Presenting the Encyclopedia of Romantic Nationalism in Europe (ERNiE)

- ERNiE's Aims and Setup – Patterns, Persons, Places
  - Tracing Cultural Connections
  - Describing PATTERNS: A reticular encyclopedia
  - Linking (through) PERSONS and PLACES: Nodes and networks
- Analytical Superstructure: The Mapping Machine
- Documentation Infrastructure: The ‘Materials’ Databases

Work and Progress
Further Reading
The Encyclopedia of Romantic Nationalism in Europe (ERNiE), the flagship project of the STUDY PLATFORM ON INTERLOCKING NATIONALISMS (SPIN, www.spinnnet.eu), aims to chart the diffusion of cultural nationalism in the ‘long 19th century’, including some of its afterlife tapering off in the 20th century. This is traced in two dimensions: transnationally (across – and in some cases beyond – Europe), and intermedially (across different cultural fields, ‘multimedia’-style).

1. **Transnational diffusion.** In the decades following Macpherson’s Ossian, Schiller’s Wilhelm Tell and Byron’s philhellenism, Romantic Nationalism spread across widely dissimilar countries, from Reykjavík to Veliko Târnovo and from La Coruña to Moscow, by communicative contagion – much like Romanticism itself. ERNiE’s focus on the transnational self-propagation of 19th-century nationalism (‘tracing cultural connections’) aims to counterbalance a tendency in nationalism studies to explain national movements, individually and separately, from the socio-political parameters within which each of them arose and pursued its political agenda. Instead of tracing the locally specific socio-economic and political root system of Romantic-National movements in separate countries, ERNiE proposes to analyse their transnational self-propagation by means of their cultural and communicative cross-pollination.

2. **Intermedial diffusion.** Cultural nationalism was expressed and propagated in a variety of cultural fields and pursuits: from linguistics and philology to poetry and the arts, from architecture to archeology and from folklore to history-writing. Nowadays, these fields are the specialism of strictly separated academic disciplines. Consequently, intermedial spill-overs (from the historical novel to painting, opera or history-writing; from folklore studies to music, ethnography, museology and festive commemorations) tend to drift to the periphery of the scholarly field of vision. ERNiE proposes instead to focus on intermedial dynamics as a cardinally important feature explaining the ramifying power of nationalism.
Describing PATTERNS: A reticular encyclopedia

To trace the dynamics of cultural connections, an encyclopedic approach is needed; but this requires more than a traditional listing of individual entries in alphabetical order. Instead, ERNiE has been organized as a matrix, on the twin parameters of transnational and intermedial interconnections. The main portion of ERNiE – the section entitled PATTERNS – is organized like the location grid on a city map or a chessboard (illustration 1). In a matrix-style organization, some 30 Cultural Currents are mapped against some 50 Cultural Communities, yielding an entry structure of ca. 1200 relevant headwords, e.g. ‘Basque language activism’, ‘Finnish classical music’, ‘Greek archeology’ or ‘Icelandic folklore studies’.

The Cultural Currents are designed to encompass most meaningful cultural/intellectual fields, associations and institutions which became carriers of national consciousness-raising in the long 19th century. These are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language interest</th>
<th>Folk music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text editions</td>
<td>National-classical music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History-writing</td>
<td>Sports, pastimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative literature</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriotic poetry and verse</td>
<td>Dress, design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical writing</td>
<td>Commemorations, festivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernacular translations of the Bible or world classics</td>
<td>Visual arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiquarianism, archeology</td>
<td>Educational initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manners and customs</td>
<td>Sociability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral literature</td>
<td>(incl. literary/historical, choral, and theatrical societies, book clubs/reading rooms and sports/athletics associations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mythology</td>
<td>Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical anthropology and ethnography</td>
<td>(incl. universities and university chairs, museums, libraries/archives)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of these is given a more substantial introductory article explaining the topic in its general-European characteristics.
Tracing cultural connections in a reticular encyclopedia

Each article has a dual function:

- **Giving topical information**
  - The article contains an explanatory text
  - Many articles link to online illustrative materials (textual, audio, visual)

- **Identifying a nodal intersection of cultural connections.**
  - The article is hyperlinked to all others addressing the same current or community
  - The article text contains hyperlinks to related issues in other articles
The Cultural Communities encompassed in ERNiE include all those self-perceived ethnolinguistic groups (‘nationalities’) which in the course of the long 19th century developed autonomist or separatist ambitions, or engaged in a ‘cultivation of culture’ (the process which invested vernacular cultural practices or cultural products with a national-identitarian importance, Leerssen 2006).

