

Microhistorical Epistemology

Course ID.:700626A

Instructors: Georg Gangl (georg.gangl@oulu.fi) and Ilkka Lähteenmäki (ilkka.o.lahteenmaki@oulu.fi)

Office hours: Room GF320 (by email appointment)

Course dates: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11.03.19-17.04.19.

Weekday	Date	Time	Location
Mon	11.03.19	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	13.03.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113
Mon	18.03.19	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	20.03.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113
Mon	25.03.19	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	27.03.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113
Mon	01.04.19	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	03.04.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113
Mon	08.04.19,	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	10.04.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113
Mon	15.04.19,	12.15-14.00	HUM 301
Wed	17.04.19	12.15-14.00	IT 113

Course Description

The goal of the course is to introduce students to Microhistorical Epistemology, a new approach in the philosophy of history and wider philosophy of science currently being developed at Oulu University. Microhistorical Epistemology draws on different established fields such as historical epistemology and microhistory and its current field of application is historiography. The course will familiarize students with the main currents in all those fields so as to put her in a position to understand the resources Microhistorical Epistemology draws on, and how the approach differs from these resources.

In line with the practical streak of Microhistorical Epistemology, actual historiographical texts will be discussed throughout the course. Students will be introduced to different genres of historiography and their potentially differing philosophical presuppositions. The goal here is to analyze historiographical texts by means of the concepts acquired in the course and to come to an understanding of the prospects of and challenges to our knowledge of the past.

Class Structure and Course Requirements

The course is a combination of lectures and seminar sessions, with Mondays generally devoted to lectures and Wednesdays to seminar sessions (with one exception!). For the seminar sessions, there are texts to be read before class (usually 1-2 per session, with around 30 pages of reading per week). There is a writing assessment that builds on the texts of the seminar sessions. Students are required to write a reading diary of the texts read, consisting of two parts: a summary of the text (at most half a page), and short exposition of what they found especially interesting about the text (also at most half a page), especially in light of the topics

discussed in the course. The reading diaries must be uploaded to Moodle on the day before the discussion (usually Tuesday) by 10pm (see here: <https://moodle oulu.fi>). The diaries will be discussed in the seminar sessions along with the texts.

Please note that the course reading consists of required and optional readings. The reading diaries should be based on the required readings. The optional readings give more insight into the topics discussed for those especially interested. The lectures have optional readings only. Most readings, required or optional, can be downloaded in .pdf-format from Moodle.

Attendance in class and contribution to the discussion, also in the lecture sessions, will account for 25% of the overall mark. The reading diaries also contribute 25%. The final essay or exam will count for the other 50%. Modalities of the exam and the essay will be discussed in the first session. In general, it is up to the students to decide whether they want to sit an exam or write an essay of about 8-10 pages. The essay can be based on the work already done for the reading diaries.

There will be an attendance list going around in the beginning of every class that needs to be signed. Students are generally allowed to miss 2 sessions with legitimate reasons. Please let the instructors know before class, as soon as possible, if you cannot come to class. If a student misses more than two sessions for legitimate reasons, some additional coursework will be assigned.

Course Structure

Session 1: 11.03.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Course modalities and course overview; introduction to the course's main themes: epistemology, philosophy of history, microhistory, Microhistorical Epistemology

Session 2: 13.03.2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Seminar: Introduction to Historical Theory

Required reading:

Tucker, A. (2009) "Introduction" In A. Tucker (ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 1-7

Optional reading:

Paul, Herman (2015) *Key Issues in Historical Theory*. London: Routledge (especially chap. 1-2)

Tucker, A. (2009) (ed) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Reading Diary 1 for the required reading is due 12.03.2019, 10pm.

Session 3: 18.03.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Lecture: Introduction to (historical) epistemology

Optional reading:

Audi, R. (2011) *Epistemology. A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge*. Abingdon: Routledge

Steup, M. (2015) "Epistemology" In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2018 Edition), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2018/entries/epistemology/>

Zammito, J.H. (2004) *A Nice Derangement of Epistemes. Post-positivism in the study of science from Quine to Latour*. Chicago: Chicago University Press

Session 4: 20.03 2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Seminar: Analysis of historiographical texts (I)

Required reading:

Hokkanen, M. (2017) *Medicine, Mobility and The Empire. Nyasaland networks, 1859-1960*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (chap. 6, "Quinine, malarial fevers and mobility: a biography of a 'European fetish, c. 1859-c. 1940", 186-218)¹

McMeekin, S. (2011) *The Russian Origins of the First World War*. Harvard: Harvard University Press (chap. 2., "It Takes Two to Tango: The July Crisis", 41-75)

Optional reading:

Galison, P. (2004) *Einstein's Clocks, Poincaré's Maps. Empires of Time*. New York: W.W. Norton (chap. 2, "Coal, Chaos, and Convention", 48-83)

Reading Diary 2 for the required reading is due 19.03.2019, 10pm.

