

THE LASTING PRESENCE OF THE PAST: HOW TRAUMA LIVES ON ACROSS GENERATIONS?

16TH CONFERENCE OF
'GENEALOGIES OF MEMORY'

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE



IASI
23-25 SEPTEMBER 2026

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

How is memory transmitted across generations? Through which processes, practices and media does this transmission occur, and how does it become visible? The process of transmission encompasses knowledge, memories and their emotional constellations, shaped by the surrounding cultural and societal context – from storytelling within families, to cultural practices during commemorations, to historical narratives reinforced by education and museums. When traumatic events shape the memories of one generation, the transmission chain is transformed, fragmenting memories and questioning pre-established intergenerational connections. In the last century, Central and Eastern European countries experienced many such traumatic events – wars, genocides, forced displacements and political repression – further amplified globally by traumas generated elsewhere through colonial policies.

This memory studies conference examines processes of transmission, transgenerational trauma, and the responses they generate, as well as the absences and silences surrounding these transmissions in different political, cultural and social contexts. Particular emphasis will be placed on Central and Eastern Europe, viewed from a comparative perspective with other regions of the world. Bringing together scholars from diverse disciplines, the conference will critically engage with the continuing presence of the past, the reappropriation of past traumas, and the emergence of alternative histories, reflecting on the possibilities of dialogic histories and memories of trauma amid current challenges posed by digitally mediated memory discourse.

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY
23 SEPTEMBER 2026

09.00–09.30

OPENING

WELCOME SPEECHES AND INTRODUCTION

Małgorzata Pakier

(Director's Representative, European Network Remembrance and Solidarity)

Representative of the Romanian Ministry of Culture

Representative of the Host Institution

(Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași)

Joanna Wawrzyniak

(Co-Initiator of 'Genealogies of Memory' Series, University of Warsaw)

Simona Mitroiu

(Conference Convenor, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași)

09.30–11.00

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Remembering Possibility:

Rethinking Holocaust Memory in a Time of Genocide

Marianne Hirsch (Columbia University, USA)

Leo Spitzer (Dartmouth College, USA)

CHAIR: **Simona Mitroiu** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania)

11.00–11.30

Coffee Break

11.30–13.00

PANEL 1

ARTISTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE PRACTICES OF TRAUMA

CHAIR: **Małgorzata Pakier** (ENRS)

COMMENTARY: **Catherine Teissier** (Aix-Marseille University, France)

Beja Margitházi (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)

Preserved Faces, Returned Gazes.

*Postmemorial Witnessing and Visual Restoration
of Holocaust Victims in Contemporary Archival
Documentaries*

Monica Petzal (Independent Artist)

*Printing the Inherited Past: Postmemory, Archive
and Reconstructive Practice in Indelible Marks
and Dissent and Displacement*

Miruna Butnaru-Troncotă

(National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania)

*Female Bodies as 'Archives of Violence':
Assessing the Use of Feminist Performative Research
and Art to Represent Sexual Violence in the War
in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-16.30

PANEL 2

GEOGRAPHIES OF PAIN:
OVERLAPPING TRAUMAS AND COMPETING MEMORIES
IN THE ROMANIAN SPACE
(from the Holocaust to Ceaușescu's Biopolitics)

CHAIR: **Florin Abraham** (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism/
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania)

Ludmila Cojocaru (National Museum of History of Moldova, Republic of Moldova)

Virgiliu Bîrlădeanu (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova)

*Silence as Memory: Stalinist Deportations
and Mnemonic Regimes in Post-Soviet Moldova*

Zinaida Bolea (Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova)

*Telling the Story of Stalinist Deportations
to Future Generations: Types of Narratives*

Ana-Maria Cătănuș (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, Romania)

*Genealogies of Resistance in Romania:
Anti-Communist Dissent and the Transmission
of Traumatic Memory*

Corina Doboș (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism, Romania)

*Conflicting Memories, Bitter Experiences:
Post-socialist Memorialisation of Ceaușescu's
Pronatalism*

Florin Abraham (National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism /
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania)

*Institutionalising Memory after 1989:
Frameworks of Remembrance and the Governance of
the Totalitarian Past in Romania*

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.30

PANEL 3

LANDSCAPES OF TRAUMA AND GENERATIONAL MEDIATION

CHAIR: **Joanna Wawrzyniak** (University of Warsaw, Poland)

COMMENTARY: **Heike Karge** (University of Graz, Austria) ONLINE

Kristine Andra Avram (University of Marburg, Germany)

*Between Silence and Fragmentation:
Intergenerational Memory and Young People's
Engagement with Romania's Communist Past*

Çlirimtare Januzaj (Independent Researcher)

*Public Memorialisation and the Transmission of
Trauma in Post-war Kosovo*

Marta Duch-Dyngosz (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany)

*Jewish Homes – Abandoned, Plundered, Expropriated
– as Agents of Intergenerational Trauma*

18.30-20.30

DINNER AND RECEPTION

Welcome Speech

Florin Abraham

(Romanian Coordinator for ENRS Activities, Deputy Chairman of the ENRS Steering Committee)

The wine for the conference's reception is provided by

"Crama Grebănu. D.O.C. Cotești"



Scan QR code
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full programme:



DAY 2

THURSDAY
24 SEPTEMBER 2026

09.30-11.00

PANEL 4

ARCHIVES OF TRAUMA AND MEMORY

CHAIR: **Lukas Schretter**

(Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on the Consequences of War, Austria)

COMMENTARY: **Ihab Saloul** (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Andrei Cușco (Romanian Academy in Iași, Romania)

