

21st Memorial Seminar in Krzyzowa 2024
"Spaces of Memory" - 3 - 6 April

The 21st meeting of memorial sites in Krzyzowa will focus on the theme of commemorative culture in the public sphere. It will examine the historical background and context of the creation of monuments and symbols of remembrance, as well as their reception.

Numerous monuments, memorials and places of remembrance throughout Europe commemorate the victims of German racist aggression and war of extermination between 1939 and 1945, the Holocaust and the occupation of Europe by the German Wehrmacht. Similarly, many memorials are dedicated to the period of Soviet occupation, both before (Baltic Republics, Ukraine, Eastern Poland) and after the end of the Second World War, which replaced Nazi rule in Eastern and Central Europe. War memorials have been erected in various places, heroising Soviet and Stalinist history. Monuments and memorials were also erected to honour communist figures and glorify socialism.

Only after the fall of the communist dictatorships and the establishment of democratic structures in the transition period could a comprehensive critical examination of the communist and Soviet history of violence begin. Numerous memorials and monuments are now dedicated to the victims of Stalinist violence. The collapse of communist rule also facilitated a nuanced commemoration of the victims of the Shoah and other victims of Nazi violence and atrocities, contributing to the differentiation of commemorative culture and sites.

Since Russia's aggression against Ukraine, there has been an increase in the removal of monuments in Russia commemorating the victims of Stalinist violence. For several years, Russia has been reviving the heroic war cult of Stalinist rule.

The conference focuses on the debates surrounding the creation of monuments. How do these monuments express experiences of dictatorship, and to what extent do they differentiate between National Socialism and Communism or remember them collectively? Furthermore, what changes occurred after the turning points in 1945 or 1989? How do memorials dedicated to victims of violence evolve over time, and what is the role of victim competition in this evolution? What is the significance of addressing crime complexes and Transitional Justice in the creation of memorial sites? What trends are evident in monuments dedicated to real or perceived heroes? How does gender history feature in memorials, both past and present? How does the formal language of memorials change over time? Lastly, the conference explores how memorials and places of remembrance contribute to the development of democratic memorial culture.

The Kreisau conference for memorial sites targets museums and memorials throughout Europe and worldwide. Its main goal is to provide a platform for experts and opinion makers in this field to exchange ideas, foster networking among facilities and institutions, with the aim of promoting stronger collaboration and encouraging critical-reflexive thinking about democratic memorial culture.

All contributions will be simultaneously interpreted into Polish, German and English.

Registration is possible via the online registration form: <https://forms.gle/jgjznPh5XtMAYmFr6>.
Registration deadline is Sunday, 3 March 2024

Programme (status XII 2023, subject to change)

Wednesday, 3 April

- 15.00 Arrival
- 16.00 Introductory round
- 17.00 Guided tour on the premises of Krzyzowa Foundation
Dominik Kretschmann
- 19.00 Dinner
Get Together

Thursday, 4 April Spaces of memory: Remembrance in public space.

- 09.00 Opening

Kristiane Janeke, Zentrum Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr

Paweł Machewicz, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN (tbc)

10.00 – 11.30 I Monuments and remembrance of the 2nd World War in Europe

1. James Bulgin, Imperial War Museum London
2. Alexei Bratoschkin (tbc)
3. Kléber Arhoul, Mémorial de Caen (tbc)
4. Dominika Czarnecka, Instytut Archeologii PAN (tbc)
5. Heike Dörrenbächer, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (tbc)

11.30 – 12.30 Lunch break

12.30 – 14.00 II Monuments to the memory of occupation and tyranny in Europe

1. Liesbeth Van der Horst, Verzetsmuseum (tbc)
2. Anna Margvelashvili, SOVLAB (tbc)
3. Agnieszka Wiercholska, Deutsch-Polnisches Haus
4. Paweł Ukielski, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego (tbc)
5. Alexander Jakir

14.00 – 14.30 Coffee break

14.30 – 16.00 III Remembrance in memorials of former camps and detention centres, repression

1. Tomasz Oleksy-Zborowski, Miejsce Pamięci Sobibór (tbc)
2. Ljiljana Radonic, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
3. Anke Giesen
4. József Mélyi (tbc)
5. Bozhena Kozakiewicz

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 Work in small groups

18.00 Dinner

Friday, 5 April IV Spaces of Memory International

09.00 – 11.00 Uhr

1. Almudena Cruz Yabar, Universidad Complutense Madrid
2. Zanet Battinou, Jewish Museum of Greece (tbc)

11.30

Field trip

Saturday, 6 April V Spaces of memory: Quo vadis European Remembrance

09.00 – 11.00 Uhr

1. Louisa Slavkova, Sofia Platform Foundation (tbc)
2. Constanze Itzel, Haus der Europäischen Geschichte (tbc)
3. Łukasz Kamiński, Ossolineum

11.30 Departure

(Bus transfer to and from Berlin will be arranged by the organisers)