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N E W S L E T T E R

NEWSLETTER

POST-SOCIALIST

and

COMPARATIVE

MEMORY

STUDIES

**NEWSLETTER POST-SOCIALIST
AND COMPARATIVE MEMORY STUDIES**

PoSoCoMeS NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, May 2019

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Welcome Newsletter # 1

Dear readers,

As a new but rapidly growing working group of the Memory Studies Association, with the goal of creating common frameworks for studying memory in post-socialist contexts globally, we have decided to publish a newsletter to communicate the ongoing research in this field both within our group and with the wider academic community.

This is the first edition, which introduces the group's aims and its current organizing team, outlines its activities at the forthcoming MSA conference in Madrid (14 events including panels, roundtables, and a pre-conference panel and book presentation), and shares information about group members, new institutions, and recent publications in the field (by group members and other scholars).

For the next issues, similar submissions as well as short articles outlining emerging approaches relevant to the field of comparative and post-socialist memory studies are welcome. These materials can be emailed to: k.robbe@rug.nl.

Cordially,
Ksenia Robbe, newsletter editor

Post-Socialist and Comparative Memory Studies (PoSoCoMeS)

Historical memory is “hot” across the post-socialist world, including the former Soviet republics, East Central Europe and the Balkans, but also China, Vietnam, or Cuba, as well as among the members or heirs of international socialist movements. Accordingly, collective memory has attracted much interest among academic specialists in all of these regions.

However, post-socialist memory studies has yet to constitute itself as a fully-fledged field of inquiry. Scholars often remain confined to their own national contexts, failing to engage in meaningful dialogue with those studying other countries or regions. Many articles still read like contributions to memory wars rather than attempts at dispassionate analysis, and too many authors write about memory phenomena without regard for the international literature in the field, or indeed the contributions of predecessors who wrote about the same topics.

In this context, our working group aims to help establish high scholarly standards for post-socialist memory studies across disciplinary boundaries. We also wish to create a global framework for scholarly dialogue about post-socialist memory, with particular attention to comparative and transnational approaches including regions in the Global South and elsewhere that have been influenced by the socialist project. Beyond organizing our own stream of panels at the MSA conferences, we have started compiling bibliographies of scholarly work on post-socialist memory and collecting information about conferences and research projects.

We invite scholars from all disciplines and regional specializations to join our working group. To join the group, please e-mail Nina Weller

at weller@europa-uni.de indicating your research interests. You are also very welcome to write us at posocomes@gmail.com if you have specific ideas for activities that you would like to organize in the framework of PoSoCoMeS. We especially welcome input from those working on regions outside the (former) socialist world but with an interest in comparative studies that include “our” region.

Zuzanna Bogumil is Assistant Professor at the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw. Her research to date has dealt with religious conflicts in Ukraine, Russian memory of twentieth century Soviet repressions, as well as the symbolic meanings of historical exhibitions in Central and Eastern Europe. At the moment she works on the religious dimension of the memory and more particularly on the cultural meaning of the Russian new martyrs. She is also interested in vernacular memories and local strategies of dealing with traumatic past in Eastern Europe. Among her recent books are *Gulag Memories: The Rediscovery and Commemoration of Russia's Repressive Past* (Berghahn Books 2018), and co-authored books: *Milieux de mémoire in Late Modernity: Local Community, Religion and Historical Politics* (Peter Lang 2019) and *The Enemy on Display: The Second World War in Eastern European Museums* (Berghahn Books 2015).

Mykola Borovyk is associate professor at Taras Shevchenko University in Kyiv, Ukraine. He specializes in the fields of oral history, public history, and memory studies, focusing on the memory of the Second World War. His current research projects are about the relations between WWII memory and collective identities in Ukraine, the formation of the images of local collaborators in Jewish memories of the Holocaust in the USSR, as well as to Soviet war diaries. He is particularly interested in the ability of public memory discourses to shape the perception of the past on the so-called grassroots level as well as in the role of history and memory as factors of political mobilization.

Serguey Ehrlich (*monitoring historical politics*) is the director of the academic publishing house *Nestor-Istoriia* (Saint Petersburg / Moscow) and editor-in-chief of the journal *Istoricheskaia Ekspertiza*. His main fields of research are transnational and global memory and the role

of “sacral patterns” in the functioning of collective memory and identity. He has published three books on the myth of the “Decembrists’ uprising” of December 14, 1825, which played a fundamental role in the memory and identity of the Russian and Soviet *intelligentsia*. His current research is on the basic mythic narratives—the fairy tale, the heroic myth and the myth of self-sacrifice—as foundations of memory, identity and ethics in, respectively, agrarian, industrial and information societies. Starting in 2019, he is co-directing a collective project titled “Monitoring Historical Politics.”

Mischa Gabowitsch (*MSA liaison*) is a senior researcher at the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany. He specializes in memorials, commemorative practices, and the international circulation of memory models pertaining to wars and genocides, and has co-directed two major international projects on the ethnography of Victory Day celebrations in post-socialist countries. He is currently writing a history of Soviet war memorials and is particularly interested in transnational patronage networks of sculptors, architects, and military and political leaders. He has also worked on protest and social movements (*Protest in Putin’s Russia*, 2017) and is interested in parallels between protest and commemorative movements.

Daria Khlevnyuk (*bibliographer*) is a postdoctoral researcher at the National Research University—Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Russia. She previously worked on the presentation and perception of historical authenticity in museums and visitor studies in general. Her current research is on difficult pasts and contested collective memories, specifically in present-day Russia with a focus on the commemoration of Stalinist purges in Russian museums.

