

## INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

### **Contemporary Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries**

October 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Bucharest

#### **Organizing Institution**

The “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania

#### **Scientific Committee**

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#### **Program Coordinator**

**Sonia CATRINA**, The “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania

#### **Abstract**

*Our interdisciplinary colloquium focuses on the contemporary memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries through Memory-Work and Heritage Mechanisms. The objective is to deepen the understanding of the Holocaust memory-making mechanisms, including both state and non-state agencies of memorializing the Holocaust with the emphasis being put on the role of memorial vectors in directly engaging the audience with Jewish and Romani histories, in an attempt to critically analyse and challenge the concept of shared history and memorializing the atrocities of the past.*

#### **Description**

The aim of this colloquium focused on the contemporary memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries is twofold: on the one hand, to examine the issue of the Holocaust in the light of local or state-established memory-making policies and to explore the ways in which these policies are implemented; on the other, to inquire how the Holocaust is memorialized through socio-cultural practices developed by ethnic, religious or diasporic communities.

Arguing that such mechanisms are not arbitrary, but they are shaped by “political order” (Verdery, 1989), the purpose of this colloquium is to shed lights on the “authorized” (Smith, 2006) discourses and practices linked to the memorialization of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries. A wide variety of items give evidence of public memory, including commemorations and public speeches, war sites, memorials and Holocaust

museums, historical exhibitions and art installations. As official accounts of the Holocaust presented in public space, these markers get a “social function” (Davallon, 2000). Not only do they impact on the historical culture, but they also contribute to internalizing Holocaust memory constructed in the national arena. They function as “communication device(s)” (Davallon, 2000) shaping historical consciousness. But, what does it happen when ideas about the past shaped by (inter)national, regional or local powers as shared identity projects are contested or denied by a range of actors? While recognizing that shared memories are not consensual or uniform, uncontroversial or uncontested, we consider that public memories are “constantly rebuilt by re-makings and the incorporation of the new representations” (Laigneau, 1996), thus embodying ongoing values. Consequently, by taking into account the multiplicity of memory and its continual “travel” through time and space (Rothberg, 2009, Erll, 2011), our international colloquium seeks to explore the challenges faced when building public memory in urban and rural areas from Central and Eastern Europe where the Holocaust was perpetrated and moral and physical pain was inflicted upon the Jewish people.

To reveal modes of “relationship to the past” (Tornatore, 2010, 5) at work in Holocaust memory processes, we are looking for theoretical and empirical researches that emphasize the processes of producing “public memory” in urban, but also rural landscapes, linked to the issue of time and power. Such an approach to the processes of memorializing the Holocaust involves analysing (1) the authorized agencies of (re)configuring public memory through national socio-cultural policies, and (2) local communities’ practices of transmitting their memory related to the Holocaust. More precisely, considering that such multi-layered mechanism entails both inclusion and exclusion, having a changing and dynamic nature, we would like to particularly scrutinize the role of power in shaping the memory of the Holocaust in countries from Central and Eastern Europe from diachronic and synchronic perspectives. From this point of view, our colloquium seeks to understand the extent to which national authorities make use of their power to frame the Holocaust as “public memory”, and thus to build common historical narratives. On the other hand, it seeks to mirror the manners through which various social agents, from individuals and communities to NGOs representing the civil society, engage with the past in the local processes of Holocaust memory-making. In this respect, we explore the modalities by which different Jewish and Roma communities give meaning to their past in the present, thus contributing to the processes of shaping the memory of the Holocaust, and how they are producing their future by relying on their traumatic past experiences in contexts of social responsibility.

**In the lights of these objectives, we welcome papers from academics across a wide range of disciplines to discuss on frames, media and political economy of remembrance, to explore affects engaged and catalysed by processes of shaping public memory, and to examine the social impact of transmitting the memory of the Holocaust.**

**A selection of the session themes includes:**

- *State and non-state agencies of memorializing the Holocaust*
- *Contemporary memorialization of the Jewish history*
- *Romani history, national narratives and politics of memory*
- *Holocaust Commemoration: new trends in museums and memorials*
- *Social development of post-war memories and the conflict of memories*
- *Holocaust, representations of the past and social action*
- *Private memories of the Holocaust: a call to conscience*
- *Memory of the Holocaust and affective experiences*
- *Holocaust education and remembrance*

*Call for Papers*  
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- *Holocaust memorialisation and social media*
- *Cultural memory of the Holocaust and Jewish heritage management*
- *Re-examining difficult pasts and managing Jewish heritage assets*
- *Jewish heritage and strategies of regeneration in the light of Holocaust memorialization*
- *Challenges of the Holocaust Sites: Conservation, preservation and memorialisation practices*
- *Tourist experiences of Holocaust memorials and museums*
- *Transmission of the memory of the Holocaust and social attitudes*

**Application and Deadline:** Paper proposals in the context of the above issues should include a summary of up to 250 words written in English or French and a short CV (MAX 500 words). Please fill in the paper proposal form attached to this call for papers and submit it to the Conference Organizer under the subject “Contemporary Holocaust Memoryscapes” at the following electronic address: [soniacatrina@gmail.com](mailto:soniacatrina@gmail.com), until the ~~20<sup>th</sup> of August 2019~~ **9<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**, as well as all other queries. Applicants will be notified on the **1<sup>st</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> of September 2019**. **There is no participation fee.**

*Notes: The workshop will be conducted in English and French. Translation from or to other languages will not be available. Speakers are allocated 30 minutes for their presentation and questions following the paper. Usually papers are c. 20 minutes in length, allowing for 10 minutes of questions and discussion.*

**The organizing institution does not cover travel expenses and accommodation. Regular meals (lunch & coffee breaks) will be provided during the colloquium.**

**Publication:** The papers presented at the conference (at about 30 000 signs) will undergo a double blind peer-review in order to be published in a collective volume with the title: *Contemporary Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries*. The papers should be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, for a double blind review. After receiving the recommendations of the scientific committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, the final papers must be submitted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2019.

**Important dates:**

Deadline for submitting abstracts: ~~20<sup>th</sup> of August 2019~~ **September 9, 2019**

Deadline for submitting papers: 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2019

Deadline for submitting final papers: 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2019

**Acknowledgement**

This International Colloquium is part of the research project “Coming to Terms with National History and Participation in Contemporary Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Post-communist Countries”, directed by PhD Sonia CATRINA, <https://www.inshr-ew.ro/portfolio-item/holocaust-memoryscapes/>, a project financed by the UEFISCDI (PN-III-P1-1.1-TE-2016-0811, Contract 31/2018, 02/04/2018 – 30/04/2020) and hosted by the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania.