

Commemoration without borders European Commemoration II

15 December 2015/Berlin

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

Language: English/Russian

Venue

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

Organiser

Programme and realisation



Conference head:

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

Academic consulting



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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 70th 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

07.00 p.m. **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).