



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ

## **One-Day Workshop Report**

### **Resistance and Collaboration under Communism (Barbara Thériault, 2 400\$)**

Friday, 27 February 2015

Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes, Université de Montréal

#### **Context and theme**

Stimulated by increasing and fruitful collaboration between junior and senior team members of the Religion and Diversity Project in Montréal and established researchers working in the field of religion and politics in Europe, we plan a one-day workshop at the Université de Montréal. Our central theme is resistance and collaboration of religious groups' members and leaders with political authorities (Communist Party structures, but also the police and secret police forces) in communist Europe after World War II. With regard to religious traditions, majority/minority religious groups, and sub-types of communist regimes, we are interested in mapping out patterns of resistance and collaboration between 1945 and 1990 in a select number of countries located in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and in understanding how resistance and collaboration have been interwoven, since the fall of communism in 1989/1990, into the politics of memory and transitional justice, that is, the effort of state and non-state actors to address and redress the human rights violations perpetrated by past regimes.

While these two aspects are both *empirical* and *theoretical*, they also raise a set of *methodological* issues, which will also play an important role in our workshop. As such, we will consider questions such as: How do we get access and aptly deal with the sensitive material stored by repressive political police forces? How much credit researchers should give to secret information that cannot be corroborated from other sources? How did informers, as "lay sociologists," interpret and construct the information they gathered before they passed it on to the respective authorities? Why and when did faithful and religious leaders opt for resistance or collaboration? Resistance and collaboration also raise *normative* questions; indeed, changes of regimes turned roles and moral positions and, in turn, the way we think and write about change and people's involvement in them.

## **Programme and participants**

### Collaboration and Resistance

- “Postcommunist Debates about the Romanian Orthodox Church’s Collaboration and Resistance under Communism” (Lucian Turcescu, Concordia University & Lavinia Stan, St. Francis Xavier University)
- “Saints as Spies: Collaboration within the Roman Catholic Church with Poland’s Security Services” (Ewa Zuzia Danielski, Concordia University)
- “Two Spiritualities, Two Politics, One Church. Struggles within the Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989” (Miroslav Tižik, Institute for Sociology, Slovak Academy of Sciences)
- “Notes on Collaboration and Resistance” (Michael Kraus, Middlebury College)

### Methods

- “On Truth and Lack of it in Securitate’s Files” (Cristina Plamadeala, Concordia University)
- “A Book, A Securitate File and A Research Project. On Gossiping and Ethnography” (Barbara Thériault, Université de Montréal; team member)
- “On Archives and Methods” (Andreea Maieran, Wilkes University)

### Memory

- “Stalinist Repression in Romania and its Memorialization after 1989” (Monica Ciobanu, SUNY at Plattsburgh)
- “‘Prisons’ Saints.’ Looking at the Past through the Lens of Lived Religion” (Monica Grigore, Université de Montréal; team member)
- “Remembering Soviet Times: A View from Muslim Central Asia” (Hélène Thibault, Université de Montréal; team member)

## **Deliverables**

A special issue of *Eurostudia*, the online journal of the Centre canadien d’études allemandes et européennes’ online:

“From Today’s Observation Post: Collaboration and Resistance,” *Eurostudia*, 10(1).

- three articles will be online in the course of August 2015, five others in November 2015.

<b>Breakdown of Expenses</b>				
<b>Student Funding*</b>				
	Amount	Name	Dates	Project
Student Stipends				
Student Assistantship				
<b>Research Funding</b>				
	Amount	Project	Dates	Specifics**
Funding for Research Costs				
Funding for Research Travel Miroslav Tizik (Bratislava / Montréal)	1358,00\$	Collaboration and Resistance	27.02.2015	
Andreea Maieran (Wilkes-Barre [PA] / Montréal)	660,45\$	Collaboration and Resistance	27.02.2015	
Funding for Administrative/Supply Costs Related to Research	381,21\$	Collaboration and Resistance	27.02.2015 and 15.04.2015	
*(Please see Assistantship/Student Funding Guidelines above)				
**If items were purchased, indicate item, relationship to project and cost				
***All research are required to submit research reports related to their student/research funding.				