

## CFP:

### Theories and Practices of Resistance During a War Conflict

The concept of resistance has in recent decades attracted the keen interest of representatives of the humanities and social sciences. Theoretical approaches to resistance put forth within cultural studies, philosophy, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, and anthropology offer an interdisciplinary and multidimensional view. There have been a number of publications devoted to the theoretical representation of resistance and documenting its individual practices. Indeed, a separate field of resistance studies has emerged, focusing on organizing and constantly updating the state of the art of the concept of interest.

In our view, however, the research to date has not offered a comprehensive description of the changing and dynamic phenomenon of resistance. This is because it is part of the concept of unstable and dynamic culture, making it a permanent and irreducible element of culture that ensures its vitality and stimulates its development and change.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the opposition between the creative and destructive potential of resistance is blurred, as sometimes destruction becomes creative and creativity turns destructive.

Related to the phenomenon and concept of resistance are a number of others, formulated with greater or lesser generality, such as rebellion, opposition, diversion, subversion, contestation, as well as critical engagement and participation. Depending on the research perspective adopted and the specific area of interest, we can speak of cultures of resistance, social movements of resistance and identities of resistance, which will have their own distinct, albeit intertwined, characteristics and practices (Rewers, 2010).<sup>2</sup> Resistance as a reaction to a certain state, is situated in relations of power, domination, and oppression. It can furthermore be incremental and diverse in its external and internal manifestations. It is relational and embedded in a specific historical and cultural context. This results in the heterogeneity of its manifestations and activated strategies and tactics; they vary and depend on the conditions under which in which they are developed or applied. They develop differently in the face of totalitarian rule and under democratic conditions. At the same time, the level of threat significantly affects the choice of these strategies. The variability of resistance practices and strategies is also determined by technological conditions. New media introduce a wide range of tactics. It is this diversity and dynamic development that signals the need for constantly updating the description and recontextualizing the concepts.

In times of peace, cultural resistance is carried out mainly in symbolic-communicative space, while during real conflict, guerrilla warfare has a dimension that is not only semiotic, but also very real, concrete, direct, often even military. Currently, according to the Global Conflict Tracker compiled by the Council on Foreign Relation, the world is ravaged by 27 conflicts, including Russia's armed aggression in Ukraine. Armed conflict becomes an significant context that initiates and moulds new, or updates already established, strategies of resistance. In doing so, it often mobilizes previously inactive individuals and social groups. Wars thus significantly affect society, culture, and civilization, constituting an extreme form of social disintegration. On the other hand, paradoxically, wars are a binding agent for originally dispersed groups. Armed aggression is a catalyst for radical attitudes, "civil disobedience" and rebellion of the previously silent and invisible part of society. War confronts individuals and

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. W. Kuligowski, A. Pomieciński, "Antropologia wobec buntu. Wprowadzenia" in: *Oblicza buntu. Praktyki i teorie sprzeciwu w kulturze współczesnej*, ed. W. Kuligowski, A. Pomieciński, Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, Poznań 2012, pp. 7-15.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. E. Rewers, "Subwersyjny podmiot w ruchu (wprowadzenie)", *Kultura Współczesna* 2(64) 2010, pp. 5-10.

social groups with the ultimate. The order of reality is changed, and the finality of this situation causes opposition to spread to all spheres of human activity: daily life, science, arts, and political activity, often equalizing and uniting all social strata in common action. This resistance applies not only to the warfare itself, but also to the authority that initiates these actions.

We invite the authors to reflect together on the forms, strategies, and tactics of resistance developing under the influence of past and present war conflicts. We invite you to consider the issue of anti-war protest in its multidimensional nature as well as its cultural, social, political, and historical variability.

Please submit text proposals in Polish or English **by 6 November 2023** to the following addresses: [dorotaje@amu.edu.pl](mailto:dorotaje@amu.edu.pl) or [jacek.zydorowicz@amu.edu.pl](mailto:jacek.zydorowicz@amu.edu.pl)

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