Lana Lovrenčić is an independent researcher based in Zagreb, Croatia. Her main fields of interest are photography, cultural heritage and planning practices after WWII in Yugoslavia. She has participated in a number of research, exhibition and publication projects, including *Unfinished Modernizations*, *Heroes We Love* and *Forgotten Heritage*. She is one of the initiators of the international collaborative platform (In)Appropriate Monuments, which deals with Partisan monuments

in former Yugoslavia. She has co-curated several exhibitions, including *Monuments in Transition. Destruction of People's Liberation Struggle Monuments in Croatia* (2012) and *On Revolution Roads: Memorial Tourism in Yugoslavia* (2015), and co-organised two international conferences, *Socialist Monuments and Modernism* (2015) and *War, Revolution and Memory: Post-War Monuments in Post-Communist Europe* (2017).

Maria Matskevich is a senior fellow at the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology at the Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg. Her main research interest is in social/historical memory in Russia and the other former Soviet states, with an emphasis on generational effects, public attitudes within the field, and the impact of memory politics on public views.

Ksenia Robbe (*newsletter editor*) is assistant professor at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society, where she has taught and done research in African and Russian studies. In August 2019, she is joining the University of Groningen, Netherlands, as an assistant professor in Russian and European literatures and cultures. She is the author of *Conversations of Motherhood: South African Women's Writing Across Traditions* (2015) and co-editor of *Post-Soviet Nostalgia: Confronting the Empire's Legacies* (2019). Her current research engages with the memory of the transitional periods in post-Soviet and post-apartheid literature, theatre, and visual art of the last decade.

Nina Weller (*membership secretary*) is a postdoctoral researcher at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. Her research interests include contemporary literature, popular culture, memory and representations of history in the post-Soviet countries. Her current project emphasizes (post-memorial) narratives and images of WWII in Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian literature and film.

**PoSoCoMeS Stream
at the Memory Studies Association
Conference in Madrid:
Programme and Abstracts**

**Pre-conference book presentation
Monday, June 24**

19.00

Authors meet critic: a discussion of *Replicating Atonement: Foreign Models in the Commemoration of Atrocities*, ed. Mischa Gabowitsch, Palgrave Memory Studies 2018 (joint event with the Working Group on Memory & Human Rights)

Location: Universidad Complutense, Faculty of Geography & History, Building B, Salón de Grados

Participants:

Ralph Buchenhorst (Emory University)

Lea David (University College Dublin)

Jasna Dragović-Soso (Goldsmiths, University of London)

Mischa Gabowitsch (Einstein Forum, Potsdam / Madrid Institute for Advanced Study)

Franziska Seraphim (Boston College)

Chair: Sarah Lemmen (Complutense / Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel)

**Tuesday, June 25
PoSoCoMeS pre-conference**

Location: Universidad Complutense, Faculty of Philology

10.00 Coffee, welcome, PoSoCoMeS orientation

10.30 Panel: Memory Before and After Crimea (organiser: Julie Fedor)

Chair: Daria Khlevnyuk (SUNY Stony Brook)

Julie Fedor: *The Crimean Annexation as a 'Fountain of New Meaning': Re-narrating Russia's Recent Past in the Wake of 2014*

Mischa Gabowitsch: *Victory Day before and after Crimea: Commemoration beyond Politics*

Ewa Ochman: *Memory in Poland before and after Crimea: Legislating the De-Communization of Public Space*

Anna Glew: *Re-shaping the commemorative landscape in Central Ukraine: Analysing the impact of monuments to Ukrainian soldiers killed in the Russia-Ukraine war*

Wednesday, June 26

12.30–14.00

Panel 1:

Memory Practices and Urban Change in Post-Dictatorial Societies

Organiser: Lina Klymenko

This panel sheds light on memory practices and urban change in post-dictatorial countries. By focusing on case studies in Eastern Europe and Asia, we investigate how social and political actors mold the memories of the dictatorial past by promoting changes in urban landscape, for instance in monuments, museums, and memorials. By doing this, we examine how memory practices and urban change relate to broader processes of decolonization, transitional justice, and identity construction in post-dictatorial societies. This panel offers a comparative perspective on political and social developments that underpin the way the dictatorships are remembered in transition countries.

Chair: Lina Klymenko

Discussant: Ulrike Capdepón

Ann-Sophie Schoepfel (Balzan Research Project, University of Konstanz) *Spatial resilience in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Oleksii Polegkyi/Simon Preker (University of Alberta/University of Hamburg) *Farewell to the totalitarian past: Memory politics and re-definition of national identities in Ukraine and Taiwan*

Lina Klymenko (University of Eastern Finland) *Choosing Mazepa over Lenin: The Transformation of Monuments and Collective Values in Post-Soviet Ukraine*

Panel 2:

The politics of historical symbols and narratives: late Soviet and post-Soviet evolutions

Chair: Daria Khlevnyuk

Evgeny Manzhurin (University of Eastern Finland) *Appropriating Time, Appropriating Space: De-Sovietization of Local Imaginaries in Soviet City Symbols after WWII*

Nikolay Mitrokhin (University of Eastern Finland) *Two Grand Narratives of One Small Country. The Republic of Moldova, a Conflicted Case of Postsocialist Memory*

Sergei Erlikh (academic publishing house "Nestor-Historia", Moscow/Saint Petersburg) *How the memory of the Second World War in Odessa led to mass riots and tragedy on May 2, 2014*

15.00–16.30

Panel 29:

Post-Socialist Transitions Through Children's Eyes

Organiser: Ksenia Robbe

The memory of the 1980-90s political transitions in Eastern and East Central Europe is characterized by notoriously contradictory narratives. While for two decades the varied interpretations were mainly a matter of public debate or private conversation, these periods are now becoming a subject of varied forms, genres, and media of cultural remembrance, including literature, film, exhibitions, music, theatre, oral history publications, etc. This panel seeks to initiate a conversation about the modes and practices of this emerging cultural memory by addressing one of its prominent aspects—the recall of the turbulent

period through the eyes of children. The discussion will examine the diverse—and often contradictory—functions of these perspectives and the effects they produce, from ideological manipulation to the creation of more complex visions of the past and the future.

