

POST-SOCIALIST

MEMORY IN TIMES OF
CRISES AND SPECULATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

— Yerevan, 22-24 January, 2026 —



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
THU, JAN 22		
09:15 - 09:45	Opening: HOVHANNES HOVHANNISYAN, YSU Rector	Academic Councils Hall
09:45 - 11:00	KEYNOTE 1 LORI KHATCHADOURIAN (Chair: Alexander Agadjanian)	Academic Councils Hall
11:00 - 11:30	Break	
11:30 - 13:15	SESSION 1: PARALLEL PANELS 1.1. - 1.6.	See full program below
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch	Academic Councils Hall
14:15 - 16:00	SESSION 2: PARALLEL PANELS 2.1. - 2.5.	See full program below
16:00 - 16:30	Break	
16:30 - 17:45	KEYNOTE 2 ANDREW HOSKINS (Chair: Boris Noordenbos)	Academic Councils Hall
18:00 - 20:00	Reception	Academic Councils Hall
FRI, JAN 23		
09:00 - 10:45	SESSION 3: PARALLEL PANELS 3.1. - 3.5.	See full program below
10:45 - 11:15	Break	
11:15 - 13:15	Special event: Slow Memory roundtable	Academic Councils Hall
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch	Palian Hall
14:15 - 16:00	SESSION 4: PARALLEL PANELS 4.1. - 4.5.	See full program below
16:00 - 16:30	Transfer to Genocide Museum	Buses From University
16:30 - 18:30	KEYNOTE 3 HARUTYUN MARUTYAN (Chair: Edita Gzoyan). Museum Tour.	Genocide Museum /Institute (Tsitsernakaberd Memorial)
SAT, JAN 24		
09:00 - 10:15	KEYNOTE 4 YULIYA YURCHUK (Chair: Daria Khlevniuk)	Academic Councils Hall
10:15 - 10:30	Break	Academic Councils Hall
10:30 - 12:15	SESSION 5: PARALLEL PANELS 5.1. - 5.5.	See full program below
12:15 - 12:45	Break	
12:45 - 14:30	SESSION 6: PARALLEL PANELS 6.1. - 6.5.	See full program below
16:00 - 18:30	CLOSING EVENT: FILM 1489 + Q & A	House of Cinema, 18 Vardanants St.
19:00	Conference dinner	Pandok Restaurant, 92 Teryan St.
SUN, JAN 25		
10:00 - 14:00	Tour to Garni and Geghard (participants' choice)	Buses from hotel/university

FULL PROGRAM

DAY / TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday, January 22		
09:15 - 09:45	Opening: Hovhannes Hovhannisyán, YSU Rector	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
09:45 - 11:00	Keynote 1. Lori Khatchadourian (Cornell University). <i>“Memory in Orbit: Satellite Imagery as Cultural Witness.”</i> Chair: Alexander Agadjanian (Yerevan State University) >>> <i>See Appendices for description</i>	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Break	
11:30 - 13:15	SESSION 1: PARALLEL PANELS	
	1.1. Shaping Futures in Times of Transformations	<i>Palian Hall</i>
	Ute Hirsekorn (University of Nottingham) – Post-Socialist Perspectives of East Germans in Today’s United Germany	
	Olga Malinova (Institute of Scientific Information for Social Sciences, RAS) – Foreseeing a Hazy Future by Invoking the Usable Past: The Analysis of Public Discourses in Russia	
	Victor Shnirelman (Russian Academy of Sciences) – A visualization of Good and Evil: Producing Symbolic Capital in Post-Soviet Russia	
	Haykuhi Muradyan (Yerevan State University) – “Friendship” or “Occupation”? On Two Post-Soviet Constructs in the South Caucasus	
	Chair: Daria Khlevniuk (University of Amsterdam)	
	1.2. Heritage Activism in Contemporary Russia: Between Silencing and Mobilization	<i>Room 415</i>
	Aleksandr Rusanov (Bielefeld University) – Protection, Conservation and Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Discourses of Heritage Activists	
	Vladislav Staf (New Sorbonne University) – Local Initiatives vs Official Projects: Conflicts over Gulag Heritage	
	Alexandra Kolesnik (Bielefeld University) – Soviet Rock Heritage: Appropriation of Viktor Tsoi’s Legacy	
	Anastasia Serikova (Bielefeld University) – Pro-War Volunteering as a Form of Activism in Russian Museums after 2022	
	Chair: Petra Hudek (Vilnius University)	
	1.3. Memories of the Future: Imagining the Soviet Past through Conspiracy Theories, ‘Alternative History,’ and Religious Practices	<i>Room 416</i>
	Alexander Panchenko (European University at St. Petersburg) – Soviet and Post-Soviet Moral Worlds in ‘the Dulles Plan for Russia’ Conspiracy Theory	
	Sergei Shtyrkov (Yerevan Center for International Education) – “To Reclaim Our Chronicles from the Vatican”: The Citizens of the USSR Movement in Search of Historical Justice	
	Kseniya Sirotkina (European University at St. Petersburg) – “People Became Consumers” vs. “Turn on Your Heart, Not Your Mind.” How Do Spiritual Seekers at the Lake Svetloyar Support the Image of “Soviet Moral Subject” and Criticize it	

