



Institutul Național pentru Studierea  
Holocaustului din România „Elie Wiesel”



**MUZEUL  
HOLOCAUSTULUI**  
DIN TRANSILVANIA DE NORD

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# Spring School

## **MEMORYSCAPES OF THE HOLOCAUST IN ROMANIA**

2019, May 21st-25th Șimleu Silvaniei

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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania in collaboration with the Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial Museum is pleased to invite applications for ten fellowships to attend the Spring School on the "Memoryscapes of the Holocaust in Romania" from May 21 to May 25, to be held in Șimleu Silvaniei.



### *Abstract*

Our Spring School proposes an intensive five-day course of study to deepen the understanding of the processes of Holocaust public memory building in post-communist Romania, of the ways by which Holocaust memory emerged and developed in official discourses and practices. It seeks to explore not only the confluence of memory and place beyond the concretization of memorials and other commemorative markers in urban and rural landscapes, but also to reveal modes of representing the Holocaust. It endeavours to disclose both official and alternative practices of framing public memory in urban and rural spaces. It also seeks to present discourses underlying the foundation of Holocaust memorial places, along with audiences' engagement with the Holocaust "memoryscapes" in post-communist Romania.

## *Description*

Public memory is a politically acknowledged and an ethically engaged tool for collective remembrance. Any process of memory-making implies both inclusion and exclusion, sometimes particular narratives being excluded from public representation. Therefore, such process is not consensual; on the contrary, it allows for conflict and multiple interpretations. When public memory intersects with spatial transformations of places being represented by markers such as plaques, statues and monuments, memorials and museums or artistic installations, we are within the frames of "memoriscapes". Consequently, "memoriscapes" as a trope shows the intersection between place and memory. In other words, memory gets a physical representation.

In line with this topic, we are interested in unveiling figurative and non-figurative items of Holocaust memory, their social impact in mainstream Romanian society as well. At the same time, by extending our interest in "memoriscapes" of the Holocaust in Romania beyond "officially" designated sites of memory, we will look at various stakeholders' efforts, be they (inter)national NGOs, elites, social groups or other individual actors, to disclose into public sphere their silenced or obstructed memories. In other words, we try to understand their agency to make the past come to life in the present, as well as their engagement with the (re)production of the social memory of the Holocaust.

On the one hand, our Spring School intends to explore to what extent the genocidal experiences to which Romanian Jews were exposed during the peak period of the anti-Semitic ideology are currently presented in public space. We want to know whether the memory of the Holocaust is an important topic to be included into the museums and the permanent exhibitions devoted to the Second World War, or it is embedded in urban and rural cultural development schemes, as a manner to enhance accessibility to the knowledge of the Holocaust in Romania.

In particular, we will explore contemporary Holocaust "memoriscapes" in Romania raising questions of power relations, communication and audience, public culture and memory, through a series of lectures and study-visits in various places displaying the memory of the Holocaust. On the other hand, going beyond the exploration of instances in which the Holocaust memory imprints contemporary landscapes in Romania, our Spring School will reveal not only the nature of urban and rural experiences related to memory-work, and how audiences engage with the Holocaust "memoriscapes" in Romania, but also the variety of practices of (re)building the public memory of the Holocaust.

## *Audience*

The program is open to Romanian faculty and graduate students who devote their research interest to Holocaust studies. We welcome applications from those Romanian students looking to broaden their interdisciplinary perspective on this issue.

A number of 10 fellowships will be granted. Fellowships cover the costs of accommodation (in a three-star hotel, shared room), board and transport by train or coach on the basis of their travel documents. There is no participation fee.

## *Application deadline*

All applications must be received by **April 22, 2019**.

Romanian applicants should submit electronically:

- (1) a letter of recommendation**
- (2) the application form** which encloses the motivation (up to 250 words) to attend the spring school explaining their interest and plans for engaging with this field of research, and a short descriptive biography (up to 500 words).

Full applications (including the letter of recommendation and the application form) should be emailed with the **subject line "Spring School 2019\_Name of Student"** to: [soniacatrina@gmail.com](mailto:soniacatrina@gmail.com).

Applicants will be notified on **25th of April 2019**.

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### *Organizing Institutions*

The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania  
Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial Museum

### *Program Coordinator*

Sonia CATRINA, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania

### *Organizing Committee*

Ana BĂRBULESCU, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania  
Sonia CATRINA, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania  
Daniel STEJERAN, Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial Museum