

About the course

The CBEES Summer School 2024 is a specialized course that delves into in-depth studies of central theories of cultural memory. It places particular emphasis on the intricate relationship between cultural memory, politics, and history writing in Eastern Europe today.

During the three decades after the end of the Cold War, George Santayana's 1905 aphorism became the motto of the global West: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet, Eastern and Central European societies continue to be haunted by the difficult memories of the past and those issues that post-Cold War international democratic agendas failed to address. Since then, new tensions have been arising in the region, first between East and West and then between North and South, which process virtually exploded when Russia went on a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Thus, a catastrophic rupture occurred in the apparently logical peaceful development "after the End of History".

Recently, the new agenda of decolonization has shifted to the forefront of Ukrainian resistance and demands a political and intellectual re-contextualization of the Baltic and Eastern European region as well as the whole of the former Soviet space. In this decolonizing move, again, memory acquires a central role, even though on different grounds and no longer as a universalist temporality of progress – but on what grounds, in this case?

In the present situation, both on an intuitive level and in expert discourses, memory re-actualizes in comparisons and analogies in various figures, symbols, and images of Repetition and Return. Not only as symptoms of trauma and regression, these can also function as constructive elements of understanding. Through the discussion of concepts such as rupture, return, resistance, repetition, reconstruction, and reconciliation, this Summer School seeks to address shifting temporalities of memory, knowledge, and action, particularly in relation to war and violent regimes.

- At this time of war and destruction, what traces of history and memory do we bring with us from the past, and what (new) ruptures and resistances can be identified?
- How can we understand imaginations of the return of history in the present? Can we distinguish between destructive and constructive uses of the past? What epistemologies can be produced based on these new interpretations?
- What visions and hesitations with regards to the future can we discern? Can reconciliation bring not only reparation but also transformation?
- What could be concepts, theories and methods to understand the "after the end of the post"?

We welcome applications from PhD students working on the Baltic, as well as Eastern and Central Europe with a particular interest in the issues of memory and history. The summer school seeks to develop critical thinking in the interdisciplinary field of Memory Studies, and we expect interest from students from a range of subjects in the humanities and social sciences, including history, political science, ethnology, philosophy, aesthetics, and so on.

Developing academic writing skills will be one of the central concerns of the Summer School. Students will be presenting their own work in classes and produce a written paper that sums up experience and knowledge gained in the course. 7.5 ECTs will be awarded for the course, and in addition, a Certificate of Completion based on active participation. Best course papers will be considered for online scholarly publication in the journal *Baltic Worlds*.

The Summer School is free of charge, and all costs will be paid for, excluding travel costs to and from the location.

Programme

Themes and Structure

The Summer School includes keynote lectures and interactive seminars during which both theoretical and methodological issues will be addressed. Additional features include a (local) field trip and a film screening.

Monday, 12 August

The topic of the day: Arrival – Introduction - Welcome Dinner.

15.00 – 16.00 *Welcome and introduction Memory studies in Sweden and the Baltic Sea and East Europe region.* | Hans Ruin, Södertörn University

16.00 – 16.15 *A short presentation of the Ukrainian artist Alla Horska (1929-1970) - Creator of the mosaic on the Summer School programme.* | Yuliya Yurchuk, Södertörn University

16.15 – 16.30 Break

16.30 – 17.30 *Writing in and beyond academia* | Ninna Mörner, Södertörn University

19.00 – 21.00 Dinner

Tuesday, 13 August

The topic of the day: Rupture, return, repetition, remedy, repair?

With Irina Sandomirskaja and Barbara Törnquist-Plewa

The prefix “post” in postmodern, poststructuralist, postcolonial, and many other words so often used in critical humanities indicates a paradox in the structure of the past: the past has passed and is no more, but at the same time remains relevant in the political processes of the present day and appears even more alive manifesting itself as a remedy of the past conflict or as its perpetuation in the ideologies, collective imaginations, and political struggles of the present day.

9.00 – 10.00 *The End of the “Post”, or What Comes after the After?* | Irina Sandomirskaja, Södertörn University

10.00 – 10.30 Break

10.30 - 12.30 *Populism in Memory Discourses in Contemporary Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.* | Barbara Törnquist-Plewa, Lund University.

