

TRACES (Tracing and Representing the Concentration Camps in the Graphic Novel: A Cross-Study of France, Germany and Spain)

Scientific description of the project

The TRACES project (Tracing and Representing the Concentration Camps in the Graphic Novel: A Cross-Study of France, Germany and Spain), will seek to explore contemporary creation in comics in connection with the question of concentration camp memory. The aim is to study the way in which contemporary comics and graphic novels choose to tell and draw the French and German concentration camps. This research perspective will allow us to question the processes of recovery and reconstruction of memory, as well as the political and aesthetic positions of artists who influence representations. The aim is to show the specificities of the graphic-narrative articulation of representations within comics. The project will highlight the choices of visibility, within the works, of the mobilization, in addition to their theoretical and critical readings, of archives, particularly photographs, testimonies and materials belonging to both intimate and collective memory.

Objectives and deliverables The organization of seminars/webinars and workshops between the different members of the team will make it possible to structure the progress of the project and to carry out multidisciplinary analyses of the representations, comics and sources mobilized. One of the challenges and one of the originalities of the project is based on the work on the image and on the representations. The design of a travelling exhibition of comic strips and archival documents will therefore be a large part of the project's challenges. The exhibition is seen as a form of research work, a tool for analysis and synthesis as well as a support for promotion and communication. We will also work on the realization of drawn restitutions in addition to research texts in order to explore the potentialities of the image. These forms of drawn research, resulting from workshops, seminars, periods of work in archives and interviews, will be put online on the project's hypotheses notebook.

International dimension

The project crosses several geographical and cultural areas: Germany, Austria, Spain and France, so it is essentially international. Collaboration with international partners is an intrinsic part of the project, including work with memorials and camps (the Rivesaltes and Vernet d'Ariège camps in France, the Sachsenhausen (Oranienburg) camp in Germany and the Mauthausen camp in Austria). The transnational study of representations also involves working with international research groups, particularly in the context of seminars and workshops. Since our bibliography is created by artists residing in France, Germany and Spain, we will have to conduct interviews in the working languages of the project.

EU-Green Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 4 Quality Education: Part of the bibliography consists of historical comics aimed at a young readership. We will analyze the scope of these works in the construction of memory and citizenship.
- SDG 5 Gender Equality: analysis of bibliography through gender analytical grids, particularly on the question of non- or under-representation of women and homosexuals.
- SDG 16 Peace, Justice and strong institution: the heart of the project questions a transnational culture of memory of the 1930s and 1940s. Description of the internship Missions entrusted to the intern • contribution to the selection of the corpus of comics in the German language. This work will involve searching for relevant comics, building a database and participating in the selection of plates for an exhibition
- Contribution to the critical bibliography • contribution to the development of a Hypotheses Academic blog in German and then updating the data presented in the academic blog.
- participation in the constitution of an international research network: search for institutional partners, research groups in Germany relevant to the project
- Contribution to an international mapping of camps and artistic productions Contributions for the intern
- integration into the CIRPaLL research laboratory
- If the intern is interested and depending on his or her research profile, the person may present his or her work by participating in a laboratory seminar or in a Master's course.
- Support by the tutor and development in a multicultural environment
- Support from the tutor and discovery of the French research and teaching system

Name and first name of the supervisor Katell BRESTIC

Email adress of the supervisor katell.brestic@univ-angers.fr