



Stiftung
Kreisau

Evangelische
Akademie
zu Berlin

Bundesstiftung zur
Aufarbeitung der SED-
Diktatur

Europäisches Netzwerk
Erinnerung und Solidarität

Volksbund Deutsche
Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.

in cooperation with Kreisau-Initiative Berlin e. V.

13th East-West-European memorial seminar, Krzyżowa/ Kreisau

Vanished places – reception and memory of sites of totalitarian violence

25th-28th March 2015

Violence, destruction and extermination annihilation are essential parts of the memory of the 20th century. The totalitarian systems and the world wars have cost the lives of millions of people. Numerous sites across Europe were heavily affected - they were destroyed or completely disappeared from the map. While crimes as in Coventry, Lidice and Oradour-sur-Glane became symbols of inhuman acts and shaped (trans)national narratives, other acts of destruction left hardly any traces in the collective memory. They did not find entrance into the sphere of a broader victim narrative. Some sites survived in the knowledge and grief of a small group of people or received attention by historical research. The relics of the concentration camp Sobibor for example are expanded to an official memorial now.

The 13th East-West European memorial meeting in Kreisau makes the "vanished places" – sites of memory subject of discussion, that tell the story and remind pars pro toto of acts of violence. The term "sites of memory" therefore is broadly in line with Pierre Nora's *lieux de mémoire*, however, with a focus on material existing sites and their products. Because of wars and political upheaval, of forced migration of millions of people and of border changes, many sites got new meanings new meanings other ones got partially lost. Entanglements and multiple encodings of one and the same site of memory are characteristic especially for Central and Eastern Europe.

We invite historians, people from museums or of witnesses' projects and memorials for interdisciplinary exchange. The following questions are to be discussed: What distinguishes the memory of sites that actually exist from extinguished historical sites? How do memorials and museums deal with sites which don't exist physically, but do not disappear from the cultural memory either? What happens to the memory and the sites of memory when witnesses are missing as a link to the past?

This memorial meeting wants experiences of exhibition practice to be exchanged and current forms of digital representation and internet presence as part of the historical and political education to be discussed. Finally, possible limits of remembrance should be a topic of the meeting. What is the function and effect oblivion could have?



Programme

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Check-in from **17:00** - Room occupancy
coffee

18:00-19:00 Dinner

19:00-20:30 Visit the Mountain House, brief introduction to the history of the place
Introduction to the program by the organizers, Come together evening

Thursday, March 26, 2015

9:30-11:00 **Prof. Dr. Étienne François**, "Lieux de mémoire". Challenges of European memory
Commentary: Prof. Dr. Jochen Roose, Willy Brandt Center, Wrocław

Discussion

Chair: **Dr. Jacqueline Boysen**

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 **Missing sites of memory. Remembering without sites.**

PhDr. Stanislav Kokoška, Lidice as a site of memory. Past and Future

Richard Jezierski, Oradour-sur-Glane. The ruins and the memory

Dr. Tomasz Kranz, Foundations of memory. Visible and invisible products of Nazi crimes at the site of the former extermination camp in Sobibor

Chair: **Dr. Dominik Pick**

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 **Missing sites of memory. Remember without witnesses.**

Dr. Juliane Haubold-Stolle, Vanishing memories of German soldiers in Central and Eastern Europe

Dr. Lolita Tomsone, The memory of Jānis Lipke and the rescue of Estonian Jews

Chair: **Dr. Burkhard Olschowsky**

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break



16:30-18:30 Virtual memory. Virtual reconstruction.

Dr. Arnulf Scriba Living Museum Online
N.N., Virtual Museum of the Gulag

Chair: **Dominik Kretschmann**

18:30–19:30 Dinner

Friday, March 27, 2015

9:30-11:30 (Re)interpretations of sites of Nazi and Communist violence.

N.N., Buchenwald as a site of memory with double meaning
Dr. Violetta Rezler-Wasielewska, Łambinowice. A complex site of memory
Tatyana Kursina, Perm 36

Chair: **Dr. Juliane Haubold-Stolle**

11:30–12:00 Coffee break

12:00–13:00 Project presentations

13:00–14:00 Departure for Breslau / Wrocław

14:00– 15:00 Lunch

15:00 **Renata Bardzik-Miłosz**, Overridden places in Breslau / Wrocław

19:00 Dinner

Saturday, March 28, 2015

9:30–11:30 **Limits of memory. How much and how long could recall.**

Dr. Guido Vaglio, Museo di Torino diffuso
Dr. Vera Dubina, Chances and problems of memorial work.
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Pfeil, Villages phantômes of the battle of Verdun

Chair: **Dr. Andrea Genest**



BUNDESSTIFTUNG
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 EUROPÄISCHES NETZWERK
ERINNERUNG UND SOLIDARITÄT



11:30-12:00 Evaluation and ideas for the next seminar

Conference languages (simultaneous translation): German, Polish, Russian,

Dr. Jacqueline Boysen - Dominik Kretschmann
Dr. Burkhard Olschowsky – Dr. Dominik Pick