



Session Summary: 19 november 2018

Written by Corentin Ludwig
Translated from French by Aurélia Martin

During this session, we sought to study narrative forms of the past in France with the support of three historians' work: Pierre Nora, Suzanne Citron et Benoît Falaize. The purpose of this exercise was to acquire the conceptual tools necessary to analyze the case of Taiwan through a comparative approach.

The first text is taken from Pierre Nora's book *Présent, nation, mémoire* (Present, Nation, Memory), published in 2011. In this excerpt, the author seeks to draw the line that helps differentiate the literary creation specific to a novel from the scientific work of a historian. The purpose of this is to question the concept of "national novel."

The second text is an excerpt from Suzanne Citron's book *Le Mythe national, l'histoire de France revisitée* (The National Myth, the History of France Revisited). It is the preface of the book's second edition, published in 2017, thirty years after the first edition. In this preface, Suzanne Citron expresses a critical approach to what is called "national history" by placing the historiographic production back in its different time frames, which are linked to specific political contexts. She also questions the concept of "national novel."

The third text is the third chapter of Benoît Falaize's work *L'Histoire à l'école élémentaire depuis 1945* (History at Primary School since 1945). The author is particularly interested in the phrase "Nos ancêtres les gaulois" (Our ancestors the Gauls) and wonders to what extent this phrase was used and disseminated in the syllabi of educational institutions in the colonized territories of the French Empire.

These texts led to discussions and collective analysis.

1 Pierre Nora, *Présent, nation, mémoire*, Gallimard, 2011, pp. 115-127.