	Daniil Koskov (European University at St. Petersburg) –“In the Soviet Union, You Could Study Anything You Wanted, From Atlantis to Bigfoot, and Now They Call Us Alternative Historians.” “Alternative History,” Stigmatized Knowledge and the Soviet Past	
	Chair: Alexander Agadjanian (Yerevan State University)	
	1.4. Commemorating Violence: Reconstructing Memory on Collective and Individual Levels in Diasporic and Domestic Contexts	<i>Room 417</i>
	Gevorg Vardanyan & Narine Hakobyan (Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute) – Commemorating the Hamidian Massacres: Armenian American Memory Activism in the 1890s.”	
	Arman Khachatryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute) – Entrenchment of the Armenian Genocide Memorialization by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem as Diasporic Identity Policy	
	Robert Tatoyan (Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute) – From Deir ez-Zor to the Gulag: The Experience of the Young Turk Genocide and Stalinist Repression in the Memoir Literature of Western Armenians	
	Garik Atanesyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) – What Did They Die for?’ Commemorating the Artsakh Wars Before and After the Ethnic Cleansing	
	Chair: Arman Khachatryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute)	
	1.5. Cultural Memories in Post-Socialist Contexts	<i>Room 418</i>
	Anastasia de La Fortelle (University of Lausanne) – Oblivion as Liberation (?): Memory and Forgetting in Russian and Ukrainian Post-Soviet Historical Prose Fiction”	
	John K. Cox (North Dakota State University) – From Chronicle to Reportage: Translating Midcentury Serbian Works by Isidora Sekulic and Milka Zicina	
	Bilyana Manolova (University of Amsterdam) – Weaving Wounds: Reading the Structures of Trauma in Post-Soviet Life Writing	
	Thomas Maier (University of Basel) — Empire of Trauma: Roman Senchin’s Zona Zatopleniia and the Drowning out of Colonial Violence	
	Chair: Lana Lovrenčić (Independent scholar)	
	1.6. Videoessay screening & conversation with the artist - “The Monument of Glory, the Glory of the Monument” (2026, 32 min.) by Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair. Chair: Anna Topolska (Independent Scholar, PoSoCoMeS) >>> See Appendices for description	<i>YSU Cultural Center, 6th floor.</i>
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
14:15 - 16:00	SESSION 2: PARALLEL PANELS	
	2.1. After Industry: Mnemonic Emotion Narratives of Post-Socialist Europe	<i>Room 416</i>
	Jogilė Ulinskaitė & Joanna Wawrzyniak (Vilnius University; University of Warsaw) – How to Uncover Emotions in Memory? A Conceptual Framework of Mnemonic Emotion Narratives	
	Rimantė Jaugaitė (University of Warsaw) – From Production to Display: The Emotional Politics of Industrial Memory in Museums	

