



The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars  
in European Experiences and Memories

## **Subproject 5:**

# **NATIONS, BORDERS, IDENTITIES: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in European Feature Films (1895-1945)**

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## **Abstract**

The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars helped form, well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the political culture of memory and with it the collective images of the self, the alien, and the enemy in the countries that had participated in them. The memories of these wars were fashioned not just through numerous images and texts, but in the 20<sup>th</sup> century also significantly by the mass media of the cinema. Above all, the historical feature film, which attempts to visualize the past through its images and stories, has kept alive and determined the memories of the wars that took place from 1792 to 1815. This study is part of the larger project „*Nations, Borders, Identities: the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in European Experiences and Memories*“, and explores the memories of the wars in historical feature films that were made between 1895 and 1945 in Germany, Austria, France and Great Britain. This study intends for its analysis to reach beyond borders and be comparative while giving special attention to the following central questions: What collective images of the self, the alien and the enemy were conveyed through the memories in these texts? To what extent do they support the construction of regional and national identities? What differences, shared characteristics and reciprocal influences can be established? Who were the producers of these written memories and what interests were they pursuing? In this way, this subproject contributes significantly to the analysis of a long-term perspective on these memories and to highlighting a media-specific investigation of them.

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