

## Commemoration without borders

### European Commemoration II

15 December 2015/Berlin

Closed expert conference with public evening event

Conference Language: English/Russian

#### Venue

##### Conference

Landesvertretung Baden-Württemberg  
Tiergartenstraße 15  
10785 Berlin  
Direction (Googlemaps): <http://bit.ly/1Dk9szy>

Tel.:(+49) 30 25 4560

##### Hotel

Gästehaus Landesvertretung Baden-  
Württemberg  
Tiergartenstraße 15  
10785 Berlin  
<http://bit.ly/1LpuMu3>

Tel.: (49) 30 25 456 360

#### Organiser

##### Programme and realisation



Conference head:

Dr Odila Triebel  
Head of Dialogue and Research "Culture and  
Foreign Policy", ifa

##### Academic consulting



##### Cooperation partner



##### The event is promoted by



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## **Significance and objectives of the event**

The conference is a joint effort of the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen, and DGO (German Association for East European Studies).

In 2015 there have been several scientific conferences to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II (WWII). As a turning point and a foundation of European unification and agreements, this commemorative event is little disputed. Nevertheless, there are several different evaluations, interpretations, and narratives concerning WWII. Outside of expert circles, these interpretations are barely known. An elaboration of these different and sometimes dividing narratives is crucial to understand current policies and conflicts, e.g., in Eastern Europe. Since a multi-perspective and critical engagement with the history has a big potential to prevent and defuse conflicts.

This conference will reflect the importance and influence of various narratives about WWII in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia while bringing together leading scholars, education experts, consultants, and professionals from a broad range of fields, from civil society activism to museum management.

Our aim is to provide an effective discussion and exchange forum to create a common area of knowledge. The participants will seek to shed light on the opportunities and limitations of a shared culture of memory. The particular background of each participant will help shape the understanding of the multitude of perspectives on the memory of the European war with its singularities and its commonalities. The discussions of three sequential panel topics at the event will play a crucial role in understanding the range of narratives of WWII, approaching the essential questions about history, identities, and remembrance, and broadening the view of how different narratives affect today's conflicts.

The conference will start with the first panel "Commemoration" reviewing discourses of heroes and victims followed by the second panel "Actors Who Shape Remembrance" examining the role of different governmental and civil-society actors regarding history policy. The first two panels will be discussed in closed expert sessions accompanied by one rapporteur in each panel. The third panel will be opened with a keynote at a public evening session. Afterwards, the two rapporteurs and another panellist will debate in the panel "History as Guidepost to West or East" on questions such as: What are the influences of different narratives of WWII on foreign, security, and/or alliance policy? What claims have been derived from history towards international partners? What expectations do particular states have towards NATO and EU based on history? Which friend and enemy images are present today? What are the opportunities of transnational remembrance? Is it fruitful to accept different narratives of WWII and a historical non-commonness?

## Programme

Tuesday, 15th December 2015

- Arrival of participants
- 01.00 p.m.** Registration and snacks
- 02.00 p.m.** **Inaugural event**  
Welcoming remarks  
**Ronald Grätz**, Secretary General, ifa
- Susanne Schattenberg**, Director,  
Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen
- 02.15 p.m.** **Keynote**
- Ekaterina Makhotina**, Research Fellow at the Dept. of East and Southeast European History, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich; Project Manager for the special project "Victory – Liberation – Occupation: War Memorials and Commemoration marking the 70th Anniversary of WWII Ending in post-Socialist Europe"
- 02.45 p.m.** **Commemoration: Discourses of heroes and victims**
- What are the established discourses of heroes and victims today? What has been the reason for their historical establishment in different countries?
  - What is believed to be the start of WWII? Is the Hitler-Stalin pact memorized? What are the consequences?
  - What are the key shaping and key competing narratives and/or events (e.g., Holodomor, Great Terror, etc.)?
  - Who are the victims of WWII and what was/is the attitude towards them in the former Soviet Union and the successor states today?
  - What is the importance of entrenched narratives as Holocaust, the Siege of Leningrad, Nazi-forced labourers, and prisoners of war as well as their post-war life in the Soviet Union and in contrast glorified narratives as narratives of heroes and partisans, defenders of Leningrad, etc.?
- Panellists:**
- **Stsiapan Stureika**, Historian and Cultural Anthropologist, Lecturer at the European Humanities University Lithuania
  - **Violeta Davoliute**, Associate Research Fellow at Yale University, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies Programme and Senior Researcher at the Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute

**Rapporteur:**

- **Igor Casu**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Moldova State University, Chisinau; Director of the Center for the Study of Totalitarianism, Moldova State University; Deputy Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study and Evaluation of Communist Totalitarian Regime in Moldova

**Chair:** Magdalena Waligorska-Huhle, Professor of History and East European Culture at the Dept. of History, University of Bremen

**04.15 p.m.** Coffee break

**04.45 p.m.** **Actors Who Shape Remembrance: Governmental History Policy and Opposed Discourses of Civil-Society Actors**

- What is the role of the state/of the government?
- What is the role of civil-society actors, e.g., Memorial in Russia?
- What are the (political) means shaping the discourse?
- What are the (political) means shaping commemoration, e.g., holidays, military parades, etc.?

**Panellists:**

- **Irina Anatolevna Fliege**, Director of Research and Information Centre "Memorial" (St Petersburg)
- **Evgeniy Zakharov**, Executive Director of Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group; Member of the Board of International "Memorial" Society
- **Harutyun Marutyan**, Leading Researcher at Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia

**Rapporteur:**

- **Badri Kochoradze**, Professor at New Vision University Tbilisi; Director Institute of European Studies of Tbilisi State University

**Chair:** Gabriele Freitag, CEO German Association for East European Studies (DGO) in Berlin

**06.15 – 07.15 p.m.** Dinnerbreak

**Public evening discussion      The Diversity of Memory Cultures in Eastern States after 1991**

**07.00 p.m.      Public evening-event registration**

**07.30 p.m.      Welcome address**  
**Claus-Peter Clostermeyer**, Representative Office of Baden-Wuerttemberg

**Odila Triebel**, Head of Dialogue and Research "Culture and Foreign Policy",  
ifa

**07.45 p.m.      Keynote**

**08.15 p.m.      History as Guidepost to West or East**

- What are the influences of different narratives of WWII on foreign, security, and/or alliance policy?
- What claims have been derived from history towards international partners?
- What expectations do particular states have towards NATO and EU based on history? What alliance policy is currently derived from history?
- Which friend and enemy images are present today?
- What are the opportunities of transnational remembrance?
- Is it fruitful to accept different narratives of WWII and a historical non-commonness?

**Panellists:**

- **Igor Casu**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Moldova State University, Chisinau; Director of the Center for the Study of Totalitarianism, Moldova State University; Deputy Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study and Evaluation of Communist Totalitarian Regime in Moldova
- **Badri Kochoradze**, Professor at New Vision University Tbilisi; Director at the Institute of European Studies of Tbilisi State University
- **Andrey Makarychev**, Visiting Professor of International Relations at University of Tartu

**Chair:** Sarah Hofmann, Deutsche Welle

**09.30 p.m.      Cocktail reception**

## **ifa – Connecting cultures**



ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) has a central vision: the peaceful and open-minded coexistence of people and cultures worldwide. To this end, ifa promotes the relationship between arts and culture in its programmes, exhibitions and dialogue and conference programmes. In its role as an expert hub for foreign cultural and educational policy, ifa creates networks between civil society, cultural practitioners, art, media and science. Its core business is intercultural dialogue and civil conflict management.

## **The Research Centre for East European Studies**



The Research Centre for East European Studies (Forschungsstelle Osteuropa – FSO) is an independent research institute attached to the University of Bremen. It is funded jointly by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the State of Bremen. Founded during the Cold War in 1982, the FSO today combines two goals: the (re)examination of societies and cultures in the Eastern Bloc and the analysis of the transformation and contemporary developments in the successor states.

## **The German Association for East European Studies**



The German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, DGO) is the largest network within the German speaking realm engaged in research on East European affairs. Since 1913, the DGO has been active as a forum for the discussion and analysis of politics, economics, and culture in Europe's East. It provides information about current developments, serves as a conduit of knowledge, and promotes dialogue between East and West. DGO members are important multipliers from academia, politics, commerce and industry, cultural life, and the media. The DGO is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Berlin, and a member of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES).