

Workshop “Translating East European Memories”

Venue:

Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies

Johannes Gutenberg University

An der Hochschule 2, 76726 Germersheim

Room A.119

Monday, 24 February

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Coffee, informal welcome

2 pm – 4 pm

Session 1: Culturalist pitfalls. How do we translate the specificity of East European experiences without essentializing Eastern Europe or national cultures?

Input: *Gruia Bădescu*

Chair: *Mischa Gabowitsch*

4 pm – 4:30 pm

Coffee break

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Session 2: The impact of war. What are the implications of Russia’s war on Ukraine for talking about East European historical experiences?

Input: *Lia Dostlieva*

Chair: *Kornelia Kończal*

7:00 pm

Dinner for participants @Akropolis, Hauptstr. 18

Tuesday, 25 February

9:00-11:00

Session 3: What is the relationship between translation and “translation”? How do the linguistic and institutional challenges of producing and publishing translated texts shape dialogues between East and West?

Input: *Margherita Carbonaro*

Chair: *Roma Sendyka*

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:30

Session 4: From the personal to the political. What's the larger purposes of wanting to make our own personal stories heard?

Input: Tanya Breslin (Zaharchenko)

Chair: Mischa Gabowitsch

13:30-15:00

Lunch

15:00-17:00

Session 5: What kind of book do we need? How do we turn our discussions into a volume of essays that will make a difference?

Input: Roma Sendyka

Chair: Kornelia Kończal

18:30

Dinner for participants @PAN Il Gambero di Michele, Klosterstr. 2

Administrative assistance: Hanna Renke, Christine Sauter

Participant bios

Gruia Bădescu is a Research Fellow at the *Zukunftskolleg*, University of Konstanz, and a 2024-25 Fellow of the Paris Institute of Advanced Studies. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, and, before Konstanz, was a lecturer and research associate at the University of Oxford. His research examines how societies deal with difficult pasts through spatial practices, investigating the relationship between architectural reconfigurations and memory. One focus of his research is postwar reconstruction in cities, having done fieldwork in the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East. A second area of research is the memory of authoritarian regimes in Central and Eastern Europe and South America, examined through comparisons and entanglements. In Konstanz, he was first an Alexander von Humboldt fellow, hosted by Jan and Aleida Assmann, and is now leading a research group on urban imaginaries after political ruptures (war, end of dictatorship, end of empire). At the Memory Studies Association, he is a founder and co-convenor of the Memory, Space, and Place and the Memory and Critical Human Rights working groups.

Tanya Breslin (Zaharchenko) works on cultural memory, trauma, identity, nationhood, borders and boundaries, as well as narratives of conflict, with a specialization in Ukrainian studies. She is the author of *Where Currents Meet: Frontiers in Post-Soviet Fiction of Kharkiv, Ukraine* (2016, paperback 2023), as well as a range of articles in international journals and edited volumes. She holds a PhD in Slavonic studies from the University of Cambridge (2014) and a Master of Science from the University of Oxford (2007).

Tanya's engagements have included a residency at *Kulturstiftung Schloss Wiepersdorf*, a postdoctoral research fellowship in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Oslo, and the Albert Einstein fellowship at the Einstein Forum. She is a returning expert at the European Commission, where she helps evaluate grant applications within her fields of expertise. Beyond academia, she has worked on human rights- and democratization-oriented projects and programs in a variety of global organizations, such as the United Nations Development Program.

Currently, Tanya is finalizing a full-length novel about wartime identities in the borderlands, for which she received a dedicated writing residency at Monson Arts, USA.

Margherita Carbonaro was born in Milan, Italy, in 1964, in a family with mixed background, Italian and Latvian. She studied Italian Philology and Literature at Milan State University, but during her studies she also spent longer periods of time in Berlin and Moscow. She has been working for over thirty years in publishing as a consultant and literary translator from German, Latvian, English, and at times Chinese and Russian, for some of Italy's most prestigious publishing houses. She translated, among many others, authors such as Thomas Mann, Max Frisch, Herta Müller, Zigmunds Skujiņš, Regīna Ezera, and Inga Gaile. For her work as a translator she received prizes from Italy, Germany, and Latvia (Italian National Prize for Translation 2021, German-Italian Translation Prize for her Life's Work 2022, Annual Latvian Literature Award 2022, etc).

