



Organising a Global Idiom. Esperanto, Ido and the World Auxiliary Language Movement before WWI

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How to standardize the world with a global currency exchange system, or with a unique paper format for the whole world, how to gather the world's knowledge on millions of meticulously cut and sorted index cards, when the world's inhabitants still speak in thousands of different languages? My paper describes and analyses the notion of a new simplified globality which should be established by a standardized auxiliary language, designed by unknown laymen like L.L. Zamenhof, J.M. Schleyer and advocated by renowned European scholars like Louis Couturat and Wilhelm Ostwald around 1900. What is the media setting used to proliferate the unifying idea of one single language besides the mother tongue? By showing the rise and fall of this kind of world projecting by example of Ido, a derivative of Esperanto, I will balance the aims, promises and (small) achievements on the one hand with the secular problems, epistemic obstacles and internal struggles on the other hand which mark the end of internationalism, just at the time when World War I interrupts the endeavours of unitizing the world.

Biography

Markus Krajewski, is Associate Professor of Media History of Science in the Faculty of Media at Bauhaus University Weimar. During the academic year 2008/09 he has been a fellow at the Humanities Center at Harvard University where he also taught as a Visiting Professor at the History of Science Department. He is author of *Notes & Quotes. Cards, Catalogs, and Office Efficiency, 1548–1929* (The MIT Press, 2011), *Der Diener. Mediengeschichte einer Figur zwischen König und Klient* [= The Servant. Media History of a Figure between King and Client] (S. Fischer, 2010), and of *Restlosigkeit: Weltprojekte um 1900* (S. Fischer, 2006), as well as editor of *Projectors. Knowledge Production in the Pre-form of Failure* (Kulturverlag Kadmos, 2005). His current research projects include the media and cultural history of servants, marginal epistemology, and specific shapes of German post-war architecture, esp. tiled façades. He is also developer and maintainer of the bibliography software synapsen—a hypertextual card index (www.verzetteln.de/synapsen).

For further information see: www.uni-weimar.de/medien/wissenschaftsgeschichte/index_e.html