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### Barbara Frischmuth's 'Einander Kind': Generations of Memories

Frischmuth's novel came out in 1990, and it is one of her contributions to the Austrian discussion on coming to terms with Austria's fascist past that had heated up around the Waldheim scandal and the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss. The action of the novel is situated in the year 1988, and one of the strands of the narration is built around a performance tour of an actress who revives memories of texts of the exiles from Austria. The second strand centers on the war-time memories of a woman who aided the resistance in Austria. And the third strand deals with a woman traumatized by having been raised in a Nazi family and having witnessed atrocities.

This novel thematizes different ways of dealing with memories of the national past. Quite typical for Frischmuth, it focusses on how women can empower themselves and each other to deal with their pasts and to find ways to contribute to the larger community, whether through outright activism, through providing psychological support to each other and helping each other to find one's own voice, or whether through the author's depiction of a mystical process of identification with the dead. Frischmuth's feminism is refreshingly constructive besides being critical. This sets her works apart from other feminist Austrian authors from Elfriede Jelinek to Elisabeth Reichart. In this paper, I will analyze a number of different approaches that Frischmuth takes stylistically, psychologically, and politically, in showing a variety of ways of coming to terms with the past.