

The question of the Austrian and its significance in coming to terms with the Nazi past in the Austrian remembrance culture is subject of relatively little research in comparison to the same research dedicated to the remembrance culture in Germany. The project's objective is to analyze to what extent the television contributed to the resurgence of the interest in examining the recent Austrian past, to find out what TV programs containing this historical thread were produced and broadcast and what were reactions on them. The main research question refers to the content of the broadcast television films, such as feature films, series, docudramas and teleplays, and their reception in the public sphere. We choose the time range of two decades between 1961 and 1980 not by accident. The first date, 1961, refers to the premiere of the television play "Der Herr Karl", whose authors mock at the behavior of ordinary Austrian during the German control of the country. The second turning point – 1980 – is the date of the premiere of the last episode of the miniseries "Alpensaga" which overturns the idyllic convention of the "Heimatfilm"

The existing research outcomes of other scholars prove that the topic of the Nazi past was present on the Austrian television ORF already in the 1960s. ORF purchased foreign programs – documentary and feature movies and produce its own documentaries about national socialism. Because the issue of history documentaries, public affairs programs and cabaret has been already discussed in the literature, we will continue this research by concentrating solely on feature films, series, teleplays and hybrid form of docudramas.

Selected films will become subject of a thorough, two-stage analysis, comprising the narrative and the reception of the film works. First, we will focus on the narrative analysis: the dramaturgy of a film and its characters. We will use the typology proposed by various film and theater experts, who interpret the film characters on the basis of their characteristics, distinguishing for instance "types" and "characters", closed and open, static and dynamic characters etc. and introduce different model of configuration between the characters. We will follow the conviction that the film characters are symbols of universal values, symptoms of problems and phenomena in real life and factors triggering social changes. Reception of the films will be the second part of the analysis. We will conduct it on the basis of the qualitative data: reviews and comments in the Austrian and German press, both the branch press (film and theater magazines) and popular newspapers, news magazines and the protocols available in the Archives of ORF which refer to the reactions of the audience on the broadcast films. At this stage we will use some categories stemming from the critical discourse analysis (CDA) and add our own categories, adjusted to the profile of our project. Finally, we will also include the quantitative data: viewing ratings and number of program broadcasts within the space of many years.

Whereas particular questions of the Austrian cinema, history of television, national socialism in the early post-war cinema (1945-1955) and single film productions and film makers have been subject of a lot of research, there seems to be a lack of publications comprehensively dedicated to the memory of national socialism in the Austrian film and TV productions. In this project we will broaden the knowledge of the evolution of a motif of Nazism and Second World War in different TV genres, for example TV theater shows, full length feature films and series, the Austrian television itself and its role in the post-war memory discourse, as well.

The expected outcomes of the research may turn out to be useful for media and film scholars and historians interested in the media systems and the issues of coming to terms with the totalitarian, authoritarian and colonial past, such as Italy, Japan, Spain, France, or selected countries of Latin America. They could be also attractive for scholars representing several scientific disciplines, such as studies of culture, memory studies and genocide and Holocaust studies.