

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

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Tel. (+49) 30 25 4560

Hotel

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Organiser

Programme and realisation



Conference head:

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

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 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

- 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, Assistant Professor of East European History and Culture at the 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

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. 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
- **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



Forschungsstelle
Osteuropa

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).



Igor Casu

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

Igor Casu is currently associate professor at the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Moldova State University, Chisinau. Furthermore, he is deputy chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study and Evaluation of Communist Totalitarian Regime in Moldova. Since October 2010, he is (founding) director of the Center for the Study of Totalitarianism at Moldova State University. He is writing on different (historical) topics, like Soviet past in Moldova, repression, and conflicts in Romanian, Russian, and English. His primary research interests include Soviet nationalities policy (especially in the former Moldavian SSR), violence and resistance in Soviet Moldavia, and the famine in MSSR in 1946/1947 (the latter being his Fulbright project at Stanford University in 2016). He is currently working on a book about war operations in Bessarabia in 1944 and the relations between the various local ethnic groups with Romanian, Soviet and German authorities. For the first time, these projects bring together the findings from Soviet, Romanian and German archives, as well as oral testimonies.

Violeta Davoliute

Associate Research Fellow at Yale University, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies Programme; Senior Researcher at the Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute

Violeta Davoliute is associate research fellow at Yale University, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies Programme and senior researcher at the Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute, Baltic History department. She is the author of "The Making and Breaking of Soviet Lithuania: Memory and Modernity in the Wake of War" (2013, BASEES/Routledge Series on Russian and East European Studies) and various publications on memory, identity, and trauma. Previously, she was a project director for the Conflict and Culture Research Centre in Vilnius and senior researcher at the Department of Contemporary History, Vilnius University

Irina Anatolevna Fliege

Director of Research and Information Centre "Memorial" (St Petersburg)

Irina Anatolevna Fliege is currently director of the Research and Information Centre "Memorial" in Saint Petersburg. She has been head of various projects, among others *The Virtual Gulag Museum. Necropolis of Terror*.

Fliege joined Memorial Saint Petersburg in 1988 and has held various positions, 1991 for the first time as associate, since 1998 as board member and since 2002 as director. She has studied history and geography at the Saint Petersburg state university.



Gabriele Freitag

Gabriele Freitag

CEO German Association for East European Studies (DGO) in Berlin

Gabriele Freitag is the CEO at German Association for East European Studies (DGO) in Berlin since 2014. Prior to that, she has been research fellow with the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen, programme director with the German foundation "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft", and CEO at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies at Free University of Berlin.



Sarah Hofmann

Sarah Hofmann

Editor, reporter and presenter at Deutsche Welle

Sarah Hofmann has worked as a journalist for Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle since 2009. As part of the culture department, she focuses in particular on German and European history and culture. Sarah Hofmann studied history and comparative literature at the Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, as well as at the Sorbonne and Jussieu universities in Paris. She has just recently been granted the young journalist award, Axel Springer Preis für junge Journalisten, for the historical documentary "When we were 17. Youth at the crossroads."



Badri Kochoradze

Badri Kochoradze

Professor at New Vision University Tbilisi; Director Institute of European Studies of Tbilisi State University

Badri Kochoradze is a professor at New Vision University since 2015 and served as director of the Institute for European Studies (IES) at Tbilisi State University in 2008-2010. He has been delivering lectures in Sociology, Social Psychology, Philosophy, and Project and Contract Management at the American University for Humanities (AUH, Tbilisi Campus) in 1996-2014 as well as General Psychology at the Caucasus University, School of Business and School of Law, in 2003-2013. He has been working at the UNDP Georgia, World Vision Georgia, Care International, British Council Georgia, Open Society Georgia Foundation, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many other institutions and organizations, in Georgia or abroad.

Andrey Makarychev

Visiting Professor of International Relations at University of Tartu

Andrey Makarychev is currently visiting professor of International Relations at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Besides, he is columnist and political analyst for various journals and newspapers. Among others, his research includes Russian foreign policy discourses, international security, regionalism in EU – Russia common neighbourhood.

He has been professor, visiting researcher, and fellow with different institutions, among others the Linguistic University in Nizhny Novgorod, the Free University of Berlin, the Center for Security Studies & Conflict Research, ETH Zurich, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen, and Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies (Washington, D.C.).



Ekaterina Makhotina

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"

Ekaterina Makhotina is assistant lecturer at the Department of History of Eastern and South-eastern Europe at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Her first book deals with memory on Stalinism at the White-Sea Canal (Belomorkanal). In January 2015 she finished her PhD on the development of cultural memory of WWII in Soviet and post-Soviet Lithuania. She is a member of the German-Russian forum Petersburger Dialog / Peterburgskiy Dialog (AG Zukunftswerkstatt). Currently she is coordinating the international project, that investigates the social practices of war remembering on the 9 May in the post-socialist space (together with Mischa Gabowitsch and Cordula Gdaniec): "Victory – Liberation – Occupation: War Memorials and Commemoration marking the 70th Anniversary of WWII Ending in post-Socialist Europe" and the university project "Münchner Leerstellen: Forgotten Sites of Memory on the Nazi Violence in Munich. A Virtual Exhibition" (<http://www.muenchner-leerstellen.de/>). As author of various publications Ekaterina Makhotina is highly involved in the topic of commemoration: "Stolzes Gedenken und traumatisches Erinnern: Gedächtnisorte der Stalinzeit am Weißmeerkanal." Frankfurt am Main 2013, "Vilnius. Geschichte und Gedächtnis einer Stadt zwischen den Kulturen." Frankfurt am Main, New York 2010. Edited Volume (with Schulze Wessel, Martin; Götz, Irene), "Krieg im Museum. Präsentationen des Zweiten Weltkriegs in Museen und Gedenkstätten des östlichen Europa." Göttingen 2015. (with Martin Schulze Wessel), "Fragmentierte Erinnerungen: Der Zweite Weltkrieg in sowjetischen und postsowjetischen Erinnerungskulturen Litauens" Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2016 (forthcoming), "Comparing 'Memory from Suffering' and 'Memory from Learning': The Holocaust and Jewish History in Museums and Memorials of Lithuania", In: Yad Vashem Studies (to be published 2016), or "Tjaželoje obraščenie s prošlym: Opyt nemeckogo Vergangenheitsbewältigung" in: Rossija i Germanija: Vyzovy 21 veka. – St. Petersburg: Rosbalt, 2013, – S.199 –218.