Chair: Maria Matskevich

Discussant: Nina Weller

Biljana Markovic (University of Vienna) *Post-Yugoslav childhood memories: between the implicated and the infantilized narrator*

Andreea Mironescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania) *Fictional Children of (Post)Communism: Childhood and Agency in the Literary Discourse of Transition in Romania*

Ksenia Robbe (Leiden University) *'Repairing' the 1990s: Gender, Genre and Generations in Recent Fiction by Russian Women Writers*

Maja Vodopivec (Leiden University College / University of Leiden) *Childhood Memory in Post-Conflict Bosnia*

Roundtable 6:

Memories of Socialism Compared PoSoCoMeS

Chair: Mischa Gabowitsch

Sandra Krizic Roban (Institute of Art History, Zagreb)

Franziska Seraphim (Boston College)

Ksenia Robbe (Leiden University)

16.45 – 18.15

Panel 54:

The hardware of memory: new approaches to the materiality of monuments

Organiser: Mischa Gabowitsch

Monuments and memorials—the hardware of memory in Alexander Etkind's terms—are often written about as if they were mere symbols—interesting mostly because they lend legitimacy to a certain narrative. This perspective neglects the materiality of monuments. It glosses over the constraints and unintended outcomes that result from the stuff they are made of and the process of production. It also omits the non-symbolic ways in which material objects interact with their surroundings. Against the theoretical background of approaches such as the new materialism

in historiography, pragmatic sociology, and the notion of non-human/distributed agency, this panel focuses specifically on the materiality of monuments, proposing a dialogue between art theorists and historians.

Chair: Ewa Ochman

Discussant: Antony Kalashnikov

Mischa Gabowitsch (Einstein Forum, Potsdam) *The Stuff of Memory: Soviet War Memorials and the Political Economy of Building Materials*

Ana Krsinic-Lozica (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb) *Mute Monuments: A Non-Discursive Turn in Visual Arts*

Sandra Krizic Roban (Institute of Art History, Zagreb) *Instead of a Material Turn*

Thursday, June 27

11.15–12.15 Working Group Business Meeting

12.30-14.00

Panel 81:

Memory Politics in and around Russia

Organiser: Alexei Miller

The panel addresses some key theoretical problems in the interpretation of the politics of memory in Russia. The research was supported by the Russian Science Foundation, grant no. 17-18-01589 for the Institute of Scientific Information for the Social Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Chair:

Sergei

Erlikh

Discussant: Boris Kolonitskii

Olga Malinova (National Research University Higher School of Economics / Russian Academy of Sciences) *Commemoration as Political Action: The Case of the Centenary of the Revolution(s) of 1917 in Russia*

Alexey Miller (European University in Saint-Petersburg) *The Impact of International Context on Russian Politics of Memory – Dynamics, Topics, Institutions*

Dmitry V. Efremenko (Russian Academy of Sciences) *Supranational Identity and Historical Memory: Soviet Union, Post-Soviet Space, European Union*

15.00–16.30

**Panel 107:
Post-Socialist Museums of Memory. Part 1**

Organiser: Daria Khlevnyuk

“Dealing with the past” has become a global norm. It presupposes that communities commemorate tragedies in their past, mourn the victims, apologize for wrongdoings, and commit to prevent such situations in the future. However, this imperative is not accepted everywhere. One of the regions where “dealing with past” is problematic is post-socialist space, where memories of socialist terror clash with memories of victories and the Western perspective on Holocaust memory collides with national versions. This panel is dedicated to various post-socialist memory museums and aims to produce a comparative perspective on variation in the commemoration of difficult pasts both across post-socialist countries and within.

Chair: Daria Khlevnyuk

Vladislav Staf (Higher School of Economics, Moscow) *Local Initiatives: the formation of the Gulag memorial museums and their expositions in post-Soviet Russia*

Sofia Gavrilova (Oxford University) *Representations of political exiles in Russian regional museums*

Anna Topolska (Adam Mickiewicz University) *Memory and Visuality: Representations of the Second World War in Poznań, Poland in the 20th and 21st centuries*

**Panel 117:
Critical Thinking on Human Rights and Memory & PoSoCoMeS
joint panel**

**Post-Socialist Idiosyncrasies Human Rights
and Memory Working Group**

Chair: Gruia Badescu

Olga Zabalueva & Ekaterina Markovich (Linköping University/ University of Turku) *Institutionalisation of Memory and False Positivism: The Sandarmokh memorial in Russia*

Sven Milekic (Maynooth University) *Homeland War as a Washing Machine: Croatian Veterans*

Daniela Koleva (St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia) *Post-communist transitional justice and its discontents: A case of commemorating the victims of commun*

16.45–18.15

**Panel 136:
Post-Socialist Museums of Memory. Part 2**

Organiser: Daria Khlevnyuk

Chair: Sofia Gavrilova

Discussant: Daniel Levy

Kende Tamas (Independent) *From places of memory to places of commemoration/representation*

Andrei Zavadski (Freie Universität Berlin) *Co-opting counter-memories? The Boris Yeltsin Museum in Yekaterinburg*

Oksana Dovgoplova (Odessa National University) *The museum wars in post-Soviet Ukraine*

Daria Khlevnyuk (SUNY Stony Brook) *Putting the Stalinist Past in a Showcase: Russian Museums about Stalin's Repressions*

Friday, June 28

11.00–12.30

**Panel 163:
Memories of Revolutions and Civil Wars**

Organiser: Maria Matskevich

2017 and 2018 have seen the centennials of the Russian revolutions and civil wars. The anniversary of the Russian revolution of 1917 was celebrated worldwide, yet in Russia it was a 'silent' anniversary, commemorated mostly by academics, archivists, museum workers and some other professionals. The civil wars that took place in various parts of the former Russian Empire have received less public attention, even though civil wars are a hot topic of scholarly inquiry today. In this session we are going to explore several aspects of the memory of revolutions and civil wars. Looking at the cases of Russia and Finland, we are going to look at what happens when the memory of past events takes a century

to turn into cultural memory (in Jan Assmann's terminology). Why does such memory become 'cold' or remain 'hot'? What keeps memories alive or makes them 'oppressed' and even forgotten? What is the role of the politics of memory pursued by various actors?

