



International Conference

Kyiv, 30 September – 2 October 2016

Contested Memories of the Difficult Past

Eastern Europe and Its History of the 20th Century

Project Stand-up

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

A Human Being is a Human Being

This booklet looks at topics and questions that concern everyone. You are probably familiar with the terms “racism” and “anti-Semitism” – words that have something to do with shutting people out socially. They involve belittling people and creating hostile images of them. There are many ways of sidelining and humiliating someone, as we all know from our own experience. Maybe you have witnessed such incidents, or been indirectly or directly involved. The topics in this booklet were developed based on opinions and experiences of young people in Austria. We spoke to many young people from different backgrounds and religions at workshops all over the country. They discussed their experiences of anti-Semitism and racism and, more generally, social exclusion and denigration or disrespect.

Moritz Wein: moritz.wein@hotmail.com

www.erinnern.at

Chernobyl Oral History Archive

The project's goal is the preservation of memory of the Chernobyl catastrophe and raising awareness of this disaster among the people of Ukraine and all over the world. This archive contains the stories of the people who were sent to the Chernobyl restricted zone to eliminate the accident's effects and reduce radioactive contamination. It is also the stories of the people who lived in the area of radioactive contamination and were resettled. Presently in the Archive there are more than 200 oral histories of the liquidators and victims of the Chernobyl accident.

Viktoria Naumenko: wiknau@gmail.com

www.1986.org.ua

Cities of Memories

The project Cities of Memory asks how social memory is reflected in the urban landscape of Post-soviet capitals. Our research, as well as a critical analysis of the selected sites connected to the totalitarian systems of the 20th century, allows the participants to study the relations between nations and their history. Our approach and the implementation of the project have been developed during its editions. After Berlin and Budapest, we are now working on the third guidebook in the series devoted to Bucharest.

Maria Czaputowicz: mariaczaputowicz@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/miastapamieci

Dead Corners - The Forgotten Sites of the Holocaust

In the Holocaust probably more Jews were killed by bullets than by gas. Yet we do not speak of their deaths. We remember Auschwitz because some managed to survive, but no one came back from the death pits. The forests have lain silent up to this day, and most graves have lain forgotten. There is not much to see, camps and massacre sites turned into landscape. The grass on the graves is no less green than anywhere else. Nevertheless, traces can be found – bones, buildings, remnants and ruins. Ansgar Gilster's photographs document the blind spots of European memory in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic States.

Ansgar Gilster: gilster@dgo-online.org

ansgargilster.de/deadcorners.html

Future Memory: Historical Learning with Spatialized Augmented Reality

Our virtual reconstruction of the topography of Bergen Belsen camp, destroyed to the barest of traces, is combined with the geospatial placement of historical sources such as diary fragments, drawings and rare photographs. Individual visitors and groups such as schools are offered a series of self-guiding tools to explore, reflect and discuss this historically charged landscape and learn about its tragic past using both outdoor and indoor access via tablets and immersive projection systems.

Paul Verschure: paul.verschure@upf.edu

www.futurememory.org

Gulag.cz Association – Virtual Museum of the Gulag

Gulag Online virtual museum is a project of the Gulag.cz association, whose activities include mapping and documenting abandoned camps in the former USSR. The virtual museum is built around a complete 3D tour of a Gulag camp illustrated by the testimonies of survivors, literary excerpts and a tour of authentic objects and documents. All of this is supplemented by a bibliography and basic texts on the history of the Gulag and Soviet repression. Individual documented locations and stories of survivors are shown on an interactive map that illustrates the geographic extent of Soviet repression.

Nela Srstková: nela.srstkova@gulag.cz

<http://gulag.cz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gulag.cz>

Hirschfeld-Eddy-Foundation

Through international networking and cooperation with partner organisations in the Global South and Eastern Europe, the Hirschfeld-Eddy-Foundation provides concrete assistance to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) people under threat.

One pillar of our work is learning from history. The German penal code and its paragraph 175 can be considered as one of the most homophobic codes worldwide. The singular persecution of homosexual men in Germany over a period of 123 years is a story that touches hearts and minds. We think that in the light of our singular history we have a special responsibility for strengthening human rights, especially the human rights of LGBTI people.

Klaus Jetzt: info@hirschfeld-eddy-stiftung.de

www.hirschfeld-eddy-stiftung.de

International Centre for Civil Initiatives “Our House”

‘Nash Dom’ (Our House) is a civic initiative that calls upon local authorities to be transparent in their decision-making. It started out as a way of protecting the interests of residents in a housing complex in Vitebsk. Olga Karach, the director of “Our House” taught people to check their bills for the services provided by state utility companies. Later, each block became self-governed. And finally, self-government embraced houses and streets.

Olga Karatch: olga.karatch@gmail.com

<https://news.house/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NashDomTV>

Ukraine Center for Holocaust Studies

The Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies (UCHS) concentrates on activities that embrace Holocaust research and Holocaust education. Research focuses on regional aspects of the Holocaust on Ukrainian lands; reflection of the Holocaust in the mass-media of Nazi-occupied Ukraine; Nazi ideology and the mechanisms of its implementation, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, and comparative research of the Holocaust and other cases of genocide. UCHS holds scholarly conferences and seminars, consults history teachers and is actively involved in publishing. It has its own periodicals: “Holocaust and Modernity” and “Lessons from the Holocaust”.

Anatoly Podolsky: uhcenter@holocaust.kiev.ua

www.holocaust.kiev.ua

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