

Abstract:

I have chosen the typographic communities in Leipzig, Vienna and Prague as the basic material for the following doctoral thesis. I will use their examples to trace, in a transnational perspective, the broad theme of the transformation of workers' collective identities, ideas and strategies in an era of fundamental technological, economic, social, political and cultural change from the end of the pre-March period to the beginning of the First World War. My aim is to combine the tradition of methodologically informed *labour history* of the last sixty years or so with the narrowly conceived trade union history of a small elite field that has a long tradition among typographers.

I frame the general theme of the thesis as the formation of collective identities of manual workers in modern times, which I will here view as a precondition for the collective strategies and practices of negotiation that will also be analyzed. This will involve a synchronic analysis of the changes that have affected society as a whole with the changes in typographers' own self-reflection. An important theme of the following work will also be the exploration of the tension between the consciousness of belonging to the working class and the status consciousness that was particularly strong among typographers.

Personally, I see the main empirical and methodological contribution of the thesis as the interconnected tracing of typographic traditions, symbols and collective identities formed over several centuries with their collective strategies and practices of action during the period of peak industrial capitalism and the mass trade union and political activities of workers at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The second important contribution of this thesis is my approach to typographic collective identities, cultural affiliations and solidarity networks, which I explore not only in relation to other workers, but also in relation to non-worker milieus, in this case primarily intellectual bourgeois milieus. Such research in my opinion can provide a fuller picture of the changing world of skilled workers in small-scale industries and thus also contribute to research on the early labour movement and the formation of the working class.

Keywords:

labour movement, working class, labour history, bourgeois culture, working-class culture, history of printing, typographers, revolution 1848–1849, social movement, history of trade-unions, socialism, liberalism, emancipation