Chair: Boris Kolonitskii

Zuzanna Bogumil (Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw) *From Enemy to Martyr: The Memory of the Civil War in Russian Province on the Centenary of Events*

Maria Matskevich (Federal Center for Theoretical and Applied Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg) *Memory of the Russian revolution: a (non)usable anniversary in Russia*

Marina Vituhnovskaja-Kauppala (University of Helsinki) *One Hundred Years in Search of National Reconciliation: The Finnish Civil War in Collective Memory*

12.45–14.15

Panel 191:

De/Fictionalising the Past. The Role of Literature and Film in Postsocialist Memory Cultures. Part 1: Theoretical reflections

Organiser: Matthias Schwarz and Nina Weller

Beyond the politics of history, the question of how to deal with the socialist and pre-socialist past in Eastern and East Central European countries has also been addressed in popular culture and works of art (film, literature, graphic novels). The panel will examine the specific artistic devices used to remember the past. Which motives and narrations shape the ideas and images of supposedly traumatic events or heroic deeds? To what extent can we speak of specific post-socialist modes or styles of fictionalising and defictionalising historical events?

Chair: Matthias Schwartz

Discussant: Heike Winkel

Justyna Tabaszewska (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) *Futures Past as a Method of Fictionalizing Memory in Poland*

Eneken Laaneb (Tallinn University) *Translating Memories: The Eastern European Past on the Global Arena*

Simon Lewis (University of Potsdam) *Metafiction and Cosmopolitan Memory: Belarus, and Ignacy Karłowicz's *Sońka* (2014)*

15.15–16.45

Panel 219:

**De/Fictionalising the Past. The Role of Literature and Film in
Postsocialist Memory Cultures. Part 2: Case Studies**

Organisers: Matthias Schwarz and Nina Weller

Chair: Heike Winkel

Discussant: Matthias Schwartz

Nevena Dakovic (University of Belgrade) *Fictionalising trauma in post-socialism. The Diary of Diana Budisavljevic*

Nina Weller (European University Viadrina) *Belarusian generations of memory. Khatyn's burned villages in films and novels*

Ioana Luca (National Taiwan Normal University) *Collaborative Remembering: Omnibus Life Writing and Evolving Memory Cultures in Romania*

PoSoCoMeS Scholars

Nelly Bekus is a scholar with interests in state and nation-building under socialism and post-socialism, memory, identity and transitional justice in post-Soviet states, the religious and the ethno-linguistic development, urban space and postcolonial technopolitics. She holds a PhD in Sociology (2007) obtained at the Graduate School for Social Research, Warsaw, Poland and has been a recipient of a number of research scholarships, at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna (2003), the Remarque Institute, NYU (2007), at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University (2012-13), and most recently, at the Aleksanteri Institute at Helsinki University (2019). She currently works as a Research Associate Fellow at the University of Exeter, UK in two interdisciplinary research projects '1989 after 1989: Rethinking the Fall of State in Global Perspective' funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the ARHC-LABEX (British-French) jointly funded project, 'The Criminalization of Dictatorial Pasts in Europe and Latin America in Global Perspective.'

She is the author of monograph *Struggle Over Identity: The official and the Alternative Belarusianness* (CEU Press 2010) and numerous book chapters and articles published by *Europe-Asia Studies*,



Nationalities Papers, Urbanities, Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe, and International Journal of Heritage Studies. Her most recent publications include article “Agency of Internal Transnationalism in Social Memory of Repression” in the *British Journal of Sociology* (2018) and the chapter “Historical Reckoning in Post-Soviet Belarus” in *Transitional Justice and the Former Soviet Union: Reviewing the Past and Looking Towards the Future*, edited by Lavinia Stan and Cynthia Horne and published by Cambridge University Press, 2018.

In the studies of memory, her research addresses the limitations of methodological nationalism, the role of agency in transnational circulation of memory templates, historical reckoning with dictatorial past in the authoritarian context, memory diplomacy and postcolonial statecraft.

Oksana Dovgoplova was born in 1969 in Riga. She defended her PhD (“kandidat nauk”) in 1998 and Doctor habilitis (“doctor nauk”) in 2008 at the Odessa National University, Faculty of History, Department of Philosophy and Methodology of Knowledge. Between 1998 and 2004, she worked as an Associate Professor at the Odessa National Maritime Academy, from 2004 – as a Professor at the Department of Philosophy and Methodology of Knowledge, Odessa National University. Since 2018, she is a curator of the Memory Lab at the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center (Kiyv, Ukraine).



Oksana’s research interests include reconciliation of historical memories (the plans of a Committee of Truth and Reconciliation in Ukraine; reconciliation of IDPs and local communities in context of Memory); contemporary language of commemoration (*Working Through the Past* in context of Contemporary Art); the memorialization of historical tragedies in context of multilayered places of memory); and

journeys of mnemonical plots (representation of the “Odessa Myth” in the “enterprises of memory” inside and out of Odessa).

Among her recent projects are the “(Un)named”, Odessa Museum of Modern Art, curator of educational program, 2018 (International Renaissance Foundation); “Rethinking the Conflicts of the Past, Thinking on Future: writing the History together”, Ukrainian coordinator of the work of Ukraine-Belarus-Germany-Georgia-Russia student project, 2018 (support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany), “The Strategies of the Work with the different voices in urban space: Regional Jewish Studies in Odessa”, coordinator, 2017 (Odessa National University – Nadav Foundation, Israel), “From Group to the Person: Art as a Tool of Social Solidarity”, coordinator, 2017 (Odessa, support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany), “The Culture of Reconciliation: the New Historical Conscience in Ukraine”, coordinator, 2015 (Odessa, support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany), and “The Human Dimension of Time: the Anthropology of Historical”, co-organizer, 2014 (Higher School of Economics, Perm).

