

CONFERENCE

# ASSASSINS OF MEMORY

Political and legal problems of uncovering, whitewashing, and rewriting history.

**18-19.11 2021, Vienna, Austria**

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## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will provide philosophical, political and legal input to the discussion of politics of history and the broader aspect of memory as an essential part of political strategic planning. The problematic aspects of individual countries' history and the politicians' exploiting them in public discussion are part of a particularly heated debate in contemporary Europe, where facts have to face their public reinterpretation. The perception of history may be influenced by both the mental dimension - as an element of political discourse, and the legal dimension - like changes in law consolidating certain officially recognized states. These practices may influence the perception of history both positively (as preserving certain inviolable facts) and negatively (whitening the history, rewriting it, highlighting only selected elements). The issue of transitional justice will be at the centre of the discussion.

### Date:

**Online:** Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**On-site:** Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Language:

English (no interpretation provided)

### Host / Conference organizer:

Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Centre in Vienna  
1030 Vienna, Boerhaavegasse 25

### Venue:

Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Centre in Vienna  
1030 Vienna, Boerhaavegasse 25  
Live streaming on [www.lawandmemory.eu](http://www.lawandmemory.eu)

### Convener:

Prof. Arkadiusz Radwan, Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Center in Vienna,  
contact: [arkadiusz.radwan@vienna.pan.pl](mailto:arkadiusz.radwan@vienna.pan.pl)

### Coordinator:

Dr. Sonia Horonziak, Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Center in Vienna,  
contact: [sonia.horonziak@vienna.pan.pl](mailto:sonia.horonziak@vienna.pan.pl)

# AGENDA

## ONLINE SESSION

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18.11.2021

4.00 PM – 6.10 PM (CET)

Streaming:  

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/PANinWien>

**YT:** <https://bit.ly/3mVndFm>

**Chair:** *Dr. Sonia Horonziak (Polish Academy of Sciences – Scientific Centre in Vienna)*

4.05 PM – 4.20 PM

• *Dr. George Soroka (Harvard University):* What Authorities Say, What People Hear: Can Elites Shape Memory in Russia and Ukraine?

4.20 PM – 4:35 PM

• *Klaus Rackwitz (International Nuremberg Principles Academy):* Transitional Justice in Germany – change in perception and policy.

4.35 PM – 4.50 PM

• *Ma. Rhea Gretchen A. Abuso (Xavier University in the Philippines):* Laws of Remembering the Marcos Regime in the Philippines

4.50 PM – 5.05 PM

• *Paula O'Donohoe (Complutense University of Madrid):* The dispute over the street map. Reinterpretation of Spanish recent history in urban spaces.

5.05 PM – 5.20 PM

• *Katalin Izsák-Somogyi (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest):* Changing of the structure among the Hungarian memory laws after 1989

5.20 PM - 5:35 PM

• *Dr. Tamás Hoffmann (Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre of Excellence, Corvinus University of Budapest):* Legacy of the Hungarian people's tribunals and how the way their jurisprudence is invalidated: the issue of Hungarian Vorgangeneitsbewaeltigung.

5.35 - 6.05 PM Discussion

## ON-SITE SESSION

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19.11.2021

9.30 AM – 4.15 PM (CET)

9.30 AM – 9.45 AM

- *Prof. Arkadiusz Radwan (Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Centre in Vienna, Vytautas Magnus University):* Opening address

### **Session I:**

#### **Memory law and transitional justice in contemporary Europe**

09.45 AM – 10.00 AM

- *Dr. Astrid Reisinger Coracini (the University of Vienna, University of Salzburg, Salzburg Law School on International Criminal Law, Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law):* A history writing function of the jurisprudence of international criminal courts and tribunals

10.00 AM – 10.15 AM

- *Prof. Ireneusz Kamiński (Institute of Legal Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Jagiellonian University):* The Strasbourg standard for forgotten and unsettled "historical crimes"

10.15 AM - 10.30 AM

- *Dr. Filip Cyuńczyk (SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities):* Constitutionalized by the past: Central European approach to political communities re-creation (experience, influence, prospects for the future)

10.30 AM – 10.45 AM

- *Dr. Claudia Kuretsidis-Haider (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance):* The development of postwar justice and memory as tools of Transitional Justice in Austria from 1945 to the present time.

10.45 AM – 11.15 AM Discussion

11.15 AM – 11.30 AM – Coffee break

## **Session II:**

### **Country reports – memory law from an insider position**

11.30 AM – 11.45 AM

• *Dr. Winfried R. Garscha (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance):* Commemorate the dead between belittlement of crimes and “damnatio memoriae”: World War II and Austrian politics of memory

11.45 AM - 12.00 PM

• *Dr. Francesco Trupia (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun):* No Space to Grief: Recollecting the ‘Revival Process’ from Bulgaria's Official Amnesia and the Forgetfulness of the European Memory Discourse

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM Discussion

12.30 PM – 1:15 PM Lunch break

## **Session III:**

### **How to fit in? The application of the memory law in individual cases**

1.15 PM – 1.30 PM

• *Dr. Konrad Graczyk (University of Silesia in Katowice, Institute of National Remembrance):* The case of Ignacy Kaczmarek. About the German court murder in 1944 and settlements with the German occupation in Poland

1.30 PM – 1:45 PM

• *Dr. Sonia Horonziak (Polish Academy of Sciences - Scientific Centre in Vienna):* Freedom of research vs. memory laws: a case of “Dalej jest noc” research publication.

1.45 PM – 2.00 PM

• *Dr. Petra Švardová (Slovak Academy of Sciences):* When monuments fall. The case of the communist-era monuments after 1989 in Czechoslovakia

2.00 PM – 2.30 PM Discussion

2.30 PM – 2:45 PM – Coffee break

**Session IV:**

**Memory and the politics: rule of law vs rule of government**

2.45 PM – 3.00 PM

- *Prof. Gerry Simpson (The London School of Economics and Political Science):* Unprecedented: International law, history and the production of bathos

3.00 PM – 3.15 PM

- *Dr. Marina Bán (University of Copenhagen):* The Legal Governance of Historical Memory and the Rule of Law

3.15 PM – 3.30 PM

- *Assoc. Prof. Charis Papacharalambous (University of Cyprus, Goethe University):* Criminalizing assaults on memory. Between national mythology and post-truth

3.30 PM – 4.00 PM Discussion

**PARTNERS:**



Botschaft  
der Republik Polen  
in Wien



ZENTRUM für HISTORISCHE FORSCHUNG BERLIN  
der Polnischen Akademie der Wissenschaften  
CENTRUM BADAŃ HISTORYCZNYCH  
Polskiej Akademii Nauk w Berlinie



European Network  
Remembrance and Solidarity  
since 2005



Fundacja Polsko-Niemieckie  
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