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RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

École nationale des Chartes, Paris (France)

Ph.D. Candidate

Doctoral Research: “The Will of the State. Power of the “Offices”, correspondence and reconfiguration of the political society: the department of Nicolas de Neufville, lord of Villeroy, State Secretary (circa 1560 – 1610)”, under the direction of Professor Olivier Poncet, head of the research center Jean-Mabillon.

Paris-Sorbonne University, Paris (France)

Master, (modern history), Paris-Sorbonne University, under the direction of professor Denis Crouzet, head of the research center Roland Mousnier.

- *La Main du roi dans les arcanes de l'État. Correspondances politiques et configuration des pouvoirs dans le royaume de France des derniers Valois (1570-1590).*

- *Les lettres : lieu politique de l'empire du prince. Le pouvoir royal et les villes d'après la correspondance d'Henri d'Anjou (1567-1573).*

TEACHING AND MENTORING ACTIVITIES

Lecturer

Lecturer, Modern History, Department of History at Paris-Sorbonne University, « 16th century, national solutions to the Reforms ».

- 40 students.

Lecturer in Urban History and Sociology at École normale supérieure (Department of Geography) and at SciencesPo (IEP Paris).

- 50 students.

History and Geography teacher

High school teacher in Versailles and Créteil academies.

Prepared course materials including field trips in archive deposits and museums, experiments, lectures, exams, homework, and practice ; Supervised students in final projects, graded exams and weekly homework

- 200 students.

Author of pedagogical works

Co-author, textbook (Hatier) for highschool students and teacher guide.

Co-author *La Vie dans les Tranchées* et *La Naissance de l'État moderne*.

Advisor to the Chairman, Cité de Chaillot

National Museum of Architecture. Consulted for the inauguration.

EDUCATIONNAL QUALIFICATIONS

École Normale Supérieure de la rue d'Ulm

(Paris Sciences et Lettres, research university).

Graduate, History and Social sciences, major, Philosophie, minor in Art History and Philosophy.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Languages

Spanish, English.

Computer skills

Operating systems Linux / Mac OS / Windows. Wordpress, github, community management on social networks.

Journalism

Contributor to « Me racontez pas d'histoires » (Radio Campus), radio program based on news and interviews about research in History.

Contributor to the Huffington Post (French version) and Le Nouvel Observateur.

Editorial board member of Socialter, a print magazine on innovation and social business, as well as of Magazine and Urbanités, Geography and Sociology online review.

Presentations (2013-2015)

- 16th-18th January 2014, « Le pouvoir des “bureaux”. Secrétariat d’État et genèse de la monarchie administrative, (royaume de France, vers 1560-vers 1595) », colloque international “Des Chartes aux Constitutions”, Madrid, (Casa de Velázquez, Madrid, Signs and States Program. Semiotics of the Modern State, European Research Council, LAMOP - UMR 8589)
- 20 December 2013, « La mémoire et l’oubli. L’extinction des troubles politico-religieux et la genèse de l’État dans la France des premiers Bourbons », Radio Campus Paris.
- 14 November 2013, « L’écriture à trois mains. Les correspondances politiques sous les derniers Valois : gouvernementalité trinitaire et reconfigurations politiques. (1567-1578) », (séminaire des doctorants, Centre d’Études et de Recherches Comparatistes (CERC), Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle - Paris-III).
- 2013 : « Visions Urbaines, destruction et organisation des villes », research lecture, department of geography, Ecole normale supérieure (PSL Research university).
- 2012 : « Visions Urbaines, destruction et organisation des villes », SciencesPo Paris.
- 2010 (summer school) : « Récits, structures et représentations de l’histoire et de son écriture », École normale supérieure (PSL Research university).
- 2010 : « L’apprenti historien face aux sources », research lecture, Department of History, Ecole normale supérieure (PSL Research university).
- 2007 : « Mobilités sociales à l’époque moderne », research lecture, Department of History, Ecole normale supérieure (PSL Research university).

Selected Publications

- « Stasis. Rupture de l’unité confessionnelle, émeutes urbaines et reconfigurations politiques (France, Saint-Empire, Italie-vers 1500-1650) », in Urbanités, n°2 (November 2013).
- « Moyen Âge. L’Université des Bolonais. », dans Socialter, le magazine de l’économie nouvelle génération, n°2, December 2013, p. 94-97.
- « Pirates. Bandits sociaux et solidaires ? », dans Socialter, le magazine de l’économie nouvelle génération, n°1, September 2013, p. 94-97.
- « L’ordonnance de Villers-Cotterêts », in La naissance de l’État moderne, TDC, n° 1056, Paris, CNDP, may 2013, p. 36-37.
- « L’expérience combattante », in La Vie dans les tranchées, TDC, n° 1024, Paris, CNDP, November 2011, p. 38-42.
- Histoire 1re. Manuel de l’élève, Guillaume Bourel et Marielle Chevallier (dir.), Paris, Hatier, 2011, p. 294-321.