Bin Xu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Emory University. His research interests lie at the intersection of politics and culture, with specific foci on collective memory and civil society. He is the author of *The Politics of Compassion: The Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China* (Stanford University Press, 2017), which has won two book awards from the American Sociological Association. His research has also appeared in leading sociological and China studies journals. He is currently writing a book and a few related articles on the collective memory of China’s “educated youth” (zhiquing) generation—the 17 million youths sent down to the countryside in the 1960s and 1970s. Drawing on various data collected through interviews, ethnography, archival research, and textual analysis, he examines their memory to



explore the mentality and political views of this generation of “Chairman Mao’s children,” who have inherited the legacy of the Mao years and have to reconcile it with the sea changes in the post-Mao society, and theorize the relations between generation, class, and memory.

Lana Lovrenčić graduated in Art history and Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Her main fields of interest are photography, cultural heritage and planning practices after WWII. She participated in a number of projects, including *Unfinished Modernizations*, *Heroes We Love*, and *Forgotten Heritage – European Avant-Garde Art Online*. She is one of the initiators of the international collaborative platform (In)Appropriate Monuments in which she was active until 2017. She organised two international conferences in Zagreb: *Socialist Monuments and Modernism* (2015) and *War, Revolution and Memory: Post-War Monuments in Post-Communist Europe* (2017). She curated



several exhibitions, including *Monuments in Transition: Demolition of PLS Monuments in Croatia* (2011), *On Revolution Roads – Memorial Tourism in Yugoslavia*, *Tošo Dabac Within the Frame: Photo-Covering the Coastline* (2016) and *Tošo Dabac Within the Frame: Photographing Cultural Heritage* (2017). Currently she is part of the NGO Office for Photography where she is working as a researcher and a program coordinator.

New Institutions

(IN)APPROPRIATE MONUMENTS

The regional platform **(In)Appropriate Monuments** was created to establish a framework for the long-term collaboration of organisations from the EU and the Western Balkans dealing with the revalorisation and protection of their anti-fascist heritage and monument heritage connected with the Peoples' Liberation Struggle. Members of the platform include: Group of architects, Belgrade, The History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Modern Gallery (MG+MSUM), Ljubljana, and Social Fringe: interesting untold stories (SF:ius), Zagreb.

After the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) an alarming trend of devalorization of the political project of Yugoslavia and revisionism of the events of WWII (namely the partisan struggle and the antifascist front) is visible in all succeeding countries. The ideological showdown against the prior socialist system resulted in the destruction and neglect of partisan monuments with different types of devastation still taking place. This heritage practically disappeared and the status of the monuments became the subject of controversy and a target of revisionism. Protection is inadequate; there are no clearly developed criteria for their restoration or strategies for revalorisation. Many of the monuments are partially or permanently destroyed, and others are neglected and left to ruin.

Project and an international platform (In)Appropriate Monuments (IM) establishes a framework for the continuous collaboration of partner organizations and institutions from successor states that question the destruction, revision and revalorization of partisan monuments. We see these monuments as a product of complex economic and political processes within the construction and dissolution of SFRY. Therefore



we understand the meaning communicated by these monuments in relationship to the recent political history inextricably linked to transition processes, in addition to their memorial and aesthetic values. Transition and normalization in succeeding countries were, besides destructive economic policies, characterized by an erasure of memory of socialist heritage. In an ideological showdown against the prior socialist system and with the intent to amplify the national identities, the systematic destruction and neglect of partisan monuments has taken place, only in Croatia around 3000 memorials (of 6000-8000) were destroyed, removed, refurbished or in some way devastated. Different types of devastation are still taking place as a result of a dominant totalitarian narrative concerning SFRY. Apart from the physical devastation of partisan monuments, they have also suffered a symbolic devastation, namely through different types of historical revisionism which resulted in their removal from the canon of the national history of art (as is the case in Croatia, BiH or Macedonia etc.) or their appropriation as symbols of national unity (as in the case of Slovenia). This symbolic devastation had a negative effect on the care and preservation that should be provided by the states, counties and local and national institutions.

The project aims to CONNECT institutions, experts and independent organizations, STRENGTHEN their capacities and DISTRIBUTE research results in order to ADVOCATE for an integrated transnational policy towards the protection of partisan monuments. For this purpose, the IM platform implements activities such as research and mapping of monuments, interviews with relevant interlocutors, student workshops, conferences and exhibitions. The main goal of IM is to establish a durable and sustainable NETWORK of experts, NGOs and state institutions in order to ADVOCATE an international strategy for the protection partisan/antifascist monuments.

Contact: sfius@sfius.org

Tihana Pupovac, Ena Grabar and Josipa Lulić

RETHINING OWN HISTORY: *ESIMDE* — *REMEMBER*

Who we are

Esimde is a discussion platform for studying and understanding the events, facts, processes and “blank pages” that remain in the history

and memory of the people. We are the representatives of different professions, one way or another interconnected with history and memory, the passionate practitioners and theorists who are ready to make contributions to understanding the history of the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia during the 20th and 21st centuries.



Our mission:

To promote social shift in understanding the history and memory of the 20th and 21st-century Kyrgyz Republic.

Tasks:

1. Historical enlightenment activity on rethinking memory and historical experience of the Kyrgyz Republic and Central Asia
2. Revival and preservation of historical truth regarding the “blank pages” of history, including the recovery of memory of victims of mass repressions
3. Stimulating public discussion on poorly studied aspects of Kyrgyz history
4. Facilitating the values of human life, freedom and democracy in public conscience and state policy
5. We do not only stimulate interest in history, but also hope to lay the foundation for future significant initiatives that will open new (unbiased) view of the society of independent Kyrgyz Republic to its own past, present and future.
6. Exploring diverse methodological approaches to research in history and memory.

