

Dear colleagues,

I hope this email finds you well. For the upcoming 3rd MSA Conference to be held in Madrid from June 25-28, 2019, we are looking for up to two papers to complete a panel entitled “Beyond ‘Never Again!’ Understanding (East) German Populism” (see the abstract below). Papers can be submitted from various disciplines, including but not limited to history, sociology, memory, literature and media studies, anthropology and political science. As the two already-set papers address the emergence and peculiarities of populism in East Germany, the two submitted papers should preferably focus on the West or Germany on the whole, and/or provide a comparative perspective.

Since the general deadline for submitting panels for the Madrid conference is fast approaching (Oct. 1, 2018), we hope to find someone within the next two weeks, thus by Sept. 28. Please submit your title, abstract and a short bio to [c.morina@uva.nl](mailto:c.morina@uva.nl) asap, we’ll get back to you with a decision shortly after.

Please also note: The Working Group “Memory & Populism” has now received an official status within the MSA, see: (<https://www.memorystudiesassociation.org/non-members-groups/>). Whoever is interested to join us might email me anytime!

With best wishes,

Christina Morina

**Panel abstract “Beyond ‘Never Again!’ Understanding (East) German Populism”**

*Should we perceive of the supporters of populist programs not only in the US but across the world as the “East Germans of the 21st century”, as New York Times columnist David Brooks once mused? Why are German populists particularly successful in the provinces of the former GDR? And how do these developments compare to right-wing activism in the West German provinces? The panel seeks not only to examine the ways in which the history and memory of East German socialism is linked to and intertwined with the rise of right-wing populism in the East. It also asks what other factors come into play if the perspective is widened to include the Western parts of the country. Finally, it aims to explore whether insights into the socio-cultural roots of German populism can teach us something about the workings of populism in general and its appropriation of history and memory in particular.*

*We seek to bring together scholars who approach these questions from diverse disciplinary perspectives with a special focus on the integration of approaches from the field of memory studies. By doing so we offer a forum to debate the relevance of memory (and memory studies) for a critical analysis of populism and the concurrent crisis of representative democracy.*

*Already confirmed participants include: Christina Morina (Amsterdam) with a paper on “Wir sind das Volk” – The history, memory and politics of a revolutionary chant, and Julian Gopfarth (London) will talk about Representations of the GDR among supporters of right-wing populists in Dresden. Samuel Salzborn (Berlin) has agreed to serve as commentator.*