Repression, Adaptation, Survival: A Family History between Official Discourse and the Reclaiming of Memory

Vlada Rusina (Independent Ethnomusicologist)

Matthias Schönijahn (Independent Artist)

The Voice as a Living Archive: Aged Singers, Diasporic Choirs and Trauma Transmission between Occupied Luhansk and Berlin

Yevheniia Havrylenko (Kunsthau Dahlem, Germany)

Unstable Archives and the Making of Transgenerational Trauma Visible in Contemporary Art

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

11.30-13.00

PANEL 5

MEMORY SITES OF VIOLENCE

CHAIR: **Marianne Hirsch** (Columbia University, USA)

COMMENTARY: **Joanna Wawrzyniak** (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Lurdes Valls-Crespo (Charles University, Czech Republic)

Spatial Grammars of Perpetration: Memory Sites, Mediation and Transgenerational Trauma in Germany, Czechia and Spain

Sheng Zhu (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Remembering Elsewhere, Encountering Here: Postmemory Negotiation and Reconstruction at Płaszów

Magdalena Chmiel (Jagiellonian University, Poland / EuroClio)

Living on the Site of Loss: Postmemory and Everyday Life in the Former Kraków Ghetto



13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-15.30 **PANEL 6**

**DIGITAL MEDIATION AND CIRCULATION OF
TRAUMA AND MEMORY**

CHAIR: **Catherine Teissier** (Aix-Marseille University, France)

COMMENTARY: **Arleen Ionescu** (West University of Timișoara, Romania)

Olga Grădinaru (Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania)

*Film, Archival Silences and the Digital Mediation
of Jewish Wartime Trauma*

Dalma Tóth (University of Debrecen, Hungary)

*Whose Rule of Law? Social Representations of Democracy,
Sovereignty and Legitimacy in Hungarian News Media*

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-18.00 **PANEL 7**

ABSENCES, RUPTURES AND RETURNS

CHAIR: **Leo Spitzer** (Dartmouth College, USA)

COMMENTARY: **Leena Käosaar** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

Magdalena Blincoe-Deval (University of Oxford, UK)

*The Return of Chornobyl: Trauma, Memory and Silence
in Kateryna Mikhailsyna's 'Flowers near the Fourth'*

Selma Čatović Hughes (University of Turku, Finland)

*Reconstructing Personal Fragments
through Oral Testimony, Healing Ruptures,
and Collective Remembrance of the Siege
of Sarajevo*

Sophie Grégoire (University of Strasbourg, France)

*Transmitting the Unspoken: Silence, Postmemory
and Jewish Family Histories in Rural Alsace*

Sinem Arslan (Boğaziçi University, Türkiye)

*Migration, Memory and Humour:
Transgenerational Memory among Turkish
Cartoonists from Bulgaria in Türkiye*

DAY 3

FRIDAY
25 SEPTEMBER 2026

09.00-10.30

PANEL 8

HEGEMONIC HISTORIES, MNEMONIC DISTORTIONS AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES

CHAIR: **Andrei Cușco** (Romanian Academy in Iași, Romania)

COMMENTARY: **Simo Mikkonen** (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

Anna Dulska (University of Navarra, Spain)

*Too Late and Still Too Early:
Intergenerational Transmission of the Past and the Making
of Postmemory in Contemporary Spain*

Oskars Gruzīņš (University of Latvia, Latvia)

*Oppressive Memory:
Institutional Coercion and Mnemonic Distortions among
Children Born of War Families in Soviet Latvia*

Jan Miklas-Frankowski (University of Gdańsk, Poland)

*Family Traumaland:
Family Memory of the Stutthof Concentration Camp.
A Case Study of the Gwiazda Family*

10.30-11.00

Coffee Break

11.00-12.30

PANEL 9

MULTIPLE SILENCES OF TRAUMA

CHAIR: **Roxana Patraș** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania)

COMMENTARY: **Beja Margitházi** (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)

Bernadetta Janusz (Jagiellonian University, Poland / Humboldt University, Germany)

*The Interactional Performance of Loss
in Second-generation Holocaust Survivors
through Silence and Other Perturbations of Talk*

Karina Diłanian-Pinkowicz (Independent Researcher)

*The Work of Absence: Latency, Silence and the
Intergenerational Memory of the Armenian Genocide*

Helene Heinze (Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany)

*Silence as Practice: Non-Transmission and the Afterlives
of Stalinist Deportation among the German Minority
in the Soviet Union*

12.30-13.30 Lunch Break

13.30-14.30 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
THE LASTING PRESENCE OF VIOLENCE:
REMEMBERING, NARRATING
AND TRANSMITTING TRAUMA

CHAIR: **Ihab Saloul** (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

SPEAKERS:

Dana Dolghin (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Johana Kotišová (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Dawid Grabowski (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

14.30-15.00 **SUMMARY AND CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**

15.00-16.30 **LECTURE & GUIDED TOUR**
HOW ARE HISTORICAL MEMORY
AND TRAUMA MEDIATED TOURISTICALLY IN IAȘI?

Mihai Bulai (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania)



Organisers:

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity,
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași,
National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism of the Romanian Academy

Partners:

Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture,
Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw, University of Eastern Finland,
Aix-Marseille University, University of Tartu, University of Graz,
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute.

The European Network Remembrance and Solidarity is an international initiative whose aim is to research, document and enhance the public's knowledge of 20th-century European history and the European cultures of remembrance, with particular emphasis on periods of dictatorship, war and resistance to political violence. The members of the network are Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic with representatives from Albania, Austria, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia and Lithuania present on its advisory bodies.

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Venue

BULEVARDUL CAROL I 9,
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UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI

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