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English Summaries

Stephanie Baumann

Bilder um ihrer selbst willen. Siegfried Kracauers Grossaufnahmen

Siegfried Kracauer once called his former professor Georg Simmel “a foe of the general”. The phrase appears in an early treatise of 1919, where Kracauer dealt for the very first time with the question of the relations between a global point of view and a fragmented one. This question is particularly relevant to the process of history writing and Kracauer took it up again in his last work *History. The Last Things Before the Last* (1969). The present contribution analyzes how the issue of the relation between the universal and the particular is developed by Kracauer in *History* and assesses to which extent Kracauer drew on concepts borrowed from media theory when developing his own theoretical framework. It discusses Saul Friedländer’s integrated history of the Holocaust as an application of what Kracauer had in mind when he developed a model for what modern historical writing consists of – namely, close-ups with no other purpose outside themselves.

Jouni-Matti Kuukkanen

Is narrativism empirically plausible? What we can learn from the case study approach for the philosophy of historiography

This paper examines the empirical standing of narrativism, which has been a dominant tradition in the theory and philosophy of historiography for some decades. The focus is on two questions: (1) Are narrativism and the case study approach compatible? (2) Does narrativism as a philosophical doctrine provide a plausible description of historiography? It turns out that the answer to the first question is negative. However, the second assumption – the assumption that history books are narratively organised – is an empirical claim, and therefore, the paper tests this assumption on the basis of a case study of historiography, Christopher Clark’s *The Sleepwalkers. How Europe Went to War in 1914*. I argue that the book is not narratively constructed when ‘narrative’ is understood as entailing holism and chronological ordering. My suggestion is that it is argumentativity that characterises historiography as a disciplinary approach. I end with a brief discussion on the value and the force of the case study approach itself.

Arne Höcker

Der Fall der Literatur: Beobachten – Zitieren – Urteilen

What is a literary case history? How does literature contribute to the establishment of casuistic forms that since the 18th century have been involved in the formation of psychological knowledge and legal decision-making? And how does this in return contribute to the formation of a literary and aesthetic discourse to which we attribute special formative and critical qualities that define our cultural self-conception? This essay addresses these questions by focusing on three literary texts by Schiller, Büchner, and Musil. While these texts address the casuistic problem of the mediation between individual history and general rule, each of them simultaneously receives its specific literary aesthetics from its engagement with historical cases. Thus, these texts must be read not only as literary case histories that contribute to a general anthropological knowledge, but must be understood, more comprehensively, as cases of literature.

Susanne Düwell

Der merkwürdige Totschlag des Bernhard Schimaidzig. Die gerichtspsychologische Karriere eines Falls von «Schlaftrunkenheit» um 1800

Considering a spectacular case of manslaughter under somnolence, this article examines the history of the construction and reception of a paradigmatic criminal case, first published in Klein's *Annalen der Gesetzgebung und Rechtsgelehrsamkeit in den Preussischen Staaten* in 1791. After analysing the construction of the case, its publishing context as well as the influence of the "Erfahrungsseelenkunde" on early forensic psychology, the article addresses the aspects and transformations that can be made responsible for the striking prominence of this case in the academic field of forensic psychology.

Hannes Mangold

F. Der Fall Fabeyer und die Transformation der Verbrechensbekämpfung um 1967

In 1967, Bruno Fabeyer's case became notorious across West Germany. The reconstruction of the case offers an understanding of the profound transformation of the criminal police in the FRG around 1970, revealing the rationale behind the then pressing critique of the working routines and organizational modes of the criminal police system. It shows how the last analogue information system of the West German criminal police worked, why it was considered out-dated, and, from the early 1970s on, replaced by a new, digital successor. Thus, the study of the crime case's

narrative explains the discursive and epistemic transformations in the history of both information management and security production.

Cécile Stehrenberger

Katastrophen-Fall-Wissen. Zur Geschichte der sozialwissenschaftlichen Katastrophenforschung

During the second half of the 20th Century several US-American social science “disaster research groups” conducted field studies after earthquakes, factory explosions and “racial riots”. By analyzing human behavior in countless different past disaster events, the researchers attempted to produce knowledge that could be applied in the future handling of different types of disasters, including war time situations. My paper examines this case-rationality, its underlying assumptions, as well as its limitations. It reflects on the scientists’ different modes of accumulating, generalizing, and translating knowledge, among them the development of models. The article shows how “thinking in cases” shaped scientific practices like the training of interviewers, and it examines the role paradigmatic cases played in the establishment of disaster research as a scientific field.

Maurice Cottier

Tragik und Gericht. Eine kulturhistorische Analyse von Pierre Rivières Fall. Straffjustiz, Psychiatrie und das Memoire

In 1973 Michel Foucault and a team of researchers published the case study “I, Pierre Rivière having slaughtered my mother, my sister and my brother”. Foucault and his colleagues convincingly use the case from 1835 to demonstrate on a micro historical level how psychiatry interfused the French criminal justice system in the 19th century. The case also contains a detailed mémoire written by the murderer himself. Foucault views the mémoire ambivalently. In the introduction of the book he characterizes the murderer’s text as a ‘beautiful’ story which should not be analyzed. However, in a separate comment he offers rather unfinished but nonetheless intriguing thoughts on the cultural and historical contexts of the murderer’s deliberations. According to Foucault the mémoire’s style is similar to 19th century literature and journalism. He also stresses that the murder and the text are reciprocal and should therefore be seen as unit. Building on these remarks this paper analyses Rivière’s murderous mémoire as a part of 19th and early 20th century European culture. Focusing on the mémoire’s tragic style it reveals that the murder and the mémoire are interconnected: Rivière used the criminal system and the criminal court as a stage to demonstrate his greatness and fatalistically rebel against a, in his view, unfair society. However, the psychiatrists read the mémoire in a different

fashion than the jurists. While the latter treated the memoir as an evidence of the crime and proof of the murderer's mental sanity, the former used the memoir to demonstrate Rivière's inherited and therefore lifelong insanity. In contrast to the jurists the psychiatrists did not ignore the narrative structure of the story. They interpreted the section where Rivière describes himself as different from the ordinary and destined for greater things as a distinct sign of mental illness. In this version tragic heroism turns into dangerous abnormality. In as sense the psychiatrists successfully used the story's narrative structure for their scientific argumentation. The Rivière case demonstrates how murderer's tragic perception played a crucial role in the interfusion of psychiatric concepts and the criminal justice system in 19th century Europe.