

Budapest Workshop, 25-27 September 2015.

*Working out the curriculum of a joint MA programme 'Microhistory.'*

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Please find below my answers to some of the questions (1-5, 15-17).

Personal involvement

1. Have you personally taught Microhistory at university level? What kind of courses they were? What was the students' response to this course or these courses?

**I have taught several courses at the University of Iceland since 2008, both within the History department and, more recently, under Cultural Studies. If, and how much, these were related to microhistory is varying but I can say it's theoretical underpinning is never far away. A good share of my teaching has dealt with the history of texts in the early modern and modern era, combining the practices of print culture, manuscript and oral communication**

**In the fall of 2008 I conducted and taught a MA course, *Manuscript, Print and Oral Culture* (Handrit, prent og munnleg menning). In the spring of 2013 I did a similar course at a BA level, *The History of the Book in Iceland* (Bóksaga Íslands). Finally, this spring I taught a course titled *On Unpublished Books* (Af óútgefnum bókum) on MA level, this time under the banner of Comparative literature. All three courses combined macro and micro approach to the subject, promoting individual agency, every-day practices and close reading of individual documents (manuscripts), personal archives, and individual scribes and their networking. In 2009 I organized and taught partly a summer course at University level: *Writing Local Cultures: Scribal Culture – Local Knowledge – Microhistories*. It was operated as part of a project called *Svartárvot: Culture – Nature* and had a good number of both Icelandic and international students on Masters level.**

**In the fall of 2010 I did a historiographical course on BA level, *Cultural history* (Menningarsaga) *with a colleague, Dr. Ólafur Rastrick*. This course did, of course touch upon the subject of Microhistory as an important part of the New Cultural History, and explored its historiographical context and trajectories.**

**In recent year I have mostly taught more contemporary *Cultural studies* courses on MA level. My approach is nevertheless firmly rooted in Micro history as I understand it, emphasising every day practices of ordinary people, agency and their dynamic interaction with formal and informal institutions of society.**

2. These courses formed parts of what module or unit of education? Were they compulsory or optional for students?

**All of the courses were optional. For module, see above.**

3. In which languages have you taught these courses?

**All in Icelandic, except the 2009 summer course which was taught in English.**

4. Do you think that there is interest from the part of students in being enrolled in an MA in Microhistory in English?

**Worth the try.**

5. Do you personally intend to take part in teaching a joint international MA in Microhistory in English?

**I'm willing to do so on my special field, microhistory and manuscript studies.**

**For questions 7-14, concerning Institutional involvement, I refer to SGM replies on behalf of The University of Iceland. As for the RA I believe it can only offer some minor support when needed as an associated partner. Participation from Iceland in the future, as I see it, will primarily be channeled through UI.**

15. According to you, which courses should form parts of a joint international MA in Microhistory? Which subject areas should not be omitted from the curriculum?

**Again I would like to propose one or more courses that would revolve around what we might call *small-scale studies of literacy practices*. I have argued that this subject constitutes a strong tradition from Ginzburgh's *The cheese and the worms* up to our time. One course might focus specifically on first-hand egodocuments or life writing while another might deal with other kinds of writing, reading practices etc.**

16. Are you personally willing to teach any of these courses? Which one? And have you got colleagues in your university who are willing to teach any?

**I would personally be willing to teach courses of this kind and there are colleagues I believe would be interested in taking part, both within this network and beyond.**

17. If so, would you teach an online course? Have you got experience in that? Is your institution technically prepared to make this possible?

**I have little experience in teaching on-line courses but it is of course an option.**