

Mapping Central Eastern Europe Workshop

Remembering Contested Pasts in Central Europe

A transnational perspective on the contemporary memory boom

2014/06/06 11 am – 7 pm, European Humanities University

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In the past few decades, Central-European societies have seen a growing number of both official and grassroots attempts to address the difficult chapters of their national history, including politics towards ethnic minorities, complicity in anti-Jewish violence and the Holocaust. The forms of engagement with this difficult past ranged from traditional forms such as historiographic revision, heritage preservation, and monument building to artistic projects that radically reframed the debate, raising the questions about the limits of representation and challenging the boundaries of taboo. At the same time, while the post-1989 “memory boom” has enabled a wider public discussion about the forgotten ‘Others’ in national historiographies, and lent them a degree of visibility, it has also provoked a backlash of denial, rejection and triggered plethora of counter-narratives.

The present workshop, by focusing on contemporary memory projects from Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Belarus, gives a forum to discuss these contested patterns of memory in a comparative perspective and to trace their transnational dynamics. Addressing the ways historiography, art, heritage tourism and politics interrogate, define, and instrumentalize the concept of ‘collective memory’, we wish to open the floor for a discussion about how difficult past shapes the current Central European identities.

Date: June 6, 2014 11am – 5 pm

Organization: European Humanities University's Center for German Studies

Partner: University of Bremen, History Faculty, Vilnius Jewish Public Library

Target Group: BA, MA & PhD students of humanities from Belarus, Poland, Germany, and Lithuania

Location: EHU Center for German Studies, Vilnius (Tauro 12 / 207)

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