These categories are not rigidly mutually exclusive. In some cases national identification patterns overlap or present ambiguities (e.g. Gaelic-Irish and Anglo-Irish; Swedish-Finnish; Swiss; German cultural nationalism as inflected in Bavaria, Habsburg Austria or the Baltic). In addition, some currents took shape in a sliding development, functioning either as a regional subsidiarity to a larger ‘nation’ or as an assertion of a separate identity opposed to that larger nation: Verdaguer’s L’Atlàntida could function both as a Catalan and (in Manuel de Falla’s musical adaptation) as a Spanish national epic. In order to accommodate these complexities, ERNiE uses 60 tags (some near-duplicates, or compounds) to identify c. 50 cultural communities.

Each Cultural Community is given a general background article on the culture-historical and political ambience and developments within which its ‘Cultivation of Culture’ took shape. The tag list for the Cultural Communities includes:

- Albanian
- Baltic German
- Basque
- Belarusian
- Belgian (francophone)
- Breton
- Bulgarian
- Catalan
- Celtic, Pan-Celtic
- Celtic: mlc [*]
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Finnish
- Flemish
- French
- Frisian
- Galego
- German
- Germanic, Pan-Germanic
- Germanic: mlc [*]
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Icelandic
- Illyrian
- Irish / Irish-Gaelic
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Luxembourg
- Macedonian
- Maltese
- Norwegian
- Occitan
- Philhellenic
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romance, pan-Latin
- Romance: mlc [*]
- Romanian
- Russian
- (pan-)Scandinavian
- Scottish / Scots-Galic
- Serbian
- Slavic, Pan-Slavic
- Slavic: mlc [*]
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Swiss
- Turkish
- Turanian
- Ukrainian
- Walloon
- Welsh
- Other

[*] mlc: minor language communities.
Two screenshots from the ERNiE Factory:
- the PATTERNS article (excerpt) on Ethnography (general European survey)
- the PERSONS article on John MacHale, archbishop of Tuam
Linking (through) PERSONS and PLACES: Nodes and Networks

ERNiE aims to trace, not just the individual manifestations of Romantic Nationalism, but also the connections between them. The material described here is not presented as a collection of individual occurrences or facts, but as a dynamic whirl of exchanges and influences. For that reason, each article is extensively hyperlinked and ERNiE itself is ‘reticular’, organized like a network of hyperlinked articles arrayed in a matrix-style grid.

In order to access this structure, there is, besides the emphasis on topically situated articles in the PATTERNS section, specific attention for the nodal points that connect these patterns: PERSONS and PLACES.

PERSONS: Each relevant person mentioned in any ERNiE article (excluding mentionings of heads of state or pre-1750 figures), is tagged by name, generating a name index and allowing users to see which names feature in more than one trend, pattern or article.

Within this name-list of PERSONS, some 700 of the more salient and important individuals (those who were particularly authoritative and inspiring for developments elsewhere, or who played an important function as intermediary) have been given more or less extensive descriptive articles (again, hyperlinked to the other articles) outlining their life and importance.

PLACES: Each town or city mentioned in any ERNiE article has been geo-tagged, generating a place index and allowing users to see which trends and patterns converged in specific locations.

The tagging of these nodal persons/places allows users to access ERNiE not only thematically, but also through a search by the name of an individual or a locality. In addition, it allows ERNiE to provide visualized MAPPINGS of its relational patterns either as geographical or as social networks.

More information on the visualizations and mapping in the next section.
Ernie’s Analytical Superstructure: The Mapping Machine

Using the NODEGOAT technology developed for SPIN by LAB1100 (www.lab1100.com), ERNiE is capable of visualizing databases in a browser both as geographical patterns (mapped in their specific locations on the European map) and as social networks (weighted as to the relative importance and centrality of individuals in a relational structure). These visualizations can be generated ‘on the fly’ for each user-selected dataset in a (non-obsolete) browser window; dedicated software is not required.

In addition, the NODEGOAT technology allows these geographically or socially mapped networks to be tracked in their temporal development by means of a ‘historical slide-rule’: as a user-adjustable time-focus is made to slide along its timeline axis, the visualized network will morph fluidly to reflect the changes as they took shape over the years.

Currents, nodes and networks can be visually rendered by ERNiE as well as textually described, offering the user a cognitive tool for clarifying historical diffusion patterns which is on a par with that of the statistical graph.

Crucially, the connections traced between the various articles in ERNiE itself can also be mapped in similar fashion, allowing users to see, at a glance, how any given article relates to the wider patterns of Romantic Nationalism, also in other countries or other cultural fields, either by means of an immediate connection, or at one remove (through an intermediary connection). This functionality will turn the Encyclopedia from a descriptive concordance into an analytical tool.