Aušra Teleišė (Vilnius University) – Pride and Memory in Post-Socialist Industry in Lithuania	
Krzysztof Florek (University of Warsaw) – Shame and Memory in Post-Socialist Industry in Poland	
Chair: John K. Cox (North Dakota State University)	
2.2. Memory Across Borders: International Relations and Transnational Legacies	<i>Room 417</i>
Ivan Peshkov (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) – Memory, Spectrality and (Post) Soviet Border Imagination in Inner Asia	
Nebojša Đorđević (University of Belgrade) – How Do We Remember the Non-Aligned Movement? (Ab)use of Yugoslav Political Heritage in Post-Socialist Serbia	
Tamar Karaia (Tbilisi State University) – From Abkhazia to Bucha: Reframing Forgotten Atrocities in Light of the Russia–Ukraine War	
Hisashi Shigematsu (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Meiji Gakuin University & Vytautas Magnus University) – Models of Historical Memory in Post-Socialist Central and Eastern Europe: A Comparative Perspective with a Focus on Lithuania	
Chair: Mikayel Zolyan (Brusov State University)	
2.3. Displaced Languages and Populations in the Context of Crisis-Driven Memory	<i>Room 418</i>
Victoria Khurshudyan (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales - INALCO, CNRS, SeDyL), Gayane Shagoyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) – Traumatic Memory and Displacement: A Comparative Study of Artsakh Armenians in the 1990s and 2020s	
Hasmik Knyazyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia), Victoria Khurshudyan (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales - INALCO, CNRS, SeDyL) – Dialect and Displacement in the Digital Sphere: Social Media and Cultural Identity Among Artsakh Armenians	
Anaid Donabedian (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales - INALCO, CNRS, SeDyL), Pollet Samvelian (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, CNRS, Lattice) – Diaspora and the Language of Displacement: Memory, Crisis, and Linguistic Change Across Waves	
Gohar Stepanyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia), Anaid Donabedian (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales – INALCO, CNRS, SeDyL) – Carrying Language, Producing Locality: Material and Linguistic Strategies of Artsakh Armenians in Displacement	
Chair: Gayane Shagoyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)	
2.4. The Second World War and its Life and Afterlives in Central and Eastern Europe	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
Anna Topolska (Independent scholar) – Semiotics of Visual Memory: Photographs by Zbigniew Zielonacki of Poznań at the End of the Second World War and their Afterlife in Postwar Decades	
Lana Lovrenčić (Independent scholar) – Kamenska Between Erasure and Revival: Augmented Reality and the Afterlife of Anti-Fascist Monuments	
Petra Hudek (Vilnius University) – Politics of Commemoration and Musealization of Czech and Slovak Public Spaces	

