

**The Twentieth Century in European Memory:
Themes and Approaches in Contemporary European Memory Studies**

Wednesdays, 09:30 - 10:50 CET (Online)

March 6th to May 29th, 2024

Contested memories and painful pasts regularly re-appear in the European public sphere on transnational, national, and regional levels. The war in Ukraine as well as the Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel and Israel fighting back, but also the recent experience with global pandemics have instigated a new wave of memory themes and disputes. Various memory narratives have been lately activated for numerous purposes, explaining warfare, justifying various politics, attempting to explain ongoing events, bolstering identities, and mobilizing for political positioning or activism. In this sense, the course will focus specifically on memories of care, and welfare in a broad sense both disciplinary (including, e.g., history, sociology, psychology, literature, arts, and heritage) and topics-wise (such as well-being now and then, Balkans, Holocaust, current wars) asking why we need memory and memory studies, and what kinds of roles does memory play in contemporary Europe.

The course introduces the main concept and approaches within memory studies relating them to reflect on care and welfare. Drawing on case studies from different European countries and regions, the course explores different ways of remembering Europe's complicated past and investigates how these forms of remembering influence life, politics and culture across contemporary Europe.

The aim of this course is to historicize the organization of care and welfare at national and transnational levels, to examine the transformative processes that have shaped the landscape of care in Europe and beyond, and to study the memories associated with these institutions, as well as the (collective) memory making processes that are fostered within them.

The course will take place in a virtual format with online lectures and seminars taught on Microsoft Teams by top academic experts in the field of Memory Studies from 4EU+ partner universities and the COST Action Slow Memory. Each session consists of an expert talk and Q&A, which is open to the public. Students must register to each session in order to join the webinar. Only the first and last (the introduction and the wrap-up) session are solely for students enrolled in the class.

If you have any questions, please email Doc. PhDr Kateřina Králová (kralova@fsv.cuni.cz) or Rose Smith (rose.smith@fsv.cuni.cz).

Assessments:

- Attendance (20%),
- Participation in discussion (30%)
- 2,500-3,000 words argumentative essay on a subject related to the course (50%)

Course Program

06.03.2024	Why do we need memory studies?
	<p>Kateřina Králová (Charles University)</p> <p><i>This session introduces memory studies' basic concepts and themes.</i></p> <p>Join the session here.</p>
13.03.2024	Roundtable discussion: "What do we mean by Slow Memory?"
	<p>Katerina Králová (Charles University), Joanna Wawrzyniak (University of Warsaw), Tea Sindbæk Andersen (University of Copenhagen)</p> <p><i>This roundtable aims to provide an overview of Slow Memory.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
20.03.2024	Czechoslovak Aid to Child Refugees from Greece
	<p>Nikola Tohma (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences)</p> <p><i>This session will focus on Czechoslovak humanitarian aid for child refugees from the Greek Civil War (1946-1949). Shortly after the communist takeover of power in 1948, Czechoslovakia joined the relief initiative along with other Eastern Bloc countries and welcomed several thousand children of Greek partisans for a time-limited stay. Most of them eventually remained until adulthood, having received an education and fully established themselves abroad. The talk will revolve around the practices and actors of humanitarian aid and the memories of refugee children related to their arrival and deployment in children's homes across the country.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
27.03.2024	Post-Communist Memories of State Welfare and Care in Museums
	<p>Rose Smith (Charles University & University of Groningen)</p> <p><i>This session focuses on post-communist memories of state welfare and care during the Cold War. It presents the displays of socialist welfare in museums of 'everyday life' during the communist era in Budapest and Warsaw. Using written and visual sources found in the exhibitions, the session explores whether the socialist welfare projects in these states are exhibited in museums today and, if so, how. Ultimately, the session traces the exhibitions' articulation of the moral authority found at the core of socialism.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>