Further explanations of the Mapping Machine, as well as examples based on ERNiE’s Documentary ‘Materials’ Databases, are online at www.spinnet.eu (under ‘SpInTime Mappings’). Some illustrative screen shots are given on the following pages.
Screenshot (overview and detail close-up) of a cluster of letters exchanged by a selected group of philologists, socially visualized and weighted by quantity and centrality of exchanges.

http://ernie.spinnet.eu/viewer
The correspondence network of Ernst Moritz Arndt geographically mapped for two successive periods:

1800 to 1812 → 1813 to 1825

http://ernie.spinnet.eu/viewer
Franz Liszt’s concert tours between 1822 and 1871
**Ernie’s Documentation Infrastructure: The ‘Materials’ Databases**

SPIN has assembled a sizeable collection of primary source documents illustrating the cultural and intellectual history of Romantic Nationalism. SPIN’s repertory of cultural products and activities (the ‘Materials’) shows how Romantic Nationalism was expressed, and diffused culturally and through communicative networks, across time, space and cultural fields. The databases containing these Materials can be consulted online and their patternings can be visualized through the **Mapping Machine**. The Materials are multi-media in nature: textual, audio, and visual. (All Materials are in the public domain or cited within the established terms of Fair Use.)

- **Textual Materials** include illustrative quotations; nationalist discursive prose; a repertory of nationally-themed classical compositions; an anthology of patriotic verse. In addition there are network-oriented databases inventorizing the metadata of the correspondence between intellectuals, especially philologists; the academic training and master-pupil relations of painters; and the journeys of composers like Liszt and Wagner.

- **Audio Materials** concentrate on MP3-fragments of national-classical compositions, from Weber to early Bartók, as well as some samples of early ethnomusicological and folkloristic field recordings.

- **Visual Materials** encompass history paintings, statues, book pages and book illustrations, portraits etc.

These databases can be individually accessed online, and their patternings can be visualized, through their own dedicated viewer interface ([http://ernie.spinnet.eu/viewer](http://ernie.spinnet.eu/viewer)). They have also been hyperlinked to ERNiE, and as such they function as a large repertory of multimedia illustrations, accompanying and concretizing the Encyclopedia’s descriptions and analyses.
Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd.

Et ce mot dit, tout fut trouvé. Rouget de Lisle, c'était lui, se précipita de la salle, et il écrivit tout, musique et paroles. Il reprendait la strophe : « Allons enfants de la patrie! » Ce fut comme un éclair du ciel. Tout le monde fut saisi, ravi, tous recurent ce chant, entendu pour la première fois. Tous le savaient, tous le chantèrent, tout Strasbourg, toute la France. Le monde qu'il y aura un monde, le chantera à jamais.

Kloareg Lampaoł
Title: Kloareg Lampaoł
Year: 1807
Content notes: Fragment of a Breton ballad recorded by Rudolf Trebisch in 1907

Musical and Poetical Relicks of the Welsh Bards:
Preserved by Tradition, and Authentic Manuscripts, from Very Remote Antiquity.
Never Before Published.

To the Bardic Tunes are Added
Variations for the Harp, Piano-Forte, Violin, or Flute.
With a Select Collection of the
Presentation, and Enlivenment.
8: Poetical Mournful, Dramatic, and Stanzas.
The Encyclopedia has been conceived, and is edited, by Joep Leerssen, Professor of European Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He is assisted by the SPIN team headed by its senior editorial assistant. ERNiE is a collaborative academic effort involving hundreds of collaborators from dozens of countries.

The preparatory, editorial work and maintenance on the ca. 2000 headwords/entries, the indices of Persons and Places, the Mapping Machine and the Documentary Databases takes place online in a visual workplace and content management system (the 'ERNiE factory') designed for SPIN by LAB1100 in a MySQL environment. Access to the ERNiE factory is password-restricted and available to collaborators only, although a demo password may be issued upon request.

ERNiE’s public user interface will go online in a beta version in June 2015, and in its full content presentation on 1 January 2016. The full printed book version will appear in the Spring of 2016. In addition to its articles, ERNiE includes

- an introduction, by the Editor, explaining the concept of Romantic Nationalism and discussing ERNiE’s focus on ‘Europe’ and on the long 19th century

- a User’s Guide / Help function, a set of Frequently Asked Questions, and authors’ credits.

ERNiE offers the possibility to share articles by means of e-mail and social media, and to download and print articles locally. This can be an individual article or a user-defined set. Consulting and self-printing articles is free: ERNiE’s web host, the UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM, and its publisher, AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY PRESS, are dedicated (as is SPIN itself) to the principle of Open Access.

In addition to self-printing articles, users can pipe user-defined sets of articles through to Amsterdam University Press, which will print and bind these as a print-on-demand book according to user-defined specifications. This service is subject to a fee. Amsterdam University Press will also market a complete book version of the Encyclopedia as of 2016.
Further Reading

Some of the historical concepts behind ERNiE and the SPIN environment have been addressed at greater length in the following articles by ERNiE’s editor, Joep Leerssen:

- ‘Notes towards a definition of Romantic Nationalism’, *Romantik: Journal for the study of Romanticisms* 2: 9-35.
- *When was Romantic Nationalism? The onset, the long tail, the banal* (NISE essays, 2; Antwerpen: NISE).

These articles are all (along with further information about SPIN’s aims and activities) posted on the SPIN website, [www.spinnet.eu](http://www.spinnet.eu)