Session 5: 25.03.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Lecture: Introduction to Philosophy of History and Historiography

Optional reading:

Danto, A. C. (1985) *Narration and Knowledge including the integral text Analytical Philosophy of History*. New York: Columbia University Press

Munslow, A. (2007) *Narrative and History*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Tucker, A. (2004) *Our Knowledge of the Past. A Philosophy of Historiography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Session 6: 27.03 2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Seminar: Philosophy of History and Historiography

Required reading:

¹ Author Markku Hokkanen will be present at the session and discuss his book from the standpoint of a historian with us.

Kosso, P. (2009) "Philosophy of Historiography" In A. Tucker (ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 9-26

Little, D. (2010) *New Contributions to the Philosophy of History*. Springer: Amsterdam, ch. 1, 1-10

Optional reading:

Kosso, P. (2001) *Knowing the Past. Philosophical Issues of History and Archeology*. Amherst: Humanity Books (especially chap. 1-3)

Kuukkanen, J.M. (2015) *Postnarrativist Philosophy of Historiography*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan (especially chap. 1-3)

Reading Diary 3 is due 26.03.2019, 10pm.

Session 7: 01.04.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Lecture: Introduction to Microhistory

Optional Reading:

Ankersmit, F. (1989) "Historiography and Postmodernism" In *History and Theory* 28(2), 137-153

Ginzburg, C. (1993) "Microhistory: Two or Three Things that I know about it" In *Critical Inquiry* 20(1), 10-35

Magnússon, S.G./Szióártó, I. M. (2013) *What is Microhistory? Theory and Practice*. Abingdon: Routledge

Session 8: 03.04. 2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Seminar: Microhistory

Required reading:

Davis, N.Z. (1983) *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (Introduction and chap. 1, 1-19)²

Levy, G. (2001) "On Microhistory" In P. Burke (ed) *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 97-120

Optional reading:

Muir, E.W./Ruggiero, G. (1991) (eds.) *Microhistory and the Lost Peoples of Europe*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press

² There is a film with the same title, starring Gérard Depardieu, which was shot simultaneously with the writing of the book. Natalie Zemon Davis, the author of the book, also acted as a consultant for the movie. Throughout her book and in a separate text, Davis reflects on the differences between the media of historiographical text and film (Davis 1988). Students particularly interested in different media of historical expression, and their potential differences, might watch the movie and write the assignment on both. A link to the movie can be found on the Newsboard of Moodle.

Reading Diary 4 is due 02.04.2019, 10pm.

Session 9: 08.04.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Lecture: Introduction to Microhistorical Epistemology

Optional reading:

- Galison, P. (2008) "Ten Problems in History and Philosophy of Science." in *Isis* 99(1), 111–24
- Kuukkanen, J.-M. (2015) *Postnarrativist Philosophy of Historiography*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan (especially chap. 8, 9)
- Kuukkanen, J.-M. (2017) "Moving Deeper into Rational Pragmatism" In *Journal of Philosophy of History* 11(1), 83-118

Session 10: 10.04. 2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Seminar: Microhistorical Epistemology

Required reading:

- Daston, L. (1994) "Historical Epistemology" In J. Chandler/A. I. Davidson/H.D. Harootunian (eds.) *Questions of Evidence: Proof, Practice, and Persuasion Across the Disciplines*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 282-289
- Kuukkanen, J.-M (2015) *Postnarrativist Philosophy of Historiography*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, chap. 9, 148-167

Optional reading:

- Daston, L./Galison P. (2007) *Objectivity*. New York: Zone Books (especially. chap. 1 and chap.4)
- Feest, U./Sturm, Th. (2011) "What (Good) is Historical Epistemology?" In *Erkenntnis* 75(3), 285-302.

Reading Diary 5 is due 09.04.2019, 10pm.

