



“Grateful Hellas or Everything for the Fatherland”

Theodoros Vryzakis (1858)

Η Ελλάς ευγνωμονούσα ή «Υπέρ πατρίδος το παν»

Θεόδωρος Βρυζάκης (1858)

Romantic Nationalism: politics/culture and location.

Professor Joep Leerssen, University of Amsterdam

Abstract:

“Theories of nationalism are often hampered by a historical dichotomy and/or a spatial myopia. The historical dichotomy is that the moving force of nationalism is sought either in social praxis or in cultural identity; the spatial myopia is that the "ground zero" of nationalism is often located in a specific European country/society (Germany, France, Italy) and that the specifics of that societal location are then seen as paradigmatic for the ideology as a whole. In this lecture I present nationalism as an emergent condition (tipping point / cascading event) affecting a complex and densely communicative cultural system (Europe as a whole) and manifesting itself according to the specific conditions of the individual societies. This view sees a self-reflexive "cultivation of culture" as a social and political praxis in its own right (thus bypassing the culture/politics dichotomy) and allows for its simultaneous emergence in societies as different as Germany and Greece.”