

Review of: "Historical Semiotics"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Khislavski's article is a powerful reminder on the importance of teaching history under the right conditions and the danger of diluting its value under the generic idea of "social studies". This tendency, as the article points out, helps to increase ignorance concerning historical knowledge. These negative consequences are deepened in a context of a shift to the right of public opinion. The question that could be asked at this point is the following: is the devaluation in the importance given to knowledge in history for secondary school students deepening in the face of this political panorama or could the political panorama of growing intolerance have its origin in the contempt that the educational system has for historical knowledge? These questions can perhaps begin to be answered by reading Khislavski's article.

The strategy of taking tools and lessons from semiotics to regain the interest of the new generations in history classes is an interesting and timely proposal. But the debate on the political decisions that have led to the lack of interest in historical knowledge is still pending. It is not only a question of the passage of time, generational remoteness and lack of attraction to what is "offered" to the public. However, these issues are not part of the author's objectives, they are only mentioned on this review in the spirit of continuing the debate. The objectives of the article are largely fulfilled.

Regarding the introduction of the main ideas on Historical Semiotics, I consider, from the point of view of a non-expert in the field, that it is done with depth and simplicity with the aim of making it accessible to all readers.

The call that the author addresses to historians, in order to achieve an adequate language to communicate their knowledge in the digital era and its tools, can be transferred to all professionals working in the field of memory and human rights. It is a powerful call and one we should heed. Grigori Khislavski's article is a great start in bridging the gap with the younger generation and, with their help, to policy makers.