

“Writing, Resistance and History: Violent Rewriting in Postresistance African-American and Polish Prose”

-Agnieszka Herra

Dissertation Project:

My core area of research is Polish and African-American prose fiction written during and after civil resistance movements in each respective culture. My main research question will be the extent to which literature in the postresistance period questions the events and the narratives that were part of uniting the society to participate in the civil resistance movement.

Civil Resistance:

“a type of political action that relies on the use of non-violent methods... [that] involves a range of widespread and sustained activities that challenge a particular power, force, policy, or regime.”

-Roberts, Adam, and Timothy Garton Ash, eds. *Civil Resistance and Power Politics: The Experience of Non-Violent Action from Gandhi to the Present*, pg 2



Relevance:

This project traces the tradition of resistance and its aftermath which is relevant to the current situation in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Violence:

My close analysis of prose fiction will include examining symbolic violence in the novels as they look back on the time of resistance. I will connect these smaller acts of symbolic violence to the larger disruptions of narrative and history that certain postresistance authors write into their prose. Some key aspects that I will examine include how the authors rewrite traditional literary tropes and genres, how they question traditional historiography, how they reconceptualise the notion of time, how they examine the role of the writer in these struggles and how they express a vision for the future that no longer incorporates myths of group unity.

