

**The future restored:
Castles and monuments in the Rhine region as a political programme**

Workshop of the Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms to be held in Bingen am Rhein on 17-18 September 2012

This is the third and final workshop on the SPIN theme *The Rhine as a cultural space in romantic nationalism*. Following workshops dealing with “Romantic travel” (Amsterdam 2010)” and “The cultural geopolitics of the Rhine as border zone” (Göttingen 2011), the focus will now be on material signs of the Romantic management and national manipulation of the Rhine’s cultural heritage.

In the nineteenth century, there was a general European trend, from the Prussian/Polish Marienburg (Malbork) to Carcassonne, to restore ruined castles and other ancient buildings in line with Romantic (often neo-Gothic) taste and with a new symbolical investment. Taking our cue from Winfried Nerdiger’s aptly-chosen title for the 2010 Munich exhibition *Geschichte der Rekonstruktion - Konstruktion der Geschichte* (History of Reconstruction, Construction of History), this workshop will develop such perspectives further in an interdisciplinary and “area studies” approach. The aesthetic and political notions driving architects, artists, poets and their patrons, both in the restoration process and its public impact, will be thematized with reference to a geographical nexus in European architectural historicism: the Rhine Valley. The venue is admirably suited to the theme: Bingen is situated in the Unesco world heritage site of the Middle Rhine, between original ruins (Ehrenfels), nineteenth-century restorations (Brömserburg and Rheinstein) and the triumphalist *Germania* monument of Wilhelminian vintage.

Prospective participants are requested to notify us of their intention to attend at their earliest convenience, and no later than 20 January (with a view to the timely reservation of hotel accommodation). A title and a brief summary of your presentation should then be sent before the end of March 2012 to the SPIN secretariat at the University of Amsterdam (dr. Anne Hilde van Baal, info@spinnet.eu). The workshop will conduct its discussions on the basis of pre-circulated texts (10 minutes recap followed by 30 minutes’ discussion); for that reason we request the submission of a text no later than 31 July 2012.

A publication of selected papers from the three workshops is intended.

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