

**FIRST NISE CONFERENCE**  
27 & 28 May 2010, SKOPJE (Macedonia)  
Institut za nacionalna istorija (INI)

**Wednesday 26 May 2010**

20.00 Welcome drink and guided tour of INI

**Thursday 27 May 2010**

09.00 Welcome / Registration / Coffee

09.30 Introduction / Todor Ćepreganov – INI, Skopje-Macedonia

09.40 Presentation of NISE / Luc Boeva – ADVN, Antwerp-Belgium

10.00-13.00 Patriotic periodicals and databases / presided by Johannes Koll – Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Vienna-Austria

- 10.00 Contextual data collection and analysis on intermediary structures: the ODIS database / Peter Heyrman – KADOC, Louvain-Belgium

Intermediary structures and voluntary organisations, often labelled as civil society, have always been a preferred subject for research in socio-political sciences and history. As generators of social capital, civil society associations help their members to acquire individual and collective skills that facilitate coordinated action and cooperation. They foster interest articulation, mediation and aggregation and thus contribute to a societal model based on compromise and dialogue. These functions have been the subject of numerous research initiatives and publications. Setting aside the wide thematic scope of the historiography on civil society in most European countries, it has to be acknowledged that important fractions of civil society still largely remain untouched by historical research. Moreover a lot of studies on associational life are case-oriented, linked to the study of specific (mostly successful) social movements or a given ideological framework and are situated in a limited geographical and/or chronological context. A lot of available source materials still remain hidden or are only partly valorised by scientific research.

In Flanders this assessment urged both scholars as documentation specialists to set up new collaborative initiatives and instruments that would open up innovative and (international) comparative research perspectives on the subject. ODIS, the Research Interface Centre and Database for the Study of 19th and 20th Century Intermediary Structures in Flanders, was created in 2000, combining the expertise of all Flemish universities and the most important private institutions with archival holdings. As a research interface centre ODIS aims to promote mutual dialogue between historians, social scientists, archivists, librarians and documentation specialists. But the consortium's main goal was to develop innovative research tools and instruments. The ODIS database, a user-friendly web database in a reliable technical setting, became operational in September 2001. It can be labelled as a contextual database comprising historical information on Flemish intermediary structures, the individuals active in them, and the periodicals and archives that they produced. The database is research-driven and -oriented but also offers its contents to the general public. ODIS can be approached as an encyclopaedia but also aims at facilitating the heuristics of students and scholars. The database is used as an authority instrument for the primary catalogues of the participating institutions, but also shows clear analytical potential. ODIS makes use of a number of general database techniques, such as repeatable groups of fields and directional input. Where possible the data-structures were brought into conformity with international standards, thus guaranteeing interoperability with other instruments.

ODIS is a dynamic research instrument: the data series are continuously being supplemented, updated and extended by the host institutions. Beginning of 2010, the ODIS database has amassed data on 24.935 organisations, 72.417 individuals, 21.649 publications and 8.353 archives. The database offers a location in which the numerous and dispersed files, repertories and data-collections on the subject can be centralised, correlated and updated. A broad community of researchers, archivists and librarians (13 user-groups, containing a total of 119 persons) are involved with the data-input. More and more scientific research initiatives make use of the instrument for data-representation and -analysis. By means of a new impulse grant of the Flemish government (Hercules foundation) the technical environment of ODIS is presently being renewed and modernised as an information node in a network of data collections, with more differentiated research-supportive functions, this in an international, multilingual and multicontextual perspective.

[www.odis.be](http://www.odis.be)

- **10.40 19th Century Historical Journals / Claus Møller Jørgensen – Institut for Historie og Områdestudier, Aarhus- Denmark**

National historical journals can be said to occupy one angle of a dynamic triangle with professionalization and nationalization occupying each of the other two angles. National historical journals were established and sustained by national historical professions. At the same time the journals were a vital part of the professional infrastructure that sustained the profession and its scholarly aims; the historical profession was established in the process of nationalisation of culture and the establishment of national institutions, and the historians participated in the process of nationalization by providing contributions to national history. Central to the professional effort to write national history on a scholarly basis was the national historical journals, of which the overwhelming part dealt primarily or exclusively with national history. The presentation will provide an outline and examples of this dynamic and the dual professional and national aim of national historical journals, and it will be discussed to what extent they contributed to 'the nationalization of the masses'.

#### 11.20 Coffee break

- **11.50 Militant Literature and Narrative Identity: The Sources of Populist politics in the Age of the Masses / Răzvan Pârâianu – Universitatea Petru Maior, Targu Mures-Romania**

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a neoconservative current of public opinion undermined the traditional liberal argumentative political discourse in favor of a mere emotional or lyrical approach. There was a period in which public appreciation was turned away from those engaged in liberal professions, mostly lawyers, toward writers, journalists and poets. Their literary talent was an important prerequisite for the national mass movement. Their writings and daily editorials raised public awareness, created a strong feeling of belonging to the same community, nostalgically evoked a heroic past, pathetically deplored a decadent present, and vituperatively criticized the political elite of their time. All these attitudes were to be found not in an explicit, rational or deliberative public discourse but in myriads of texts of modest length, in which the main ingredients of collective identity were implied rather than openly affirmed.

