

Introduction

The book presented here belongs to the series documenting different topics discussed during the seminary that was held in The Institute of Cultural Studies (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan) in 2011–2013. The seminary itself was dedicated to the study of the theoretical consequences of different methodologies and approaches engaged by historians in the particular field of the theory of cultural change. The seminary consisted of young scholars belonging to various intellectual traditions, working within different specialities and different, sometimes mutually exclusive methodologies. Not the common point of view, but a shared interest in the problem of change and its possible theoretical solutions united the seminary.

Dorota Jewdokimow presents the text dedicated to the consequences of semiotic conceptions proposed by Moscow-Tartu School, mainly by Yuri Lotman, for historical study of culture. Her text emphasises the temporal dimension of semiotic processes and the mechanics of the social transmission of signs, using the example of the semiotics of shame and thanks to this offering, somewhat additionally, a historical study on the subject matter of this particular emotion. Karolina Kizińska, although following different methodological traditions coming from the cultural studies and the American New Musicology remains close to the very same topic of the social construction of meaning, particularly the sets of meaning connected with gender within musical culture of the West. Both authors follow then a shared basic question, concerning the processes connected with the construction of meaning in communicational phenomena within a changing, dynamic society.

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