Harutyun Marutyan

Leading Researcher at Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia

Harutyun Marutyan is a leading research fellow at the Department of Contemporary Anthropological Studies in the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and visiting professor of Anthropology at Yerevan State

Harutyun Marutyan, he was educated at YSU (History Department) and the Institute of Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, in Moscow (Ph.D.). The second PhD he received in 2007 at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in Yerevan. His research interests include national identity transformation, Armenian Genocide memory, modern national movements, iconography, traditional Armenian culture, and poverty. Harutyun Marutyan is the author of three monographs: *The Interior of Armenian Folk Dwellings* (second half of the 19th – beginning of the 20th century) (Yerevan, 1989, in Russian); *The Role of Memory in the Structure of Identity: Questions of Theory* (Yerevan, 2006, in Armenian); *Iconography of Armenian identity. Volume 1: The Memory of Genocide and the Karabagh Movement* (Yerevan, 2009, in Armenian and in English, two different volumes) and more than a hundred scholarly articles. He is recipient of the President of the Republic of Armenia Prize (2011) in the nomination of persons having made a valuable contribution to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, for his methodologically innovative research into the continuity of the memory of the Armenian Genocide and its relationships with the Karabagh Movement.



Stsiapan Stureika

Historian and Cultural Anthropologist, Lecturer at the European Humanities University Lithuania

Dr. Stsiapan Stureika is a Belarusian historian, cultural anthropologist, full-time lecturer of the European Humanities University (Vilnius), and member of Belarusian committee of ICOMOS. His fields of current research interest are theory of architectural heritage, community-based conservation projects, new museology, theory of nationalism, as well as integration of migrants.

Stsiapan Stureika

Since 2010 Stureika has conducted several research projects on social aspects of architectural conservation and city revitalisation. One current publication is “Overcoming Soviet regimes of memory. The case of Ašmiany,” in: *New Eastern Europe*, #2, 2015, p. 168-175, another selected publication is “The role of the architectural heritage in the desovietization of the image of Belarusian cities in 1991-2012,” in: *Desovietization in the context of Belarusian society’s transformation* / ed. U. Matskevich, Vilnius, 2012, p.130-151.



Magdalena
Waligorska-Huhle

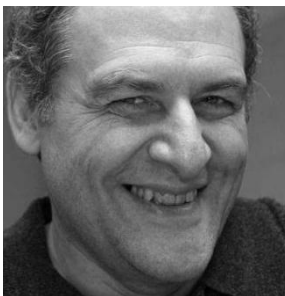
Magdalena Waligorska-Huhle

Assistant Professor of East European History and Culture at University of Bremen

Magdalena Waligorska-Huhle is assistant professor of East European History and Culture at University of Bremen. She is a cultural historian and sociologist and her fields of interest include: contemporary Polish and Belarusian history, memory studies, Jewish heritage and popular culture, Jewish/non-Jewish relations, and music and identity. She has published

extensively on the topic of memory and commemoration, especially in relation to the Jewish culture and the Holocaust. She is the author of “Klezmer’s Afterlife. An Ethnography of the Jewish Music Revival in

Poland and Germany”, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013). Among her recent publications are also: Jewish Heritage and the New Belarusian National Identity Project (East European Politics and Societies and Cultures, 2015) and In the Cellars and Attics of Memory: Mapping Jewish and Non-Jewish Spaces in Contemporary Poland, In: Gromova, Heinert & Voigt: Jewish and Non-Jewish Spaces in the Urban Context (Berlin: Neofelis, 2015).



Evgeny E. Zakharov

Evgeny Efimovich Zakharov

Executive Director of Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group; Member of the Board of International “Memorial” Society

Evgeny Efimovich Zakharov is an Ukrainian human-rights activist, mathematician, and current director of Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group. In 2015 he has been honoured with the Lev Kopelev prize for peace and human rights. Since 1989, E. Zakharov has held various positions in organisations like Memorial, since 2004–Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights

Union. Besides, he was member of the Moscow Helsinki Group from 1989 to 2002. He is member of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) Section Ukraine (since 1995). Active political participation has accompanied Zakharov throughout different decades. In the 70s and 80s he participated in the dissident movement, in the 90s he has been deputy of Kharkiv town Council. Furthermore, in 1990-2010 Zakharov was a deputy-chair of the Kharkiv town Commission on Restoring the Rights of the Unjustly Repressed. As author of 11 research papers on applied mathematics and electric machines design, and more than 200 publications on human rights, civil society and history of repression in the Soviet Union and Ukraine Zakharov has been publishing in a broad range of countries from Russia to Canada.

Participants

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