My presentation attempts to analyze the ingredients of this new type of discourse adopted by many writers at the beginning of the twentieth century. Their articles promoted a powerful narrative that seduced many of their readers to assume the new identity. This identity implied a depreciation of people from individuals to mere organs of the collective body of the nation. Moreover, this process had a tremendous influence over the early decades of the twentieth century insofar as the very notions of representativeness, responsibility, will, personality and creativity were altered. In countries where there was a weak tradition of liberalism, a modest urban realm, where the Christian church unable to stand up against state institutions – and where the universities had no clear autonomy from the state – this narrative identity would have a lasting, central role in shaping the national ethos and popular sensitivities.

- **12.30 Discussion**

#### 13.00-14.00 Lunch

#### 14.00-16.00 National movements and archives / presided by Louis Vos – KULeuven, Louvain-Belgium

- **14.00 Archives of Political Documentation in the Catalan Countries / Bernat Joan – Fundació Josep Irla, Barcelona-Spain**

Foundation Josep Irla needs on a regular basis to consult political documents for its day-to-day work in various formats (books, pictures, audiovisual material).

The archives containing this documents in the Catalan Countries come from diverse sources, from public institutions to private collections.

- **14.40 The Sabino Arana Foundation: Consolidating ourselves today on our yesterdays for the sake of our tomorrows / Eduardo Jauregi – Archivo del Nacionalismo Vasco, Artea-Spain**

#### NOTES ON THE SABINO ARANA FOUNDATION

##### ACTIVITIES

1. A plataform for reflection and debate
2. HERMES, a History and Thought Magazine
3. The Museum of Basque Nationalism
4. Historical Archives of Nationalism

This is a brief summary of the main activities of the Sabino Arana Foundation, which strives at all times to pay particular attention to promoting and encouraging studies and research into the history, language, culture, ethnography and reality of the Basque People and, more specifically, to spread abroad and publicise democratic and progressive nationalist thought.

##### **Sabino Arana Foundation**

The Sabino Arana Foundation, a cultural institution born in October 1988, has developed during this time an extensive and valuable task to investigate, compile, discuss, think over and publish everything that has to do with the nationalist, democratic and progressive thought. With this purpose, the Foundation promotes the edition of publications and the organization of a wide range of activities inspired by the respect to freedom, democracy and individual and collective human rights in the framework of a solid pro-European and western vocation.

Within this wide spirit, it is a priority to become closer to the Basque groups of the Diaspora, the organization of formative activities and, in general, to promote everything that deepens into the knowledge of the Basque identity. Since it was created, the Sabino Arana Foundation has always tried to engage the roots of the nationalist message with the challenge of modernity and, at the same time, to favour a calm but self-critical thought over the past, present and future of the Basque nationalism.

##### **1. Tribune for Reflection and Debate**

One of the Sabino Arana Foundation's best-known activities is the Tribune for Reflection and Debate. No better way of conducting a close examination of the ideas of the plural universe which characterises Basque society than confrontation of ideas, mutual knowledge and, in short, a blending of cultures.

Each encounter has a different concern, a specific objective which in practice is achieved by the interest shown by the many experts and specialists attending the debates. The Sabino Arana Foundation provides the forum for the encounters, and suggests scenarios for discussion and debate to allow people from a wide range of specialist knowledge, complementary disciplines and opposing ideologies to pool their opinions through dialogue and tolerance.

Topics as diverse as "The abolition of the ancient Basque *fuero* laws", "Euskadi at the crossroads", "Women and political power", "Relations between the north and south Basque Country, *Iparralde* and *Hegoalde*", "Dialogue as a method for solving conflicts", "The new Basques", "Milestones and factors in Basque autonomy" etc. are some of the issues debated in recent years.

Many national and international personalities have attended this forum for reflection and debate. We might mention Shlomo Ben-Ami, Matteo Zuppi, Denis Haughey, Francesco Cossiga, Julio María Sanguinetti, Hector Gros Espiell, Jaime Mayor Oreja, Rodrigo Rato, Pedro Martínez Montávez, Willy Thys etc.

## **2. HERMES Thought and History magazine**

In January 2001 we began a project in which we had invested a lot of effort and enthusiasm: the HERMES thought and history magazine, that today distributes near 3.000 issues between subscriptions and public selling. The content of the magazine is available in our web site ([www.sabinoarana.org](http://www.sabinoarana.org)).

During this time, this quarterly magazine created with the aim to be a new instrument for the dialogue and ideological and political debate, and published in the three official languages spoken in the Basque Country, has managed to be wellknown in political, cultural, economic and social fields. The gathered experience and the opinions and comments that we have received strengthen us to keep on being an instrument for the dialogue and ideological debate, affirming the right to freedom of people and nations, social and political parties; recognizing and affirming that the exercise of the right to self-determination is the expression of the political freedom of the nations and, at the same time, assuming the pluralist nature of the Basque society, which demands the recognition of other political and social expressions, in addition to the nationalist one. Among others, Michael Keating, Héctor Gros Espiell, Shlomo Ben-Ami, the lehendakari Juan José Ibarretxe, Xosé Manuel Beiras, Peter Caruana, Mohamed Abdelaziz ... are some of the people that have taken part in our magazine

## **3. Basque Nationalism Museum**

The Basque Nationalism Museum, the only such museum in the whole of the Basque Country, offers a pleasant trip through the last century of Basque history, from the times of Sabino Arana to the Gernika Statute, through the Civil War, Franco's regime and exile.

The exhibition consists of original objects donated by a number of persons, with modern interactive and audiovisual equipment and the chance to take a guided tour.

Temporary and travelling exhibitions organized every year by the Museum always deepen into different sides of Basque history or current affairs held by the Foundation. ([www.abertzaletasunarenmuseumoa.org](http://www.abertzaletasunarenmuseumoa.org))

## **4. Historical Nationalism Archives**

If we had to mention one particular activity carried on by the Sabino Arana Foundation, this would be the Historical Nationalism Archives. And, when we mention the Archives, we cannot fail to mention Jesús Insausti, "*Uzturre*". For the former Chairman of the Sabino Arana Foundation, the Archives were a "dream" come true. And only he could express in words what this is and what it means. "*When we are all gone, a little piece of all of us will remain here, among these old papers*", said Jesús on the day of the inauguration. The Meñaka Jauregia Archive facilities in Artea-Arratia were opened on a very special date: the anniversary of the birth of Sabino Arana, on 26 January 1993.

The Sabino Arana Foundation started in 1993 the Archives with the aim to collect, preserve, organize and spread the documentary wealth of the Basque nationalism, starting with the papers that had been kept at "Villa Izarra", the latest headquarters of the EAJ-PNV's EBB in exile, in the Beyris quarter (Baiona).

The headquarters of the Basque Nationalism Archives are in Artea (Bizkaia) and there are kept important historical files, divided in archive, book and library funds.

May we stand out the EAJ-PNV's files since its foundation; political and cultural associations, enterprise and private files; Basque groups in Europe and America; photographs, maps, plans, posters, pamphlets, postcards, stickers... Since its creation, the Archives have received more than a thousand (1200) of private donations (papers, books, objects, photographs...) that contribute to enrich the nationalist wealth.

Today, the Archives for which Uzturre fought so hard are now a reality of almost 37,000 monographs on Basque topics, and a documentation centre with over 5,000 publications – of which there are over 130,000 copies – over one million documents on the history of Basque nationalism. This may be used as a reference centre for anyone wishing to submerge themselves in our people's past.

- **15.20 Historiography of the Lithuanian national movement: changing paradigms and primary sources problems / Darius Staliunas – Lietuvos istorijos institutas, Vilnius-Lithuania**

This paper deals with the changes in Lithuanian historiography related to the research on Lithuanian National Movement. The formation of Lithuanian historical narrative; situation in the interwar period; domination of soviet Marxism paradigm; and finally the current trend in Lithuanian historiography are being examined. This paper attempts to illustrate the thesis that investigation of certain issues and the neglect of others to a considerable degree was determined by paradigms which dominated professional historiography. However, the availability of primary sources was also an important matter determining historical research. Situation with the primary sources related to Lithuanian National Movement is discussed at the end of this paper.

16.00-16.20 Coffee break

**16.20-17.00 Extracurricular: 'Options for Peace': Conducting Research on Nationalism: Preparing a Project / Alan Sandry – Welsh Nationalism Study Group, Cardiff-United Kingdom**

Researching contemporary nationalism requires an assessment of recent developments and a projection of where nationalist movements and discourse is heading. The Welsh Nationalism Foundation and the Centre Maurits Coppieters (Brussels) have just embarked on a two-year project entitled '*Options for Peace*'. This project will analyse the defence and international policies of sub-state nationalist parties across Europe. The focus will then be on looking at 'options for peace, that those parties can adopt.

The research will comprise of two 2-hour meetings in each participating nation. This will take the shape of an 'experts' meeting and an 'activists' meeting, with keynote speakers addressing each meeting. Upon completion, the outcomes and options from each meeting will be analysed and made available to interested parties, and they will also be put to people at subsequent meetings in order that, for example, people in Flanders could consider some of the 'options for peace' proposed by people in Wales.