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Thematic seminar with project presentations

- Cristina Stoenescu - *Memories of Future Pasts. Artistic expression after 1989*
- Emma Louise Leahy - *Living Walls: Monumental Façades and the Afterlives of Socialist City*
- Łukasz Kielpiński - *Remembering Eastern Europe Through the Motion Pictures: Polish and Lithuanian Film Diaries in Exile*
- Gustav Lundberg - *The Ethnopolitical Spiral in (Re)Nationalizing State*

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16.30 - 17.30 Logbook writing

Key readings

- Maria Mälksö “Memory must be Defended’: Beyond the Politics of Mnemonical Security”, *Security Dialogue*, 46: 3 (2015): 221–237. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276398776>
- Barbara Törnquist-Plewa, “Eastern and Central Europe as a Region of Memory: Some Common Traits” in *CBEES State of the Region Report: 2020 Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past: A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2020), 15–22 <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Jacques Derrida, “Spectres of Marx”, *New Left Review*, 205 (May-June 1994): 31–58.

Wednesday, 14 August

The topic of the day: Trauma and Reconciliation

With Florence Fröhlig and Johanna Mannergren

Reconciliation has emerged as a key discourse in societies transitioning from conflict. It is often postulated that it is necessary to remember and acknowledge the past for individuals and societies to heal and come together after collective trauma and violence. The call to ‘forgive but not forget’ - or variants thereof - is regularly raised. However, sometimes remembering the past is seen as a threat, and a contradictory message tells survivors that it is in fact necessary to ‘move on’. Whose truth will be remembered and whose will be forgotten? This day will critically address the relationship between power, trauma, and reconciliation, and look into the thorny relationship between competing memories and historical truth.

09.00 – 10.00 *Historical truth and competing memories. Baltic and East-European perspectives.* | Florence Fröhlig, Södertörn University

10:00 – 10.30 Break

10.30 – 12.30 *The Politics of Reconciliation and Memory.* | Johanna Mannergren, Södertörn University

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Thematic seminar with project presentations

- Eva Ievgeniia Babenko - *Prospect of Reconciliation with the Residents of the Long-term Occupied Territories of Donbas*
- Hanna Horn - *Life Writing ByNet - (Auto-)biographical motives in digital dictatorship*
- Paula Friedericke Hartmann - *The representation of historical crimes in the graphic novel. A comparative study of perpetrator and victim narratives of the “third generation”*
- Vladislav Staf- *Memorialization of the Gulag and Stalin’s terror in Russian museums*

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16.30 – 17.30 Logbook writing

Film evening – *details TBA*

Key readings

- Florence Fröhlig, “Victimhood and Building Identities on Past Suffering” in *CBEES State of the Region Report: 2020 Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past. A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2020), 23–28. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Johanna Mannergren Selimovic, “The Politics of Reconciliation and Memory” in *Handbook on the Politics of Memory*, ed. Maria Mälksö (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023), 191–203. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-on-the-politics-of-memory-9781800372528.html>
- Paul Ricoeur, *Memory, History, Forgetting*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 68–92.

Thursday, 15 August

The topic of the day: Transnationality and Decoloniality: Translation and Transfer

With Yuliya Yurchuk and Eneken Laanes

Transnationality and decoloniality in regard of Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) occupy an important place in the recent discussions on memory in the region. The sessions will address the following questions: Can we apply a postcolonial theory to studies of the region? Is a decolonial perspective helpful for a better understanding of the relations of East European societies to their past(s)? How are shared histories and transnational interactions and (co)dependences reflected in the memory work?

9.00 – 10.00 *Discussions on Decolonisation of Memory in CEE.* | Yuliya Yurchuk, Södertörn University

10.00 – 10.30 Break

10.30 – 12.30 *Memory and Translation: Translational Transnationalism in CEE.* | Eneken Laanes, Tallinn University

12.30 – 14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Thematic seminar with project presentations

- Lea Garcia - *(Post-)Colonial Narratives in Institutional Memory Practices of the Baltics*
- Oleksandra Terentyeva - *Politics of Memory as a Practice of Decolonization. The Case of Ukraine.*
- Olga Khabibulina - *To Speak or Not to Speak: Is Russian Language Practices of Georgian Migrants in Poland a Manifestation of Post-Soviet Nostalgia?*
- Eugenia (Yevheniia) Seleznova - *Gendered and Queer Temporalities of the Russo-Ukrainian War*