	Félix Krawatzek & Hakob Matevosyan (University of Oxford; ZOIS-Berlin) – Victory or Day of Sorrow? World War II Remembrance among Russian-speaking Communities Chair: Daria Khlevniuk (University of Amsterdam)	
	2.5. Memory and Forgetting Across Generations	<i>Palian Hall</i>
	Nona Shahnazarian (Institute for Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Centre for Independent Social Research Armenia - CISR Armenia) – Memory Conflicts in Diaspora: Intergenerationally Transmitted Trauma and Identity Among Armenian Refugees from Baku Katarzyna Szarla (University of Warsaw) – “...but Together with Our Dead”: Remembering HIV/AIDS Crisis in Poland Evgenia Guliaeva (The Russian Museum of Ethnography) – Memory of the Forced Displacement of Nakhichevan Armenians in the Late 1980s Aneta Strzemżalska (University of Warsaw) – Jazz, Cultural Memory, and Nation-Building: Ethnographic Insights into Postsocialist Azerbaijan Chair: Alexander Agadjanian (Yerevan State University)	
16:15 - 18:00	Keynote 2. Andrew Hoskins (University of Edinburgh). <i>Remembering Sharded War.</i> Chair: Boris Noordenbos (University of Amsterdam) >>> See Appendices for description	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
18 : 00	Reception	<i>Academic Councils Hall area</i>
Friday, January 23		
09:00 - 10:45	SESSION 3: PARALLEL PANELS	
	3.1. Complex Pasts of Complex Landscapes in Armenia (Round Table)	<i>Room 415</i>
	Tigran Amiryan (Cultural and Social Narratives Laboratory & Freie Universität Berlin) – Blue Memory: The Canalized River as the Main Narrative of Erased Waterscapes in Post-Soviet Yerevan Hourig Attarian (American University of Armenia) – Narrating the City through its Waterways Eviya Hovhannisyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, & Heinrich Böll Foundation South Caucasus Regional Office) – Steel Routes, Shifting Frontiers: Colonial Infrastructures and their Legacies in Armenia Arsen Abrahamyan (Cultural and Social Narratives Laboratory) – Urban Memory and Spatial Discontinuity: Hrazdan Gorge in the Shadow of Soviet Development Chair: Nelli Manucharyan (Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)	
	3.2. Wars, Mythologies and Conspiracies	<i>Room 417</i>
	Arseniy Kumankov (University of Mainz) – “We Are Peaceful People”. War Memory in Russian Classrooms Aleksei Titkov (University of Manchester) – The Logic of Memory Formation in Polarised Convergent Media: the Case of the Odesa Fire 2014 Gleb Aleksandrov (Higher School of Economics) – From New Chronology to Superethnic Entities: Conspiratoriality and Memory in Contemporary Russian Politics Chair: Petra Hudek (Vilnius University)	

	3.3. Memory of Trauma in Visual Media I	Room 418
	Anahit Baghdasaryan (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences) – Drawing Comics in Artsakh: the Intuition of Loss, and Hope for the Future	
	Elzbieta Olzacka (Jagiellonian University in Krakow) – The War Poster in the Digital Age: Real-Time Memory and Visual Mobilization in Ukraine	
	Nevena Dakovic (University of Arts in Belgrade & Shoahlab, IFDT Belgrade) – Cultural Trauma and Screen Memories of the Armenian Genocide	
	Chair: Ute Hirsekorn (University of Nottingham)	
	3.4. Displaced and Replaced Memory	Palian Hall
	Mikayel Zolyan (Brusov State University) – Good and Bad Bolsheviks: “Soviet” and “Anti-Soviet” Heroes in the Politics of Memory of Post-Soviet Armenia	
	Félix Krawatzek (ZOIS Berlin) – A Fractured Mnemonic Landscape? A Comparison Between Russian- and Estonian-Speaking Estonians	
	Ekaterina Haskins (Pennsylvania State University) – Displaced but not Erased: Returning the Names and / as a Resistant Mnemonic Diaspora	
	Natalia Drannikova (European University at St. Petersburg) – The Solovetsky Stone in Arkhangelsk as a Symbol of Traumatic Memory of Soviet Repression: From Statement to Oblivion	
	Chair: Arman Khachatryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute)	
	3.5. Artist talk and AR artistic intervention - “Silence That Tore Down the Monument” by Lana Lovrenčić, Chair: Anna Topolska (Independent Scholar, PoSoCoMeS)	Academic Councils Hall
	>>> See Appendices for description	
10:45 - 11:15	Break	
11:15 - 13:15	Special event: Slow Memory in Post-Socialism and Beyond (a roundtable)	Academic Councils Hall
	Speakers: Sara Jones (University of Birmingham), Joanna Wawrzyniak (University of Warsaw), Danielle Krikorian (University of Birmingham)	
	Discussants: Lusine Kharatyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and Yerevan State University)	
	Alexander Agadjanian (Yerevan State University)	
	Chair: Anna Topolska (Independent Scholar, PoSoCoMeS)	
	>>> See Appendices for description	
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch with demonstration >>> See Appendices for description	Palian Hall (4th floor)
14:15 - 16:00	SESSION 4: PARALLEL PANELS	
	4.1. Mediated Memory and Wartime Imagery	Room 415
	Olha Polishchuk (Saarland University) – Memory in the Making: War Diaries as Living Archives of the Russo-Ukrainian War	
	Svitlana Kot (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University & Saarland University) – Witnessing the Borders in Flux: Affective Geographies, Memory-Making and Popular Art in Wartime Ukraine	
	Alina Mozolevska (Saarland University & Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University) – Wartime Populism and Memory Construction Amid Shifting Borders: Zelensky Instagram communication during the Russo-Ukrainian War	