With their expertise and general knowledge of nationalist theory and practice, delegates at NISE conference could assist by providing some indications as to how they envisage a research project such as thus unfolding, and what they view as the important matters to be raised by nationalists who wish to see their nations formulating 'independent' defence and foreign policies. I would therefore like to present the outline of the project before allowing the delegates to engage in an open forum with regard to this research subject.

17.30 Guided tour of Skopje

20.00 Dinner

**Friday 28 May 2010**

08.30 Welcome / Registration / Coffee

09.00-11.00 National movements and archives (continued)

- **09.00 Macedonian National Liberation Movement and the Archives in the R of Macedonia / Ivan Aleksovski – State Archive of the R. of Macedonia, Skopje-Macedonia**

The State Archives of Republic of Macedonia, as a specialized institution in the field of the archive science, is one of the most important state and national institutions, which is at the same time a chronicler, a treasury and a source for the research of the entire political, economic, scientific and cultural development of the Republic of Macedonia.

For a country which was under the occupation of the neighboring Balkan countries for centuries, the archival documentation for the Macedonian people is an authentic evidence of their existence, of the persistence of their national identity, of the struggle of the Macedonian people for the establishment of their own national country and the continuity of the Macedonian political, legal and national thought.

The research practice undoubtedly asserts the conviction that the development of the historical science is not possible without giving a theoretical meaning to all important processes related to the empiric application of the archival documents. Thus, the historical development of a nation can be completely researched if all the sources for its history are studied, where the archival material gives possibilities for the solution of many issues and clarification of certain historical events, processes and people.

Despite its rich history full of historical events, processes and people, a great number of cultural monuments, medieval manuscripts and all kinds of written documents, Macedonia was left impoverished with its heritage as a result of the conquests, robberies and occupations of the neighboring countries and the number of foreign occupiers.

The primary task of the State Archives is the preservation of the archival material as a historical memory which is the basis for the documentation of our past. The State Archives holds about 4 thousand funds and collections with original archival material in its depots, which is over 11 000 meters or about 65 000 000 sheets. This enormous archival documentation contains 10 500 000 microfilms recordings. From the conducted researches in the foreign archives 2 000 000 documents-recordings for the history of Macedonia have been brought so far.

The State Archives holds archival materials almost from all the periods of the Macedonian historical past: The Ottoman rule in Macedonia (XV-XX century), from the period of Macedonian renaissance and the revolutionary-liberation movement (originally archival material of the Macedonian rebel revolutionary-liberation organizations, organs, bodies, committees, activists and revolutionaries from the end of the XIX and beginning of XX century), the period of the Balkan wars, the World War I and II (from the National Liberation Struggle) and from the postwar period.

- **09.40 Sami archives of Norway. Minority archives within the Norwegian archival services / Øystein Steinlien – Sámi Arkiiva, Kautokeino-Norway**

As a vantage point I will give an outline of the Norwegian Government's policy towards the Samis as indigenous peoples.

As a background I will mention the signing of The International Labor Organization 169, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (1989) and The Council of Europe's Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (1992).

These are important instruments in the Norwegian Government's policy towards the Samis the last two decades. I will then give a sketch of the development of the Sami archives in two phases. Firstly, as a foundation (1995/2004) and then, as a Department of the National Archival Services of Norway (2005/2010).

- **10.20 Archival awareness as part of the Kurdish nation formation / Derwich Ferho – Kurdish Institute of Brussels, Brussels-Belgium**

Archival awareness as part of the Kurdish nation formation. The Kurds are seen as a people without libraries or archives. But yet they have made attempts in the past to realise both. They have however been thwarted many times in those attempts: Kurdish libraries and archives have been destroyed wilfully by foreign powers, as part of the eradication of a culture, even leading to the removal of storytellers, singers etc. This has led also to a weakening of the awareness of the importance of archives and libraries. But in recent times, as the political situation is changing, also the awareness of the need for recorded evidence of the Kurdish culture is now germinating, as well as the will to do something about it, as far as the resources permit. First of all abroad: already in October 1997 a Kurdish library was founded in Stockholm with the help of the Swedish Ministry of Culture. But the changing political situation has had also repercussions in

Kurdistan itself: there are several initiatives in the south (Iraq), by universities, the ministry of culture, parliament and city councils as Hewlêr (Arbil). In the north (Turkey), in the capital Amed (Diyarbakir), the first stone has been laid for the first Kurdish library, under the name Kitêbxaneyya Mehmet Uzun (Mehmet Uzun was a writer).

11.00 Coffee break

11.30-13.30 Round Table / presided by Hanno Brand – Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden-The Netherlands

13.30-14.00 Closing drink