



**International Conference
Kyiv, 30 September – 2 October 2016**

**Contested Memories of the Difficult Past
Eastern Europe and Its History of the 20th Century**

The German Wehrmacht invaded Kyiv on 19 September 1941. Barely two weeks later, on 29 and 30 September 1941, SS and SD units, supported by local militia, massacred 33,771 Jews from Kyiv in the ravine of Babyn Yar on the outskirts of Kyiv. In the following months more than 100,000 people were murdered there, including Roma, Soviet prisoners of war, communists and Ukrainian activists.

Babyn Yar is a central place of remembrance of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe and the racially motivated policy of extermination pursued by the National Socialist regime. The German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), with partners, is organising the conference “Contested Memories of the Difficult Past. Eastern Europe and Its History of the 20th Century” in Kyiv to mark the 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre. The Hitler-Stalin Pact of 23 August 1939, the occupation of Poland by German troops only a few weeks later, the annexation of the three Baltic States by the USSR in 1940, the Third Reich’s invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the terror of occupation, millions of dead soldiers and civilians, and the collaboration of local people with the Nazi regime – all of these represent contested, controversial and complex issues that continue to divide Central and Eastern European countries both politically and socially.

The conference addresses questions related to victimisation and responsibility, how art and culture are dealing with competing historical narratives, and the influence of the diaspora on practices of remembrance in post-socialist countries. It will also discuss how discourses of remembrance and political decisions influence each other at the local and international level, and how transnational remembrance and genocide research can contribute to a critical view of the past in Eastern Europe. The conference also aims to develop adequate strategies for making younger generations more aware of this topic.

PROGRAMME

Friday, 30 September 2016

- 14.00 Registration, Coffee and Snacks
Location: Lobby Conference Hall
- 16.30 Opening by the moderators **Demian von Osten** (ARD German TV, Germany) and **Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta** (Mystetskyi Arsenal National Art and Culture Museum Complex, Ukraine)
Location: Conference Hall
- Welcome
Thomas Krüger (Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), Germany)
Anatoly Podolsky (The Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies (UCHS), Ukraine)
Josef Zissels (World Jewish Congress / The Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities (VAAD), Ukraine)
- 17.00 Opening Dialogue
Michael Reiffenstuel (Federal Foreign Office, Germany) and **Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta**
- 17.30 Keynote and Discussion
“A Garden of Forgetfulness: European Memory Policies Today”
Timothy Snyder (Yale University, USA)
Chair: **Caroline Hornstein-Tomić** (bpb, Germany)
- 19.00 Reception. Locations: Slovyansky Hall and Pechersk Hall
- 20.00 Concert with **Mariana Sadovska** and **Christian Thomé**
Duo-Program “Vesna – An Acoustic East-Western Road Movie”
“Vesna – Spring” is the project of Mariana Sadovska and Cologne based percussionist Christian Thomé. The duo was formed in June 2012, with the idea of combining ancient Ukrainian folk songs and contemporary electro-acoustic sounds, interweaving different cultures through poetry and melody - an acoustic east-western road movie.
Location: Conference Hall

Saturday, 1 October 2016

- 09.00 Introduction by the moderators. Location: Conference Hall

Excursions in Kyiv

Excursion to Babyn Yar

with Anatoly Podolsky (UCHS, Ukraine)

At Babyn Yar, on 29-30 September 1941 units of Einsatzgruppe C and their accomplices murdered 33,771 Jewish people who were then buried in a mass grave on the spot. Over the following two years, German occupation authorities continued to murder and in total killed about 100,000 people from various groups on this site. The excursion will focus on the history of Babyn Yar during the war and afterwards as well as the formation of memory about the Babyn Yar tragedy in today's Ukraine.

The Case of Mendel Beilis

with Dmytro Levytskyi and Piotr Armianovski

In 1911-1913 the trial took place of Mendel Beilis, an altar server at Kyiv's brick factory. Beilis, a Jew, was accused of the ritual murder of the young Christian Andrij Jushchynskij. Despite the various expertises and investigator opinions that considered the accusation absurd, the charges were supported by a series of influential politicians of the former Russian Empire. The guided performance through the district of Podil attempts to trace this case and to place its history into a contemporary context.

Roundtrip through Kyiv

The City of Kyiv has a long and rich history that can still be discovered in today's streets. The first stop will be Podil, once a commercial center and now the cultural and educational heart of the city. The tour will continue to the district of Lypky, whose beautiful architecture is a heritage of its aristocratic past. In addition to that, you will visit Mykhailivskiy cathedral – a gem among Kyiv's places of worship and home to the relic of St. Barbara.