	Alexandra Filonenko (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) – Tolkienian References in Social Media Discourse of the Russian-Ukrainian War	
	Chair: Daria Khlevniuk (University of Amsterdam)	
	4.2. Counter-Memories: Contesting Imperial Pasts From Below	<i>Room 416</i>
	Lois Kalb (European University Institute) – Affective Space: Altering Memories of Moving to and Growing up in Soviet-era Mass Housing Districts in Riga	
	Anastasiya Pshenychnykh (Loughborough University) – Engaging with the Contested Soviet Past: Ukrainians’ Regional, National and Transnational Patterns of Perception, Reception and Activism	
	Jeremy Walton (University of Rijeka) – Beyond Ruination and Aestheticization: Enunciating the Imperial Past of Petrova Gora	
	Chair: John K. Cox (North Dakota State University)	
	4.3. Urban Memories & Visual Culture	<i>Room 417</i>
	Daria Radchenko (RANEPA, Moscow) – Future of the Past, Past of the Future: Memory Controversies around Soviet Architecture on Social Media	
	Luka Bedoshvili (KU Leuven & Research Foundation Flanders) – Post-war Liminality on Screen: Soviet Hotel-Sanatoria and the Internally Displaced through the Lens of Georgian Documentary Cinema	
	Shiqi Lin (Cornell University) – Bunker Urbanism: Apocalyptic Echoes, Creative Sociality, and Post-Socialist Memory in Flux	
	Chair: Lana Lovrenčić (Independent scholar)	
	4.4. The Ethics of Memory	<i>Room 418</i>
	Lusine Angelush & Gayane Hakobyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) – Commemorating the Fallen Soldiers of the 44-day War: From Official Practices to Virtual Mourning	
	Ani Yedigaryan (York University) – Beyond Forgiveness: Ethical Responses to Denialism and the Armenian Genocide	
	Ekaterina A. O. Shipyatsky (University of Michigan) – Material Refusal: The Radical Potential of Memory Institutions in the Aftermath of Violence	
	Ljiljana Radonic (Austrian Academy of Sciences) – Polish, Japanese and Chinese “Schindlers”: Comparing Musealization in Post-Socialist Europe and East Asia	
	Chair: Witold Mrozek (University of Warsaw)	
	4.5. Space, Materiality, and Post-Soviet Memories	<i>Palian Hall</i>
	Marie-Aude Baronian (University of Amsterdam) — Trunks, Suitcases and Other (Post)memory Containers: Unboxing the Armenian Catastrophe	
	Arsen Abrahamyan (CSN Lab, Yerevan)— Heterotopias: The Socialist Legacy in Post-Socialist Memory Landscapes	
	Kseniia Bepalova (University of Groningen) — Fabulating Waters: Memory and Environment in Central Asian Artist’s Films	
	Bogna Bochinska (University of Amsterdam) — Archipelago of Memory: Szczecin Lagoon and the Fragmented Memories of (Re)settlement at the Waterfront	
	Chair: Ekaterina Haskins (Pennsylvania State University)	
	4.6. Film Screening: Aurora’s Sunrise (2022). Director: Inna Sahakyan >>> <i>See Appendices for description</i>	<i>YSU Cultural Center (6th floor)</i>
16:00 - 16:30	Transfer to the Genocide Museum	

