

MANIFESTO

FOR TRULY EUROPE-WIDE PUBLICATIONS IN THE HUMANITIES

During the Paris Humanities Book Fair, 30 January – 1 February 2009, the Edition EHESS organised an international conference on “Publishing research in the humanities in an enlarged Europe”. This manifesto presents our commitment to the development of a joint approach to research in order to share knowledge on a Europe-wide basis.*

** EHESS : École des hautes études en sciences sociales*

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Through our shared interest in the humanities and social sciences, as writers, publishers and readers of research in these areas, we intend to play an active role in the construction of a Europe of knowledge and learning.

For a true circulation of ideas in Europe it is absolutely necessary to take into account the effects of enlargement of the European Union in our field. In particular, it is essential that the voices of Central and Eastern Europe be heard, that their texts be read and that the **different approaches** to the humanities and social sciences be recognised and brought together. This multiple approach has developed through transfers and exchanges, and also through specific experiences and major moments in history, when this part of Europe was muzzled and had no right to express itself through the spoken or written word. Our aim is to foster the dissemination of texts and intertextualities, translated and internalised to become **multi-voice dialogues**. Our aim is to revive wounded and divided memories so that they find their rightful place in our history, and above all to understand and repair the symbolic inequalities that still govern the dissemination of ideas on our continent.

Participating in the dissemination of ideas in Europe also means restoring its history, enriching the way the societies that make it up are considered, and confronting the **different points of view** in order to break down the borders of implicitly national analyses. The ultimate aim is to show what is specific to each constituent part and, at the same time, what they have in common, despite and through the upheavals of recent and more ancient history.

These ambitions and interrogations are a challenge for researchers, publishers and translators, a challenge that can only be taken up by **working together** in a resolutely European perspective. This cooperation must not consider the market as the only way to exchange cultural goods but must favour **independent thought** and inter-professional, international dialogue.

For this dialogue to be effective and well informed, a truly efficient translation policy is essential, since research from Central and Eastern Europe has hardly ever been disseminated outside of their national borders, yet it is decisive in the building of a Europe of knowledge and learning. We therefore need to promote a plurilingual approach, where research is translated from and into many languages, rather than use just one language, English, as the lingua franca. This is true not just for published research but also for historiographies, glossaries, and particular modes and forms of expression.

This must be done pragmatically, if we wish to succeed in our aim of a truly European approach to the humanities and social sciences. We need **to join forces**, in order to:

→ **Foster dialogue** (via internet and regular meetings) between European researchers and publishers, now that new technologies have drastically changed the way publishers work, as well as the way knowledge is disseminated.

→ Jointly publish research work where it is essential to **adopt a European framework of analysis**.

The history of the two world wars, the history of borders and populations are emblematic examples of the challenges of a cross comparison of history. Possible lines of research and future publications include the effects of the decline of working and peasant classes in Europe; the integration and the rights of migrants; the conditions under which citizenship is obtained and exercised; the social, cultural and symbolic forms of the coexistence of different languages and how this changes over time. These can only be analysed within a European framework.

→ Put pressure on the European institutions to implement a **true policy of translation aid** in order to be able to publish research articles and books in the humanities and social sciences (be it on paper or in electronic form).