Besides translating she writes articles and short texts of literary criticism. She is the author of a collection of stories about migration, based on interviews and encounters with members of the Italian community in Wolfsburg, Germany (*Das Leben ist hier*, 2012).

Since 2015 she has devoted herself to bringing Latvian literature and culture to Italy, where the Baltic world is very little known and frequently misinterpreted. She is currently working on a book about Latvia, a narrative reportage about the country's past – as it is reflected in the memories of its different communities – and present.

After having lived for several years in Berlin and Beijing, she is now based in Landshut, Bavaria, but regularly travels for prolonged stays in Latvia.

Claudia Dathe (born 1971) studied translation (Russian and Polish) and business administration in Leipzig, Piatigorsk (Russia) and Kraków. From 1997 to 2004 she worked as a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) lecturer in Kazakhstan

and Ukraine. After her return, she worked as a freelance translator for Ukrainian and Russian and conducted seminars for young translators. Since 2009 she has been working as a coordinator for literary translation projects at the Institute of Slavic Studies of the University of Tübingen and at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). She regularly runs translation workshops and translates literature from Ukrainian and Russian, among others by Andrei Kurkov, Serhii Zhadan, Marianna Kiianovska, and Yevgenia Belorusets. She has received multiple awards, most recently the Special Prize of the Network of Houses of Literature.

Lia Dostlieva (born in Donetsk, Ukraine) is an artist, cultural anthropologist, and essayist. Her art and research practice engage with issues of collective trauma, decolonial narratives, and the agency and visibility of vulnerable groups. She was a participant of the National Pavilion of Ukraine at the 60th Venice Biennale. She has exhibited her works at various international venues, including the Malta Biennale, Kunstinstituut Melly (Rotterdam, the Netherlands), Kolumba Museum (Cologne, Germany), Ludwig Museum (Budapest, Hungary), National Gallery of Art (Vilnius, Lithuania), Tbilisi Photography and Multimedia Museum (Tbilisi, Georgia), National Museum of Fine Arts (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), and the Latvian National Museum of Art (Riga, Latvia), among others.

Mischa Gabowitsch, historian and sociologist, is Professor of Multilingual and Transnational Post-Soviet Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University, where he directs the Russian sub-department at the Department of Translation, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies at the GERMERSHEIM campus. He holds BA and MA degrees from Oxford University and a DEA and PhD from the School of Advanced Social Studies (EHESS) in Paris, and has held positions at Princeton University, the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, and the University of Vienna. His most recent book publication is *Monuments and Territory: War Memorials in Russian-Occupied Ukraine* (2025), written with Mykola Homanyuk.

Jakub Gałęziowski is a social and oral historian with a focus on the Polish history of the Second World War and its consequences. In 2021 he received a PhD in history from the University of Augsburg and the University of Warsaw for his dissertation about Polish children born of war (published as *Niedpowiedziane Biografie. Polskie dzieci urodzone z powodu wojny*, 2022). He is currently affiliated with the University of Warsaw where he conducts his own research project on children of former female forced laborers, funded by the National Science Center. He is a co-founder of the Polish Oral History Association and its president (2022–25) as well as a member of the Council of the International Oral History Association (2023–25).

Agnieszka Haska is a cultural anthropologist and sociologist working at the Polish Center for Holocaust Research, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology,

Polish Academy of Sciences. She is the author of *Jestem Żydem chcę wejść. Hotel Polski w Warszawie* (*I am a Jew, I want to come in. Hotel Polski in Warsaw, 1943*, 2006) and *Dishonor. Stories about Polish Treason* (2018) as well as numerous articles, and has edited wartime diaries and documents. Recently, she has been researching the topic of foreigners who were residents of or visited the General Government during the Second World War

Kornelia Kończal specializes in modern European history, with an emphasis on East Central Europe, France, and Germany. She holds a PhD in history from the European University Institute in Florence (2017) and has been an Assistant Professor of Public History at Bielefeld University since 2021, following positions at the Max Weber Center in Erfurt, the Hannah Arendt Institute in Dresden, and the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. She is particularly interested in transfer processes within Eastern Europe as well as between this region and Western Europe, especially Germany and France. Her research focuses on the social history of the upheavals around 1945 and 1989/1991, the transnational history of the social sciences and humanities since the late 19th century, and interactions between politics, society, and memory.