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16.30 – 17.30 Logbook writing

Key readings

- Yuliya Yurchuk, “De-Canonization of the Soviet past: Abject, Kitsch, and Memory” in *De-Commemoration: Making Sense of Contemporary Calls for Tearing Down Statues and Renaming Places*, eds. Sarah Gensburger and Jenny Wüstenberg (New York: Berghahn Books, 2023), 106–113.
- Vitaly Chernetsky, “Confronting Epistemic Injustice: Centering Ukraine in the Paradigm Shift”, in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2024 A World Order in Transformation? A Comparative Study of Consequences of the War and Reactions to These Changes in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge & Södertörns högskola), 23–30. <https://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1846696/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Eneke Laanes, “Born Translated Memories: Transcultural Memorial Forms, Domestication and Foreignisation”, *Memory Studies*, 14:1 (2021): 41–57. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698020976459>

Friday, 16 August

The topic of the day: Reconstruction and Transformation

With Gruia Badescu and Irina Sandomirskaja

Urban environments combine the function of the “social condenser” of the present with the collective memorial function making sense of, and coming to terms with, the memory of crime, violence, and destruction. As part of an urban environment, the (architectural) monument is a material artefact not only signifying a privileged moment of the past but also materially incorporating the subject’s desire to get hold of and retain the past and to control time in general. This session will address the practices, imaginations, and psychoanalysis of repetition, and the search for reconciliation by means of reconstruction and restoration.

9.00 – 11.00 *The City and Making Sense of Violent Pasts: Architectural Reconstruction and Memorialization After War.* | Gruia Badescu, University of Konstanz

11.00 – 11.30 Break

11.30 – 12.30 *Construction – Destruction – Reconstruction: Breaking the Cycles of Repetition and Return.* | Irina Sandomirskaja, Södertörn University

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Thematic seminar with project presentations

- Ieva Sakelaite - *Artistic Interventions in Soviet Monuments and Urban Agency*
- Magdalena Marija Meašić - *How to Stage Soviet Operas in the 21st Century: Navigating (Soviet) Russian Music Heritage Amidst Revival and Boycott*
- Yevhen Yashchuk - *Memification of Bandera*

15.30 – 16.00 Break

16.00 – 17.30 Logbook sharing and concluding discussion led by Irina Sandomirskaja

Key readings

- Gruiă Badescu, "Urban Memory After War: Ruins and Reconstructions in Post- Yugoslav Cities" in *Contested Urban Spaces: Monuments, Traces, and Decentered Memories*, ed. Ulrike Capdepón and Sarah Dornhof (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), 229-252. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-87505-3_12
- Irina Sandomirskaja, "The Bodies and Memories of Murdered Cities" in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2022/23 Ecological Concerns in Transition: A Comparative Study on Responses to Waste and Environmental Destruction in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2023), 23–33. <https://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1746330/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Jean-Luc Nancy, "The Indestructible", in *A Finite Thinking* (Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 2003), 78–90.
- "There is No Heritage': Conversation with Jean-Luc Nancy and Peter Trawny on the Subject of Nationalism and Cultural Heritage", *Baltic Worlds*, 3 (2019): 70–81. <https://balticworlds.com/there-is-no-heritage/>

Saturday, 17 August

The topic of the day: Final Thoughts and Way Forward

09.00 – 10.30 Guided tour of Sigtuna; Meeting point: Sigtunastiftelsen

11.00 and onwards Departure

Bon voyage, and get home safe!

