

Marie Curie European Reintegration Grants (ERG)

Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-2-ERG

“Literary and media interaction as means of understanding and preventing adolescent violence and political/religious extremism”

(Acronym: Media/Anti-Violence. EU-ERG No. 203487)

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Abstract:

The ERG-project draws on the results from the MC-EIF-project Media/Trauma-Therapy, pursuing the question of how the psycho-affective and narrative processes of an individual's mental interaction with media and literary narratives interrelates with her/is life history. More specifically the question was how the person unwittingly implements media interaction in her/is attempts to process her/is personal experience and tackle biographically determined challenges of individual growth and how s/he thus develops so-called soft skills, i.e. capacities of resilience and self-management as well as sustainable forms of interactional and emotional intelligence.

Taking the research methods and results from the MC-EIF into account, the ERG-project aims at developing pedagogical interventions and modules for media based cultural social work with various high-risk populations among European adolescents, in particular with those who are prone to violent behaviour and extremist political and religious ideologies. The methodical procedures aim at activating personal memories about self-experienced events, which individuals narratively recall in the context of interacting with particular narratives in literature, the media, and narratives from youth cultures.

The research will be situated in different settings of social work with endangered/dangerous adolescents as is conducted by an employer NPO in Berlin, Germany, which works in regions mostly of East-Germany (but also in Poland and the Czech Republic) serving students of different types of public schools as well as imprisoned adolescents and consulting the professionals who work there. The scientific and methodological framework is established by resources of qualitative social studies and media-interaction research, psycho-therapy and trauma studies, narratology as well as culture studies and pedagogy. The target is to develop and evaluate narrational methods, which are appropriate and effective with these kinds of populations and document the results of the project. The over-all goal is to establish “narrative media literacy” and “narrative interpersonal skills” as criteria and pedagogical tools of social work with risk populations among European adolescents.

Key words:

qualitative media studies, culture studies, media psychology, media pedagogy, social work, violence prevention, prevention of political and religions extremism, narratology, psycho-trauma studies