Jewish Kyiv

The history of Kyiv cannot be separated from that of its Jewish community, dating back to the pre-Christian Rus' times. Kyiv's Jews made their mark on the city in various respects, which will be visited in this excursion. There were numerous synagogues, Jewish schools and higher education establishments. Golda Meir and Efraim Katsyr, future political leaders in Israel, were born here. The writer Sholom-Aleihem lived in and worked on Kyiv, Isaak Babel studied here. Jewish patrons played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Bessarabskiy market and several campuses of the Polytechnic Institute.

“What you always wanted to know about Maidan but were afraid to ask Ukrainians”

with Vasyl Cherepanyn (Visual Culture Research Center in Kyiv / National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)

The guided tour around Kyiv’s central square will map urban, visual, ideological, and political dimensions of the peoples’ uprising called Maidan in 2013-2014. Bearing in mind the European significance of the event, one central theme will be the functioning of public institutions in a revolutionary situation and under the conditions of war and military occupation that followed. This is another connection between symbolic and real violence, both of which influence political processes in Ukrainian society.

National Museum of the History of Ukraine of World War II

The National Museum’s permanent exhibition displays more than 17,000 works that reflect World War II, with a focus on Ukraine. However, this cannot be told as a neatly separated national narrative: About 60% of the Wehrmacht divisions and 50% of the Red Army units were involved in active hostilities on Ukrainian territory; every fifth soldier of the Soviet Army was of Ukrainian origin. The excursion will pay special attention to the official interpretation of WWII nowadays in Ukraine and also include a temporary exhibition dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the massacre in Babyn Yar.

12.00-13.30

Lunch. Locations: Slovyansky Hall and Pechersk Hall

13.30-15.00

Panel 1: Concepts of Remembrance

What contemporary theoretical concepts and terms characterise the scientific discourse on remembrance? What are possible strategies of remembrance in “transition countries”? How are countries such as Ukraine dealing with the multi-layered and parallel memories of traumatic 20th century events all the way to the Euromaidan protests? How can “transition societies” make their memory discourse productive for the future? Who are the holders of memory when public institutions have no legitimate authority in this discourse? How do constructs of memory influence societal inclusion and exclusion? How do younger generations remember the past and what does memory mean to them?

Kornelia Kończal (University of Erfurt, Germany)

Maria Mälksoo (University of Kent, UK)

Tatiana Zhurzhenko (Institute for Human Sciences, Austria)

Chair: **Barbara Törnquist-Plewa** (Lund University, Sweden)

Location: Conference Hall

15.00-16.30

Panel 2 and 3 (parallel)

Panel 2: “Memory Wars” in Transition States

How are different concepts of memory manifesting themselves in spaces of transition? How can the difficult Soviet heritage be reappraised in a multi-ethnic environment without being glorified or criminalised? Who are the providers and actors of memory in the post-socialist sphere? How do competing actors of memory negotiate their narratives, and how does this affect the public? Is it possible to consolidate diverging narratives?

Anna Colin-Lebedev (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, France)

Olesya Khromeychuk (University of East Anglia, UK)

Wolfgang Templin (Writer / Publisher, Germany)

Serhy Yekelchyk (University of Victoria / Association for Ukrainian Studies, Canada)

Chair: **Jochen Hellbeck** (Rutgers University, USA)

Location: Conference Hall

Panel 3: Memory in the Digital Age

What forms of digital memory currently exist? Can the digital media and web-based instruments of visualisation contribute to greater awareness of historical events among younger generations? Given the rapid and far-reaching spread of digital media, is there a danger of creating spaces of remembrance that support propaganda and transport unreflected, one-sided images of history? What pedagogic and interactive material usefully promotes a “European culture of remembrance” and humanistic values?

Jürgen Grimm (University of Vienna, Austria)

Edward Serotta (CENTROPA, Austria)

Galina Zvereva (Russian State University for the Humanities, Russian Federation)

Chair: **Florian Kühner-Wielach** (Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany)

Location: Predslava Hall

16.30-17.00

Coffee Break. Location: Lobby Conference Hall

17.00-18.30

Panel 4 and 5 (parallel)

Panel 4: The Topicality of the Holocaust

What is the significance of the Holocaust in the memorial cultures of Eastern Europe today? In times of growing globalisation, does the Holocaust act as a universal code of remembrance or an imperative for memory? How is the Holocaust commemorated in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries today, and how is this to be interpreted? Is the national setting still a frame of reference for commemorating the Holocaust?

Igor Shchupak (“Tkuma” Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies / Jewish Memory and Holocaust in Ukraine Museum, Ukraine)

Dariusz Stola (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews / Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)

Natan Sznajder (Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo, Israel)

Chair: **Carmen Scheide** (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland)

Location: Conference Hall

Panel 5: **Memory in Film and Literature**

How is memory manifesting itself in cultural practices such as film and literature? How are fictional forms of memory different from non-fictional forms? What role do they play in the various Central and Eastern European countries? Do they have the potential to act as transcultural facilitators of memory? What is their impact on societies?