Approaches:

1. Approaching the history and memory through different ways – not limited to conducting research – from employing visual practices through historical reconstructions to other public initiatives.
2. We rely on interdisciplinary approaches in our research.
3. It is important for us to cover all socio-cultural – ethnic, religious, regional – diversity of the Kyrgyz Republic in our activities.
4. We are open to diverse positions and opinions.

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POST BELLUM

Post Bellum is a non-governmental non-profit organisation which documents the memories of witnesses of important 20th-century historical events and which tries to pass these stories on to the broader public. The

main tool is the website: www.memoryofnations.eu

Post Bellum originated in the Czech Republic and has a branch in Slovakia that was established later. We are led by the conviction that witnesses of historic events need to have an opportunity to tell their stories in detail and in their entirety. These memories bear a precious testimony about modern history and about the character of the European nations. If they are not preserved for the present-day and future generations, the society will hardly be able to cope with its history of totalitarianism. Our aim is to form a collection of interviews as extensive as possible – a collection of authentic personal stories and testimonies. By April 2019, we have collected testimonies of more than 10, 000 witnesses in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The second main pillar of our work includes educational workshops for students and future teachers.

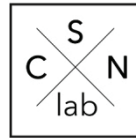
During our existence we have collected over 7, 000 authentic personal stories and testimonies, which are accessible via our online archive Memory of Nations. In the last three years we have conducted over 300

educational experience workshops in Slovakia. Our educational workshops were nominated among the five most inspiring educational projects for the Award of Orange Foundation and for the Generation 3.0 Award organised by the Pontis Foundation. We developed methodologies of our educational workshops thanks to support from the European Commission and of the Europe for Citizens program.

CULTURAL & SOCIAL NARRATIVES LABORATORY

CSN lab

The *Cultural and Social Narratives Laboratory* is a research cross-platform for independent researchers in the humanities and social sciences as well as for artists, curators, art critics, art managers, etc. whose main area of expertise is contemporary art and social problems affecting the life and development of societies.



CULTURAL
& SOCIAL
NARRATIVES
LABORATORY

Our organization is located in Yerevan. We prioritise projects which explore the colonial and / or Soviet totalitarian past of the cities of the South Caucasus region and other post-socialist countries. We are interested in the process of cultural transformation and everyday life after the collapse of the USSR, the formation of new narratives of independent republics as well as ways of developing civil society and democracy in these countries.

Among the primary directions of our platform is interdisciplinary research, artistic and multimedia projects aimed at studying memory in its various manifestations: urban space memory, individual memory, collective memory, architecture and memory, queer memory, etc.

Our organization was founded in early 2018, and over the past two years we have managed to implement a number of projects on memory and social narratives. Our projects have been devoted to the study of Soviet repressions in relation to places of memory in Georgia, Tbilisi; the study of forming political repression museums in Kazakhstan, Almaty;

and our current project is about the memory of the peaceful coexistence of Muslim and Christian population in Armenia, Yerevan, before the start of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. We also implemented several collaborative projects with local and international organizations.

We look forward to support research projects and cooperate with researchers who are interested in reflecting on contemporary cultural and social narratives.

Our website is currently being developed. Our Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/csn.lab/>

Firdus : The Memory of a Place

In November 2018 we launched our new project *Firdus: The Memory of a Place*. The result of this multidisciplinary project will be a memory book about this small urban space (Ferdowsi street) in the center of Yerevan and the memory of a multinational community living there. The project is aimed to memorialize the experience of peaceful coexistence of Armenians, Azeris, Iranians, Russians and other ethnic groups before the Karabakh conflict. The project is implemented with the assistance of the European Union within the framework of the “Peacebuilding through Capacity Enhancement and Civic Engagement” (PeaCE) programme.

After the beginning of the Karabakh conflict and the war in Nagorno-Karabakh, long lasting peaceful coexistence of Armenians and Azerbaijanis was interrupted. Residents of the studied locus of urban space still retain the memory about their former neighbors and about their joint everyday practices. We restore the image of the peaceful coexistence of various ethnic and religious groups in the past through oral histories, vernacular photographs, and archival materials we collected. The project combines the methods of memory studies, urban semiotics, and visual anthropology.

The project is co-curated by Tigran Amirian and Sona Kalantaryan. Other specialists, such as architects, anthropologists, photographers, illustrators, semiotic researchers are involved in the project. Within the framework of the project, a Facebook page is maintained, where visual and textual materials about the memory of local residents and the memory of the place are being published. The main product of the project is a book which will be presented to the general public in May 2019. After the presentation of the book, it is planned to launch a website with visual storytelling about the memory of the place.

PROZHITO

The *Prozhito* Project (<http://prozhito.org/>) is a digital archive of personal diaries, including a publishing platform and a soci-



ety of volunteers that has formed around it. The aim of the project is to create a digital corpus of texts that reflect everyday life, supplied with a search tool and finding aid. *Prozhito* was conceived of as a research tool with which scholars and interested readers can not only read specific diaries but also work with the whole corpus of journal entries from a particular period, selecting the time and place of diary writing, the author's age and gender as well as the thematic and genre preferences in their search.

The materials included in the project are diaries in the broadest sense, i.e. chronologic writing by a single author. We accept texts written by authors of any age, gender and social status. The participants of the project can select materials to work with themselves, and this is the main criterium for preparing a text for publication: a diary that is interesting for the project's readers will find its way into the database faster. The project is oriented towards working with the authors' families, but it has also close collaborations with museums, libraries, archives, and with the researchers and publishers of the diaries. The project's website has 3,500 author pages; the online corpus includes 1,500 diaries and 385,000 diary entries covering the period from mid-19th to the early 21st century. The archive is supplied by two types of texts – the already published diaries and those that had not been published before and were transcribed by the project participants. The *Prozhito* own archive has more than 250 manuscripts, some of which had been written for over than half a century.

