From the myriad of the manifestations of popular history, Elisa Chazal carefully chooses three examples of such presentations: models of old cities of Prague, Budapest and Paris 1890-1900.

¹ Le pré-rapport est écrit par le 2eme directeur (ou par le 2eme et 3eme directeurs) qui ne participe pas à la soutenance et inclut des questions à aborder lors de la soutenance./The pre-report is written by the 2nd supervisor (and in case the 3rd supervisor too), who does not personally take part in the defense and it includes questions to be addressed to the student during the thesis defense.

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Master's thesis of Elisa Chazal analyses them according to their functions as not only entertainment and attraction but also patient historic reconstruction with pedagogical aims. In her work, she attentively compares the three different examples in particular in their different scales and temporalities. She is particularly interested in linking the old cities models with the practice of international exhibitions and her research aims to extend the scholarly knowledge of the previously published studies by taking in account also the cases from Central Eastern Europe. From the methodological point of view, the work stands firmly at the crossroad of comparative and entangled history. The topics chosen for comparison are considered as a maze of different scales: national, imperial and civilizational.

The importance of such research based on the period of European fin-de-siècle cannot be underestimated. The issues of technological progress, nationalism, imperialism, urbanization and commodification, all central for the period in question are carefully addressed in the work and put into the context of research of how the Past was popularized in the last decade of 19th century in the three cities of different size and importance. One of the important issues addressed is a seemingly paradoxical aim of putting in front collective memory of cities during their modernization. The issues of nostalgia are thus considered. Historical models aimed often to imagine a mythicized and idealized golden age of a pre-modern era. Besides, traumatic experiences of loss are also evoked, even if rather indirectly. Last important dimension addressed is that of local elites. These were often patrons of such historical reconstructions and their worldview took its imprint into their materialization. Models of old cities are thus an important primary source to decode the mentalities of this strata aiming to diffuse their standpoint into a wider audience.

As Elisa Chazal, indicates in the Conclusion, her Master's thesis may be considered a successful stepping stone for a further doctoral research.

Questions :

En dehors de cas discuté d'orientalisme dans le cas de Budapest, peut-on aborder les autres thèmes du passé multiculturel des villes différentes (ex. juif et allemand) ?

Comment les historiens professionnels ont réagi au fait que les « vieilles villes » étaient suivent préparés par les autodidactes ?

15 June 2020, Ondřej DANIEL