Serhii Bukovsky (Filmmaker, Ukraine)

Katja Petrowskaja (Writer, Germany)

Chair: **Zaal Andronikashvili** (Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin, Germany)

Location: Predslava Hall

19.00-20.30

Dinner. Locations: Slovyansky Hall and Pechersk Hall

21.00

“Visit by Ghosts”

Exhibition at the Visual Culture Research Center (Kyiv)

Curator: **Kateryna Mishchenko** (Ukraine)

The exhibition aims to locate forms of remembrance in urban space and at the same time contextualise them in present-day Ukraine. The city of Kyiv is understood as a canvas or texture for the contemporary design of remembrance, allowing a clash of contradictory concepts and a range of consequences. The exhibition critically examines the re-interpretations and changes that occur in urban space when it is abandoned for political, economic or social reasons. How does the city change after practices of extermination such as the massacre at Babyn Jar? How are such practices remembered, and what is their impact on urban space? How do they communicate with the discriminatory practices and traumata that contemporary Ukrainian society is attempting to deal with? And what happens when ideologies abandon urban space? Is the forced removal of memorials a way of coping with trauma, or rather a gesture of political iconoclasm?

Opening with

Katharina Köhler (Artist, Germany)

Mykola Ridnyj (Artist, Ukraine)

Sandra Schubert (Artist, Germany),

Wolfgang Schwärzler (Artist, Germany)

Sunday, 2 October 2016

9.00-10.00

Project Stand-up

Get to know selected projects from all over Europe dealing with remembrance and history. Talk to the project makers, encounter new ideas for topics and ways of presentation, and become part of the mapping memories network.

Location: Predslava Hall

10.00-11.30

Panel 6 and 7 (parallel)

Panel 6: Memory and Forced Migration

Forced migration in the form of ethnic cleansing, expulsion, flight, resettlement or population exchange has influenced Eastern Europe throughout the 20th century. How are memories of migration and individual, family-based and collective experiences manifesting themselves in different media? How are the memories of migrants represented and who are their actors? What constitutes the memory of the diaspora, and what is its significance to and influence on a “receiving country” and society “back home”?

Dmytro Myeshkov (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany)

Michael Schwartz (Institute for Contemporary History Munich-Berlin, Germany)

Mikhail Tyaglyy (UCHS, Ukraine)

Chair: **Nataliya Gumeniuk** (hromadske.tv, Ukraine)

Location: Conference Hall

Panel 7: Spaces and Protagonists of Memory

Who are the shapers and actors of memory in Central and Eastern Europe? How does memory manifest itself institutionally in public space in different countries? What spaces are available for collective remembrance and who is participating in them? What alternative forms of cultural production also create landscapes of memory? What is the relationship between official and informal actors of remembrance in Central and Eastern Europe?

Nelly Bekus (University of Exeter, UK)

Uilleam Blacker (University College London, UK)

Stefan Troebst (Leipzig University, Germany)

Chair: **Vasyl Cherepanyn** (Visual Culture Research Center in Kyiv / National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)

Location: Predslava Hall

11.30-12.00

Coffee Break. Location: Lobby Conference Hall

12.00-13.30

Concluding Discussion: **Transcultural Memory in Europe – Challenges for the Future**

Is a transboundary culture of remembrance possible in Europe? How can diverging national interpretations be included in a European policy of remembrance in the future? What transnational frameworks are available, and what is the relationship of pan-European organisations such as the Council of Europe, OSCE and EU with the politics of memory?

Georgiy Kasianov (National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine)

Thomas Krüger (bpb, Germany)

Irina Shcherbakova (Russian State University for the Humanities, Russian Federation)

Josef Zissels (World Jewish Congress / VAAD, Ukraine)

Chair: **Demian von Osten** (ARD German TV, Germany)

Location: Conference Hall

13.30

Lunch. Locations: Slovyansky Hall and Pechersk Hall

During the conference we will tweet via the hashtag **#MapMe16**. We are looking forward to your comments!

At a glance:

Conference Venue: President Hotel, 12, Hospitalna Street, Kyiv, 01023, Ukraine

Conference Rooms: Conference Hall, Kyiv Hall, Predslava Hall

Exhibition: Visual Culture Research Center, Hlybochytska St. 44, Kyiv, Ukraine

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Imprint:

Project manager: Marion Bacher

Curator: Kateryna Stetsevych

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Exhibition curator: Kateryna Mishchenko

Team: Stefanie Klein, Yuriy Krotov, Dr. Asiye Öztürk, Mirjam Schmidt, Helga Zeitler

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Coordination of the stand-up project: Kooperative Berlin (Patrick Stegemann)

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