The texts are processed by volunteers and student interns; hundreds of people help the team in searching for manuscripts, and copying, transcribing and comparing the texts. The project is active on social networks, which help in materials search and recruiting volunteers. To popularize the project's activities, we organize regular *Prozhito* Labs in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, where project participants and everyone interested together work on and discuss unpublished manuscripts.

Prozhito is a project of digital humanities and engaged scholarship, connecting people who are keen on investing their time and energy into the creation of a database for research within the humanities and social sciences, including history, anthropology, computer linguistics, sociology, and related disciplines.

New Research Projects

“From Enemy of the People to New Martyr” is an international collaborative research project investigating contemporary Russian memory of the Russian Revolutions of 1917 and of the Great Terror. The project is led by Dr. **Zuzanna Bogumił** includes a team of PhD and post-doc researchers. The project is sponsored by the Polish National Science Centre, UMO-2016/21/B/HS6/03782 (2017-2020) and is conducted by the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw.

The project examines the impact of Orthodox discourse on the official memory of Soviet repressions. It casts light on the place of the Revolutions of 1917 and of the Great Terror in contemporary Russia. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Revolutions of 1917 which permanently changed the face of Russia, and the 80th anniversary of the Great Terror (1937–38), a period of mass repressions. These 80–100 years constitute a floating gap, a period during which communicative memory is transformed into cultural memory based on certain memory carriers such as texts, monuments and museums. These anniversaries encourage reflection about how the Revolutions of 1917 and the Great Terror are commemorated in Russia. The problem is even more interesting because the memory of both of these events has undergone radical change in the last thirty years.

We are interested in the anniversary celebrations organized by the Russian Orthodox Church, which has been developing the New Russian Martyrdom discourse since late 1980s. In 2000, the Russian Orthodox Church canonized around 2000 victims of Soviet repressions – people persecuted and murdered by the Soviet regime – who have come to be known as the New Russian Martyrs. Since 2007, when Russian president Vladimir Putin appeared at the Church of the New Russian Martyrs and Confessors in Butovo to commemorate the victims of repressions, the New Russian Martyrdom discourse has been receiving noticeable support from the state. One of the objectives of the project is

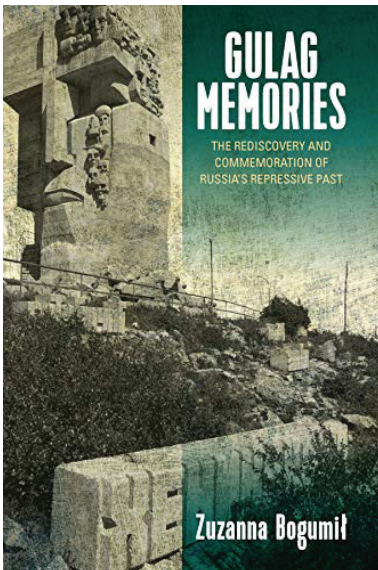
therefore to show what kind of transformations of meaning take place in the religious New Martyrdom discourse, turning it into a guideline for the official, state-endorsed interpretation of the past. A wider objective is to establish to what extent the New Russian Martyrdom is an element of wider ideological changes taking place in Russia.

<https://memoryofrepressions.aps.edu.pl/?project>

New Publications

Zuzanna Bogumił, *Gulag Memories: The Rediscovery and Commemoration of Russia's Repressive Past*, Berghahn Books, 2018 <https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/BogumilGulag>

Though the institution of the Gulag was nominally closed over half a century ago, it lives on as an often hotly contested site of memory in the post-socialist era. This ethnographic study takes a holistic, comprehensive approach to understanding memories of the Gulag, and particularly the language of commemoration that surrounds it in present-day Russian society. It focuses on four regions of particular historical significance—the Solovetsky Islands, the Komi Republic, the Perm region, and Kolyma—to carefully explore how memories become a social phenomenon, how objects become heritage, and how the human need to create sites of memory has preserved the Gulag in specific ways today.



Zuzanna Bogumił & Małgorzata Głowacka-Grajper, *Milieux de mémoire in Late Modernity: Local community, Religion and Historical Politics*, forthcoming with Peter Lang in 2019.

This book shows how vernacular communities commemorate

their traumatic experiences of the Second World War. Despite having access to many diverse memory frameworks typical of late modernity, these communities primarily function within religious memory frameworks. The book also traces how they reacted when their local histories were incorporated into the remembrance practices of the state. The authors draw on case studies of four vernacular communities, notably Kałków-Godów, Michniów, Jedwabne and Markowa, to argue that it is still possible in the Polish countryside to discover *milieux de mémoire*. At the same time, they show that the state not only uses local histories to bolster its moral capital in the international arena, but also in matters of domestic policy.

Firdus: The Memory of a Place. A collective monograph
 ed. by T.N. Amirian, S. Kalantaryan – CSN lab, Yerevan, 2019

ISBN 978-9939-1-0934-3

In the book “Firdus: the memory of a place” authors representing different fields – semiologists, anthropologists, architects, illustrators and photographers – study different forms of memory in a small fragment of the city center of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. In the post-Soviet period, an Armenian-Iranian bazaar of the eastern type was formed on the Firdusi Street, which had earlier grown into a whole neighborhood. Over the decade, almost all the houses and families here had acquired a dual identity: frontal (trade) and internal (residential). Moreover, both the place and the locals have preserved various forms of memory and post-memory of the experience of the peaceful cohabitation with Azerbaijanis and Iranians before the outbreak of the Karabakh conflict in the late 1980s. Firdus is the last district of the city center having preserved vernacular and folk architecture but this automatically creates a conflict with the city gentrification policy. The



neighborhood is on the verge of vanishing: having no status of a cultural monument but saturated with multicultural memory, it is gradually dissolving in time. In addition to research articles, the book includes transcripts of interviews with the local residents, family photo archives, etc.