In her current project, *Mnemonic Populism in Contemporary Europe*, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, she investigates the role of history in right-wing populism from a comparative perspective.

Karolina Koziura is a historical sociologist whose work combines comparative studies of colonialism and empire, environmental history, and politics of knowledge in/about Eastern Europe. For over 15 years, she has conducted ethnographic and historical research in Ukraine. Karolina received her PhD in sociology and historical studies from the New School for Social Research in 2023. At present she is a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, where she is developing her first book on the political contest surrounding the Great Ukrainian Famine, known today as the Holodomor, from the 1930s until the current Russo-Ukrainian war. Karolina has been a visiting fellow at, among other places, the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, Konstanz University, the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, New York University's Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, and the Open Society Archives in Budapest. She has taught various courses related to historical sociology, the politics of memory, environmental studies, and decolonial methodologies at The New School, Parsons School of Design, the Invisible University for Ukraine, the European University Institute in Florence, and NYU Florence. Her research was published in, among other places, *Memory Studies*, *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, the *European Journal of Sociology*, and *East European Politics, Societies, and Culture*.

Hanna Renke is an MA student of Literary and Cultural Studies and English Studies within the Inter-Faculty Individual Studies in the Humanities program at

Jagiellonian University in Kraków. For the 2024–25 academic year, she is studying at Trinity College Dublin on an Erasmus+ scholarship.

Her research focuses on the Polish émigré journal *Kultura* (1947–2000), particularly its history of poetry translation into Polish, which is the subject of her Literary and Cultural Studies MA thesis. She is interested in memory in translation in the context of Holocaust studies, having worked during the 2022–23 academic year on a project translating a Holocaust survivor’s testimony into English in collaboration with Cardiff University and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. Since May 2024, she has been a researcher for Penguin Random House USA, working with bestselling narrative non-fiction author Jack Fairweather.

Roma Sendyka is a cultural anthropologist and memory studies scholar. She is Professor, co-founder, and first director of the Research Center for Memory Cultures. She teaches in the Anthropology of Literature and Cultural Studies department at the Faculty of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She specializes in criticism and theory, Holocaust studies, and memory studies. Her focus is on relations between behaviors, sites, images, and memory, and she is currently working on a project on “non-sites of memory” in Central and Eastern Europe and bystanders to the Holocaust in Poland. Sendyka is also co-founder of the Curatorial Collective and co-curator of the 2018-19 exhibition “Terribly Close: Polish Vernacular Artists Face the Holocaust” at the Kraków Ethnographic Museum. She authored three books on identity and memory, and co-edited eleven volumes dealing with memory cultures.

Aleksandra Szczepan is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Potsdam. She holds a PhD in literary studies from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków where she is a co-founder of the Research Center for Memory Cultures. She has also worked as a researcher and interviewer in oral history projects undertaken by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Poland, Spain, and Kazakhstan. She has received scholarships from various institutions, including the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, New York Public Library, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, and the Polish National Science Center. Her work has focused on Polish Holocaust literature, entanglements between geography and Holocaust testimony, and representation of Roma genocide. Szczepan's postdoctoral project “You will never walk alone?” analyzes civil and military imageries of Polish popular culture since the 1980s.

Andrei Vazyanau is an assistant professor at the Department of Social Sciences, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania, and a member of the initiative Minsk Urban Platform (Lithuania/Belarus). He holds a PhD degree in social anthropology from the University of Regensburg for a thesis titled “Infrastructures in Trouble: Public Transit, Crisis, and Citizens in the Peripheries of Europe”. Andrei has conducted on-site ethnography in the Donetsk oblast of Ukraine (2010-14), Romania (2015-16), and Belarus (2018-21).

He is the author of academic and non-academic publications in six languages, as well as multiple translations, focusing on mobility, urban infrastructures, soundscapes, aging, and media in a regional context. For more than a decade, Andrei has been collaborating with civic and grassroots activists, as a researcher, music artist, editor, and interpreter.

He is currently working on the topic of politically and militarily motivated dispossession in the EU Eastern Partnership countries.