

The Travel Writer as Investigative Writer: The Case of Cédric Gras

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Abstract. This article examines how Cédric Gras combines the roles of travel writer and investigative writer in *Alpinistes de Staline*. The study situates Gras's narrative within the framework of Pierre Bourdieu's concept of *trajectory*, which challenges the traditional biographical approach that tends to simplify and structure life events into a coherent narrative. Instead, the *trajectory* concept emphasizes the fragmented, uncertain, and socially influenced nature of individual paths. By applying this framework, the article demonstrates how Gras avoids the classic heroic narrative by shedding light on the sociopolitical pressures that shaped the Abalakov brothers' lives. Through archival research, eyewitness accounts, and subjective interpretations, Gras reveals how the brothers' fates were deeply intertwined with the oppressive Soviet context. The article ultimately argues that Gras's hybrid approach enriches the understanding of biographical narratives, emphasizing the influence of social structures and historical contingencies on individual destinies. This analysis highlights how contemporary literature increasingly blurs the lines between fiction, journalism, and social sciences to offer a richer, more complex representation of memory and history.

Keywords: Cédric Gras, Abalakov, trajectory, historicity, literary investigation, alpinism, biography, cultural memory.