

# THE POLITICS OF MEMORY AS A WEAPON

Perspectives on Russia's  
War against Ukraine



## Conference Program

### **The Politics of Memory as a Weapon Perspectives on Russia's War against Ukraine**

#### **Organisers:**

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity

Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe, Oldenburg

in cooperation with

Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation, Berlin

#### **Berlin, 8–10 February**

Venue: Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation  
Stresemannstraße 90, 10963 Berlin

The entire conference will be live streamed on the ENRS youtube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/@ENRS2012](http://www.youtube.com/@ENRS2012)

#### **Day One, 8 February 2023**

12:30–13:00

Opening and introduction

13:00–13:30

**Opening lecture: Andrii Portnov** (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt /Oder),  
Rethinking memory studies at the time of war

13:30–15:00

**Discussion panel: What should we have known about Russia and Ukraine before the war? The limitations of the European intellectual and political discourse**

Moderator: Volker Weichsel (Journal "Osteuropa")

**Guido Hausmann** (University of Regensburg), **Martin Šimečka** (Magazine "Respekt", Bratislava), **Marek Cichocki** (College of Europe Natolin, Warsaw), **Chantal Delsol** (University Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée)

15:00–15:30 Break

15:30–17:00

**Discussion panel: Political approaches to Central and Eastern Europe**

Moderator: Gemma Pörzgen (Berlin)

**Andrej Kolesnikov** (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Moscow) (online),  
**Anna Kwiatkowska** (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw), **Hans-Christian Petersen** (BKGE, Oldenburg)

17:00–18:15 **Break and optional guided tour** of the exhibition of the Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation

18:30–20:00

**Discussion panel: Russlands Krieg in der Ukraine – Zwischen Imperialismus und (Selbst-)Zerstörung? / Russia's War in Ukraine: Between Imperialism and (Self-)Destruction?** (interpretation provided)

Moderator: Christoph von Marschall (Tagesspiegel)

**Irina Scherbakova** (Memorial, Weimar), **Marieluise Beck** (Zentrum Liberale Moderne, Berlin), **Andrzej Nowak** (Jagiellonian University, Cracow), **Antoine Arjakovsky** (Collège des Bernardins, Paris)

## **Day Two, 9 February**

9:30–11:00

**Discussion panel: European perceptual patterns and stereotypes of Russia and Ukraine (I)**

Moderator: Jan Puhl (Der Spiegel)

**Wilfried Jilge** (Centre for International Peace Operations, Berlin), **Maria Domańska** (Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw), **Elmira Muratova** (Aarhus University), **Alessandro Vitale** (University of Milan)

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00

**Panel: European perceptual patterns and stereotypes of Russia and Ukraine (II)**

Moderator: Bartosz Dziewanowski-Stefańczyk (ENRS)

**Burkhard Olschowsky** (BKGE, Oldenburg), German Ostpolitik – traditional patterns and new approaches

**Oldřich Tůma** (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague), On the crossroads of memory and politics: the Czech Republic and the Russian aggression against Ukraine?

**Attila Pók** (Institute of Advanced Study, Kőszeg), Hungarian perspectives on Ukraine and Russia

**Juraj Marušiak** (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava), Slovak perspectives on Ukraine and Russia

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30

**Panel: Culture and art in the face of the war**

Moderator: Beate Störtkuhl (BKGE, Oldenburg)

**Konstantin Akinsha** (International Association of Art Critics, UK), “You can’t go back to Constantinople”: fetishism of history as an excuse for looting of cultural property

**Varvara Keidan Shavrova** (Royal College of Art, London), The art of self-determination – how the creative communities in Ukraine and the Baltic States can resist the Russia's invasion’

**Alina Mozolevska** (Black Sea National University, Mykolaiv), Weaponisation of history in the visual discourse of Russia’s war in Ukraine

**Olga Radchenko** (National University of Cherkassy), Ukrainian and Russian film productions about the Second World War: potential and dangers

15:30–16:00 Break

16:00–18:00

**Panel: Human rights and the war as judicial issues**

Moderator: Arkadiusz Radwan (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas)

**Vera Dubina** (Forschungsstelle Osteuropa, Bremen), From memory law to memory war: abuses of history in contemporary Russia

**Aarif Abraham** (Garden Court North Chambers, Manchester), The Special tribunal for the crime of aggression committed in Ukraine

**Kristin Bergtora Sandvik** (University of Oslo), Transitional justice after empire? The politics of memory holes, doublethink and a shared future-time

**Paula Rhein-Fischer** (University of Cologne), Russia and the European court of human rights: A farewell in stages

**Tetyana Sheptytska/ Mykola Bryvko** (National Historical and Cultural Reserve "Bykovnyanskies Graves", Kyiv) (online), The politics of memory of burial places as a tool of opposition to the Russian Federation

### **Day Three, 10 February**

9:30–11:00

#### **Panel: Russian and Ukrainian identity and history – weaponisation of history**

Moderator: Annemarie Franke (ENRS)

**Hans-Christian Trepte** (Leipzig University), Kyivan Rus. Between myth and claim to power

**Dieter Pohl** (Klagenfurt University), The Origins of Russian official history discourse on Ukrainian nationalism ("Nazism")

**Jörg Morré** (Museum Berlin-Karlshorst), The militarization of Russian historical research and education

**Alexandr Osipian** (Free University of Berlin), Weaponisation of the history of the Second World War in Russia-Ukraine conflict, 2014–2022

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00

#### **Panel: Strategies and possible measures to combat disinformation**

Moderator: Raphael Krüger (Berlin)

**José Manuel López Torán** (University of Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real), Combating new era wars on digital battlefields: disinformation, propaganda, and social media in Russia's invasion of Ukraine

**Malkhaz Toria** (Ilia State University, Tbilisi), Russian disinformation, illiberal populism and struggles over solidarity with Ukraine in Georgia

**Florin Abraham** (National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest), Analysis of Romanian narratives about Russia's aggression against Ukraine: themes, actors and media tools

**Łukasz Kamiński** (Wrocław University), Combating disinformation: the role of historians

13:00 End of the conference