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Политика аффекта. Музей как пространство публичной истории. Москва: Новое литературное обозрение, 2019.

Под ред. Андрея Завадского, Варвары Склез, Катерины Сувериной



Сборник посвящен музею как пространству взаимодействия с прошлым. Современные музеи выполняют традиционную для просвещенческого проекта образовательную функцию, предоставляя возможности для познания того или иного фрагмента прошлого. При этом музеи все больше заботятся о соучастии зрителей, активизируя различные аспекты их опыта. Музеи работают с материальностью, телесностью, изображениями, звуками и запахами, становятся местом для театральных постановок и перформансов, выходят за пределы музейных стен в городское и цифровое пространства. Эта книга посвящена тому, как

осознание музеями потенциала эмоционального восприятия прошлого влияет на его репрезентацию. Используя различные методологические подходы, авторы сборника — музейеведы, историки, социологи, культурологи, кураторы и драматурги -- исследуют техники управления аффектом и эмоциями в современном и историческом контекстах. Музейные технологии рассматриваются в контексте проблем публичной истории, политики памяти, культурной политики, музейной теории и практики.

Politics of Affect: The Museum as a Space of Public History
Edited by Andrei Zavadski, Varvara Sklez, Katerina Suverina (Moscow: Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie, 2019)

This edited volume is dedicated to the museum as a space for engagement with the past. Faithful to the Enlightenment project, contemporary museums continue to perform the educational function, creating opportunities for visitors to learn about history. At the same time, they are increasingly concerned with audience participation and attempt to engage visitors emotionally. To this end, museums work with materiality, corporeality, images, sounds, and smells; they organize theatrical productions and art performances and leave their own walls to go out into urban and digital realms. This book analyses how these new approaches to museum experience influence representations of the past. Taking a range of methodological approaches, the volume's contributors — museologists, historians, sociologists, curators, and playwrights — examine the tools used by museum specialists to manage affect and emotions.

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Mrozik, Agnieszka & Holubec, Stanislav (eds.) *Historical Memory of Central and East European Communism*. Routledge, 2018.

Every political movement creates its own historical memory. The communist movement, though originally oriented towards the future, was no exception: The theory of human history constitutes a substantial part of Karl Marx's and Friedrich Engels's writings, and the movement inspired by them very soon developed its own strong historical identity, combining the Marxist theory of history with the movement's

victorious milestones such as the October Revolution and later the Great Patriotic War, which served as communist legitimization myths throughout almost the entire twentieth century. During the Stalinist period, however, the movement's history became strongly reinterpreted to suit Joseph Stalin's political goals. After 1956, this reinterpretation lost most of its legitimating power and instead began to be a burden. The (unwanted) memory of Stalinism and subsequent examples of violence (the Gulag, Katyń, the 1956 Budapest uprising and the 1968 Prague Spring) contributed to the crisis of Eastern European state socialism in the late 1980s and led to attempts at reformulating or even rejecting communist self-identity. This book's first section analyzes the post-1989 memory of communism and state socialism and the self-identity of the Eastern and Western European left. The second section examines the state-socialist and post-socialist memorial landscapes in the former German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia. The final section concentrates on the narratives the movement established, when in power, about its own past, with the examples of the Soviet Union, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

<https://www.routledge.com/Historical-Memory-of-Central-and-East-European-Communism/Mroziak-Holubec/p/book/9781138542266>

Martínez, Francisco. *Remains of the Soviet Past in Estonia: An Anthropology of Forgetting, Repair and Urban Traces*. UCL Press, 2018.

What happens to legacies that do not find any continuation? In Estonia, a new generation that does not remember the socialist era and is open to global influences has grown up. As a result, the impact of the Soviet memory in people's conventional values is losing its effective power, opening new opportunities for repair and revaluation of the past.

Francisco Martinez brings together a number of sites of interest to explore the vanquishing of the Soviet legacy in Estonia: the railway bazaar in Tallinn where concepts such as 'market' and 'employment' take on distinctly different meanings from their Western use; Linnahall, a grandiose venue, whose Soviet heritage now poses difficult questions of how to present the building's history; Tallinn's cityscape, where the

social, spatial and temporal co-evolution of the city can be viewed and debated; Narva, a city that marks the border between the Russian Federation, NATO and the European Union, and represents a place of continual negotiation of belonging; and the new Estonian National Museum in Raadi, an area on the outskirts of Tartu, that has been turned into a memory field.

The anthropological study of all these places shows that national identity and historical representations can be constructed in relation to waste and disrepair too, also demonstrating how we can understand generational change in a material sense.

<https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/109623>

Saunders, Anna. *Memorializing the GDR: Monuments and Memory after 1989*. Berghahn Books, 2018.

Since unification, eastern Germany has witnessed a rapidly changing memorial landscape, as the fate of former socialist monuments has been hotly debated and new commemorative projects have met with fierce controversy. *Memorializing the GDR* provides the first in-depth study of this contested arena of public memory, investigating the individuals and groups devoted to the creation or destruction of memorials as well as their broader aesthetic, political, and historical contexts. Emphasizing the interrelationship of built environment, memory and identity, it brings to light the conflicting memories of recent German history, as well as the nuances of national and regional constructions of identity.

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/SaundersMemorializing>

***Memory, Post-socialism and the Media*, Special issue of the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, Volume 20 Issue 3, June 2017.**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ecsa/20/3>

***Postsocialist Literatures in the United States*, a Special issue of the *Twentieth-Century Literature*, edited by Claudia Sadowski-Smith and Ioana Luca, Volume 65, Number 1, March 2019.**

<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/40091>