

Summary

Imagining the Other in Polish reportage about the post-imperial East

The dissertation analyzes reportage texts from the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century that fit into the tradition of Polish travel narratives. **The subject of the research is the problem of the Other- Foreigner- Neighbour in the East understood as the post-territory of imperialist Russia (in its tsarist and communist versions).** The main topic was tracking transformations and changes in the image of the East and the subjectivity of the Other in Polish reportage representations.

The dissertation consists of **five chapters**.

The first of them discusses two main and already classic reportage books by Ryszard Kapuściński about the East, which constituted break up in the narrative, in the - generally - negative image of the world from beyond the eastern border. They present what the East actually was in the times of the Polish People's Republic and later on after the collapse of the USSR. They show through analytical and interpretive practices how the East and imperial Russia hid and blurred the image of the multicultural Other, placing him within the ideological framework and monolith of the political discourse.

The second chapter introduces the travel books of Wojciech Górecki, an author who polemically follows in the footsteps of the "emperor of reportage" and focuses on a much more current analysis of the post-imperial world. Travel texts were subjected to a thorough analysis; in their narratives, they talk about the ghostly structure of the post-empire and analyze the remnants of the collapse of the USSR on the periphery.

Mariusz Wilk's travel prose (**chapter three**) is a separate phenomenon, because the author experiences Russia through his personal nomadic practices. His view of the East (through, among other things, the use of "tropes") often

differs from and polemicizes with the current writing about the eastern neighbor in strictly negative and suspicious categories.

The fourth chapter is devoted to the travel narratives of Wojciech Jagielski, a war correspondent. However, the subjects of analysis were those reportage publications that find and portray the (absence of) women in the world of the post-Soviet East.

Chapter five analyzes the travel narratives of Tomasz Grzywaczewski, who belongs to the youngest generation of reporters dealing with the post-imperial East. The reflection that flows through the study of his work shows a growing awareness of the utopian nature of the projects remaining here after post-imperial Russia

The treatise ends with a gloss and an epilogue, which touch on the writer/researcher's coming to terms with the East (Jędrzej Morawiecki in this double role) and diagnoses its condition - attempts of reconstruction of the imperial paradigm as an antidote to implosion and chaos.

To conclude, the dissertation presents selected travel narratives in chronological order, taking into account the most important changes in the discourse on the East and post-imperial Russia, paying attention to the reporters, starting from the classics of reportage and ending with the youngest of them generationally. The Other has also become an important category, which appears as the main link connecting the chaotic world presented in the East.

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Paweł Rogalski