Session 11: 15.04.2019, 12.15-14.00 (Hum 301)

Seminar: Analysis Historiographical texts (II)

Required reading:

- Ginzburg, C. (1980) *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a 16th Century Miller*. New York: Penguin Books (chap. 1-11, 1-27)
- Judt, T. (2010) *Postwar. A History of Europe Since 1945*. London: Vintage Books (chap. 1.1, "The Legacy of War", 13-41)

Optional reading:

Le Roy Ladurie , E. (2002) *Montaillou: Cathars and Catholics in a French Village 1294-1324*. London: Penguin Books (chapter 4, "A dominant house: the Clergue family", 51-68)

Reading Diary 6 is due 14.04.2019, 10pm.

Session 12: 17.04. 2019, 12.15-14.00 (IT 113)

Final Exam. Course Evaluation

Course literature

Ankersmit, F. (1989) "Historiography and Postmodernism" In *History and Theory* 28(2), 137-153

Audi, R. (2011) *Epistemology. A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge*. Abingdon: Routledge

Chandler J./Davidson A. I./Harootunian H.D. (eds.) (1994) *Questions of Evidence: Proof, Practice, and Persuasion Across the Disciplines*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Danto, A. C. (1985) *Narration and Knowledge including the integral text Analytical Philosophy of History*. New York: Columbia University Press

Daston, L. (1994) "Historical Epistemology" In A. I. Davidson/H.D. Harootunian (eds.) *Questions of Evidence: Proof, Practice, and Persuasion Across the Disciplines*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 282--289

Daston, L./Galison P. (2007) *Objectivity*. New York: Zone Books

Davis, N.Z. (1983) *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press

Davis, N.Z. (1988) "'Any Resemblance to Persons Living or Dead': film and the challenge of authenticity" In *Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television* 8(3), 269-283

Feest, U./Sturm, Th. (2011) "What (Good) is Historical Epistemology?" In *Erkenntnis* 75(3), 285-302.

Galison, P. (2004) *Einstein's Clocks, Poincaré's Maps. Empires of Time*. New York. W.W. Norton

Galison, P. (2008) "Ten Problems in History and Philosophy of Science." in *Isis* 99(1), 111–24

Ginzburg, C. (1980) *The Cheese and the Worms. The Cosmos of a 16th Century Miller*. New York: Penguin Books

Ginzburg, C. (1993) "Microhistory: Two or Three Things that I know about it" In *Critical Inquiry* 20(1), 10-35

Hokkanen, M. (2017) *Medicine, Mobility and The Empire. Nyasaland networks, 1859-1960*. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Judt, T. (2010) *Postwar. A History of Europe Since 1945*. London: Vintage Books

Kosso, P. (2001) *Knowing the Past. Philosophical Issues of History and Archeology*. Amherst: Humanity Books

Kosso, P. (2009) "Philosophy of Historiography" In A. Tucker (ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 9-26

Kuukkanen, J.-M. (2015) *Postnarrativist Philosophy of Historiography*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan

- Kuukkanen, J.-M. (2017) "Moving Deeper into Rational Pragmatism" In *Journal of Philosophy of History* 11(1), 83-118
- Le Roy Ladurie, E. (2002) *Montaillou: Cathars and Catholics in a French Village 1294-1324*. London: Penguin Books
- Levy, G. (2001) "On Microhistory" In P. Burke (ed) *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 97-120
- Little, D. (2010) *New Contributions to the Philosophy of History*. Springer: Amsterdam
- Magnússon, S.G./Szijártó, I. M. (2013) *What is Microhistory? Theory and Practice*. Abingdon: Routledge
- McMeekin, S. (2011) *The Russian Origins of the First World War*. Harvard: Harvard University Press
- Muir, E.W./Ruggiero, G. (1991) (eds.) *Microhistory and the Lost Peoples of Europe*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press
- Munslow, A. (2007) *Narrative and History*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Paul, Herman (2015) *Key Issues in Historical Theory*. London: Routledge
- Steup, M. (2015) "Epistemology" In *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2018 Edition), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2018/entries/epistemology/>
- Tucker, A. (2004) *Our Knowledge of the Past. A Philosophy of Historiography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Tucker, A. (2009a) "Introduction" In A. Tucker (ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 1-7
- Tucker, A. (2009b) (ed) *A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell
- Zammito, J.H. (2004) *A Nice Derangement of Epistemes. Post-positivism in the study of science from Quine to Latour*. Chicago: Chicago University Press