03.04.2024	Cultural memories, circulation, and reception
	<p>Tea Sindbæk Andersen (University of Copenhagen)</p> <p><i>This lecture discusses the role of migrant literature in cultural memory of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995), focusing especially on questions of circulation, reception, and literature's capacity to challenge and expand existing memory frameworks in Northwestern Europe and in Bosnia-Herzegovina.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
10.04.2024	Virtual memories underground: The case of bunker architecture
	<p>Margherita Fontana (University of Milan)</p> <p><i>Starting from the pioneering reflections of the French philosopher Paul Virilio in his Bunker Archéologie (1975), the seminar will deal with the architectural topos of the bunker. Built in Europe mainly during the Second World War, as in the case of the Atlantic Wall, or as defensive shelters during the Cold War, bunkers are strange places of memory, standing as traces of the past, but also as ominous premonitions of future threats. Between past and future, domestic environment and exotic fantasy, life and death, defense and attack, bunkers always tend to occupy a liminal, somehow virtual position in the economy of warfare, acting as functional structures or as means of propaganda. For this reason, their inherent virtual dimension will be presented, as well as a case of a virtual reality bunker dealing with memory, as in the case of the Führerbunker experience, which makes the destroyed bunker where Adolf Hitler spent his last hours accessible once again.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
17.04.2024	More or less of a care? Ukrainian discourse on the current war and the collective memory of the Second World War and the Holocaust
	<p>Paweł Dobrosielski (University of Warsaw)</p> <p><i>The seminar will be based on the intermediary findings of the project Discourses of War, devoted to the analysis of textual and visual accounts of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in the context of references to World War II and the Holocaust. The project's main aim so far has been to collect, analyse, and interpret various textual and visual forms of representation that constitute the Ukrainian public discourse on the current war, directly or indirectly linking it with the imagery of the Second World War and the Holocaust. The research question of the project was two-fold: How do such analogies shape the perception of the current full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and, simultaneously, the perception of the Second World War and the Holocaust within the realm of collective memory?</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>

24.04.2024	<p>Memory between reparation and prevention. How the memory of extreme violence can be seen as a form of cure for societies.</p>
	<p>Luba Jurgenson (University of Sorbonne)</p> <p><i>In democratic societies, the collective memory of mass violence, in addition to its commemorative and informative functions, is the foundation of a utopia of peaceful coexistence in which all differences must find their place. It is supposed to prevent violence and convey the idea of reparation for collective trauma. In these societies, where the notion of care has taken on great importance in recent years, we can see how it is expressed through memorial devices: concern for the past can be presented as a way of taking care of individuals (human or non-human, such as trees) or communities in the present.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
15.05.2024	<p>A glorious square of colour in a drab world: Memorialising a mental health day centre through participatory methodologies</p>
	<p>Verusca Calabria (Nottingham Trent University)</p> <p><i>2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the Middle Street Resource Centre in Nottingham, England. For over half a century, the centre has been supporting the well-being of local people with enduring mental ill health who are socially excluded from mainstream society. This lecture aims to showcase how memory work, arts and crafts, poetry, and visual methods have been applied to co-produce this day centre's social history and heritage with mental health stakeholders as part of an externally funded research project. The lecture will discuss how the application of participatory methodologies to researching past and present dimensions of mental healthcare can complicate traditional conceptions of what constitutes care for people with long-term mental health conditions who have remained under-served throughout the long history of mental healthcare, albeit in different ways.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>
22.05.2024	<p>Making Memory Work for People Experiencing Mental Suffering: Arts-based Practices of Memory in Argentinian Mental Health Care</p>
	<p>Marileen La Haije (Postdoctoral research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)</p> <p><i>In this presentation, I will focus on the memory work that is being carried out in Argentinian mental health care facilities through arts-based practices, fostering (slow-moving) transformations towards just and sustainable forms of care, the reconstruction of social ties, the fight against stigmatization. I use the term 'arts-based practices' in a broad sense, acknowledging the diverse nature of these interventions, which include literary and cinematographic productions, mural arts, photographic documentation, arts-based games, textile creations, interactive theatre, street performances, etc. My reflections are informed by in-depth interviews I conducted with key actors in the field: artists, activists, experienced experts, healthcare workers, students and scholars who seek to promote the human rights of people who experience mental suffering.</i></p> <p>Register for the session here.</p>

29.05.2024	Wrap-Up Session
	<p>Katerina Kralova</p> <p><i>This session summarises the theories and concepts discussed during the seminar.</i></p> <p>Join the session here.</p>