Summary of the research project

The title of my doctoral research is “The will of the State. Power of the “offices”, correspondence and reconfiguration of the political society: the department of Nicolas de Neufville, lord of Villeroy, state secretary (*circa* 1560 – 1610)”.

I bring my attention to a variety of disparate sources in order to develop a problematized history of the State, which I intend to seize through the unprecedented increase in documentation – the “papers of the State” - resulting from the political turmoil of the time. It appears that there are two necessary conditions (as well as consequences) to this phenomenon: the overhaul of the traditional frames of the political society, and the establishment, at the heart of the State, of a political and administrative personnel with new horizons of aspiration in order to carry out a political reformation which falls within the overall political design of the last Valois monarchs. An approach of the State through the work of the secretaries – preparing letters and correspondence, forms, lists of recipients – reveals the implementation of a political project at work, which also appears in the letters’ drafts, alterations and erasures.

The countless decisions taken by the clerks of the Chancellery allow for an open, potential political history to be explored and developed. Pushing further the reflection on the notion of the “modern State”, problematic as it has become in contemporary historiography, my analysis will focus on the connection of the interests of a political society which ties her future (including in a material sense) to the monarch on the one hand; and on another hand, on the incorporation of this particular group’s practices within the government’s action, and under what forms. The creation of a new office, regrouping the state secretaries, at the heart of the government, appears to be central: this political innovation presages and prefigures the later transformations of what has been called the “administrative monarchy” in the 17th and 18th centuries; it also draws the outlines of a new élite group, bearer of new practices and knowledge (the latter largely empirical).

The study of one actor in particular, Nicolas de Neufville, lord of Villeroy, allows us to account for the deep changes that occur in the royal entourage. While fitting into the recent trend of the study, on a European scale, of institutional actors, analyzing Villeroy’s professional practices and political conceptions will require to link practices and events, discourses and mental frameworks: in other words, to unfold what constitutes the dense matter of the writings and the life of a man who was state secretary to four kings of France between 1567 and 1617. Studying the monument of papers produced by the state secretary in conjunction with his political trajectory and the reforms affecting the royal entourage in the last decades of the 16th century allows shedding a new light on certain issues proper to the history of the modern State. I will attempt to apprehend how Villeroy sets the foundations for and develops a number of political innovations both in fact and in right, in relation with the deep renewal of the royal imagery, imagination and symbolism running over fifty years.

In order to achieve a history of the particular political moment, seized through the documentary surge of the “state papers”, I will constitute a wide corpus from a variety of disparate sources.

In their diversity and contiguity, these sources are interesting as they perform and execute acts. I will establish a program relying on an exploration and survey of the different series of active political correspondence between the monarch and some of his secretaries. Studying this material allows capturing the conceptions and designs, both religious and

political, of the last Valois and first Bourbon kings, over a long period of time. An approach of the correspondence between the different state departments, as well as the correspondence with various political and “governmental” actors engaged in military, diplomatic or negotiation operations is also helpful in order to describe the evolutions of this particular political group – the “state scholars” – as well as its horizons of aspiration.

Normative sources and documents make the political reformation endeavor undertaken by the last Valois evident. Apprehending this endeavor in all of its dimensions requires linking through a comparative approach the documents relating to the organization of the administration directly attached to the service of the king on one hand, and those that play a role in structuring the new institutions of penance and demonstrative devotion on the other. Studying discursive sources (state dissertations, long accounts, treatises on correspondence) is also fundamental as they constitute the link between sources relative to epistolary exchanges and sources relative to political and administrative practices, therefore allowing to reduce (in part) the shadows that seem to take over in the cabinets and departments of the king’s secretaries in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

This research program will also follow a broader guideline –and therefore be helpful for a wider study: the analysis of the administrative knowledge transfers between the English, Spanish and French monarchies. I will pay attention to how the offices of secretaries Villeroy, Pérez (in Spain) and Walsingham (in England) engage in interactions through their diplomatic agents when crises occur and political negotiations take place. I describe the emergence of a “science of the State” across Europe, as well as analogous or even homologous evolutions in administrative practices as a result of the many interactions and contacts maintained by the agents of the three monarchies.