Literature list - Reading suggestions before the Summer School

General texts:

- Gruiă Badescu, "Urban Memory After War: Ruins and Reconstructions in Post- Yugoslav Cities" in *Contested Urban Spaces: Monuments, Traces, and Decentered Memories*, ed. Ulrike Capdepón and Sarah Dornhof (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), 229-252. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-87505-3_12
- Vitaly Chernetsky, "Confronting Epistemic Injustice: Centering Ukraine in the Paradigm Shift", in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2024 A World Order in Transformation? A Comparative Study of Consequences of the War and Reactions to These Changes in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge & Södertörns högskola), 23–30. <https://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1846696/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Jacques Derrida, "Spectres of Marx", *New Left Review*, 205 (May-June 1994): 31–58.
- Florence Fröhlig, "Victimhood and Building Identities on Past Suffering" in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2020 Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past. A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2020), 23–28. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Eneke Laanes, "Born Translated Memories: Transcultural Memorial Forms, Domestication and Foreignisation", *Memory Studies*, 14:1 (2021): 41–57. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698020976459>
- Johanna Mannergren Selimovic J. "The Politics of Reconciliation and Memory" in *Handbook on the Politics of Memory*, ed. Maria Mälksö (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023), 191–203. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-on-the-politics-of-memory-9781800372528.html>
- Maria Mälksö "'Memory must be Defended': Beyond the Politics of Mnemonical Security", *Security Dialogue*, 46: 3 (2015): 221–237. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276398776>
- Jean-Luc Nancy, "The Indestructible", in *A Finite Thinking* (Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 2003), 78–90.
- Irina Sandomirskaja, "The Bodies and Memories of Murdered Cities" in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2022/23 Ecological Concerns in Transition: A Comparative Study on Responses to Waste and Environmental Destruction in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2023), 23–33. <https://sh.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1746330/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- "'There is No Heritage': Conversation with Jean-Luc Nancy and Peter Trawny on the Subject of Nationalism and Cultural Heritage", *Baltic Worlds* 2019:3, 70–81. <https://balticworlds.com/there-is-no-heritage/>
- Barbara Törnquist-Plewa, "Eastern and Central Europe as a Region of Memory: Some Common Traits" in *CBEES State of the Region Report; 2020 Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past: A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region*,

- ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2020), 15–22. <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Paul Ricoeur, *Memory, History, Forgetting*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 68–92.
 - Yuliya Yurchuk, “De-Canonization of the Soviet past: Abject, Kitsch, and Memory” in *De-Commemoration: Making Sense of Contemporary Calls for Tearing Down Statues and Renaming Places*, eds. Sarah Gensburger and Jenny Wüstenberg (New York: Berghahn Books, 2023), 106–113.

Additional reading

- Gruia Bădescu, “Making Sense of Ruins: Architectural Reconstruction and Collective Memory in Belgrade” *Nationalities Papers*, 47:2 (2019): 182–197.
- *CBEES State of the Region Report: 2020 Constructions and Instrumentalization of the Past: A Comparative Study on Memory Management in the Region*, ed. Ninna Mörner (Huddinge: Södertörns högskola, 2020).
- <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1523899/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Johanna Mannergren Selimovic, “Articulating Presence of Absence: Everyday Memory and the Performance of Silence in Sarajevo”, in eds. Olivette Otele, Luisa Gandolfo, Yoav Galai, *Post-Conflict Memorialization: Memory Politics and Transitional Justice* (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-54887-2_2
- John Nagle, “Defying State Amnesia and Memory Wars: Non-Sectarian Memory Activism in Beirut and Belfast City Centres”, *Social & Cultural Geography*, 21:3 (2020): 380–401.
- Jean-Luc Nancy, “Beni Vacanti”, *Philosophy Today*, 60: 4 (Fall 2016): 869-876. DOI:10.5840/philtoday2016112133
- Andrzej Nowak, “Political Correctness and Memories Constructed for ‘Eastern Europe’”, in *Memory and Change in Europe. Eastern Perspectives*, eds. Małgorzata Pakier and Joanna Wawrzyniak (New-York: Berghahn Books, 2015), 38 – 58.
- Jeffrey K. Olick, *The Politics of Regret. On Collective Memory and Historical Responsibility*. (New York and London: Routledge, 2007).
- Barbara Törnquist-Plewa and Yuliya Yurchuk. “Memory Politics in Contemporary Ukraine: Reflections from the Postcolonial Perspective”, *Memory Studies* 12:6 (2019): 699–720. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698017727806>
- Katherine Verdery, *The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Postsocialist Change*. (New-York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 1 – 53.
- Alexei Yurchak, “[Soviet Hegemony of Form: Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More](#)”, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 45: 3 (2003): 480–510.