

**La differenza tedesca.**  
**La *Ostalgie* come forma di identità culturale  
nella Germania unita**

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*Abstract*

*The Ostalgie as Form of cultural Identity of unified Germany*

*The “German difference” consists in the fact that after the fall of Berlin Wall, while quite all states resulting from the collapse of Communism split, the two German states were unified. No wonder, then, if the political and cultural development of the last 25 years in united Germany is a little different than in other areas of central and east Europe. Ostalgie becomes namely a different meaning in Germany than in Russia, Poland or Hungary. The new identity process in Germany signifies rethinking and re-telling the cultural common/divided past. It signifies not just put a demarcation against real communism, but to identify the common elements of the German past. New German works of art produced at fist a «new semantization» of the past: The authors wanted to re-tell the events of division and reunification to give them a “sense”. The personal and cultural history of the citizens of the East and those of the west Germany are substantially different as well as the artistic languages used in the narrative. The narratives of defining identity follow a complex route and are expressed on literary and filmic media. Then, 10 years after the unification, has spread the so-called Ostalgie, or nostalgia for the GDR without any political connotation, but with a retrospective appreciation for the few and modest advantages of socialism (especially solidarity as opposed to competition). But the real meaning of this Ostalgie was the affirmation of*

*an original identity that recovered a different image space consisting in the old East-German imaginary mixed with the hopes and disappointments of the western affluent society. In fact, the best Ostalgie-movies were written and shot by directors born and living in West-Germany.*

**Keywords:** German difference; united Germany; re-telling the past; *ostalgie*; new cultural identity.