16:30 - 18:30	Keynote 3. Harutyun Marutyan. <i>The Biography of a Memorial: Anthropological Perspectives on Armenian Genocide Commemoration</i> (with a Museum tour). Chair: Edita Gzoyan (Director, Genocide Museum-Institute)	
Saturday, January 24		
09:00 - 10:15	Keynote 4. Yuliya Yurchuk (Södertörn University). <i>Invasive Memory and Mnemonic Resilience: Studying Memory from the Epicenter of History.</i> Chair: Daria Khlevniuk (University of Amsterdam) >>> See Appendices for description	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
10:15 - 10:30	Break	
10:30 - 12:15	SESSION 5: PARALLEL PANELS	
	5.1. Postsocialist Transitions as Sites of Retrospective and Prospective Imaginations	<i>Academic Councils Hall</i>
	Stanislav Holubec (Czech Academy of Sciences) – Past as a part of the future? Remembering as part of designing the independent Czech and Slovak republics 1992–1993 Andrei Zavadski (TU Dortmund University) – Past hopes in present struggles: Exhibitions and other forms of visitor engagement in museums of postsocialist transitions Venera Avetisyan & Ksenia Robbe (Armenian-Russian University; University of Groningen) – New languages for remembering the violence of (post-)transitions in Russian and Armenian autofiction Chair: Ksenia Robbe (University of Groningen)	
	5.2. Between Wars: Memory Work on the Armenian Genocide through a Novel, Photographs, and Ritual Porridge	<i>Room 415</i>
	Hülya Adak (Orient-Institut Istanbul) – Afterlives of Franz Werfel’s “The Forty Days of Musa Dagh” in Contemporary Turkey Su Hyeon Cho (University of Oxford) – En Route to Musa Dagh: Harisa in the Diaspora and the Practice of Cooking as Memory Work Discussant: Andrea Pető (Central European University) Chair: Arman Khachatryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute)	
	5.3. Post-Socialist Memories Through the Lens of Street Arts: Loss, Future, and Method	<i>Room 416</i>
	Amalia Dilanyan & Hayk Hakobyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia; Russian-Armenian University) Mariam Petrosyan & Nona Shahnazarian (Institute for Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) – Field at Home: Dialogical Autoethnography of Fallen-Soldier Graffiti and Difficult Memories in Post-Socialist Armenia Anna Sargsyan & Oleg Reut (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) – Memory on the Walls: How Armenian War Murals Are Politically Appropriated Sarah Wilson (Stirling University) – Armenian Representations of Fallen Soldiers: Thoughts Prompted by a Comparison with Murals in Interface Areas of Belfast Chair: Hourig Attarian (American University of Armenia)	

	5.4. Weaponization of Memory	<i>Room 417</i>
	Andrei Prudnikov (University of Lisbon) – Weaponized Memories: Conspiracy Theories and the Struggle over Post-Soviet History in Russia	
	Karina Belik (Humboldt University) – WWII Remembrance and the Framing of the Invasion of Ukraine in Russian Museums	
	Olga Zabalueva & Tatiana Romashko (Umeå University; University of Jyväskylä) – “Patriotic” Memory Practices in Russia: Weaponisation of the Past	
	Anastasia Tarakanova (HSE) – The Usage of History for Political Nation-Building in Russia, 2014–2022	
	Chair: Alexander Agadjanian (Yerevan State University)	
	5.5. Memory of Trauma in Visual Media II	<i>Room 418</i>
	Svitlana Pidoprygora (Basel & Innsbruck) – Post-Socialist Memory in Panels: Denial and Embrace in Documentary Comics	
	Halyna Lystvak (Lviv Polytechnic) – Reimagining the Motherland: The Image of Ukraine in Visual Books Amid the Russo-Ukrainian War	
	Milena Rossokhatska (University of Amsterdam) – Platformed Memory: Decolonisation and YouTube in Post-2022 Ukraine	
	Chair: Lana Lovrenčić (Independent scholar)	
12:15 - 12:45	Break	
12:45 - 14:30	SESSION 6: PARALLEL PANELS	
	6.1. From Propaganda to Conspiracy: Post-Socialist Memoryscapes and the Tourist Gaze	<i>Room 415</i>
	Jovana Janinovic (University of Montenegro) – Speculative Memories: Anecdotes, Cognitive Biases and Tourist Imaginaries in Communist Guided Tours	
	Magdalena Banaszekiewicz (Jagiellonian University Krakow) – Chornobyl as a Conspiratorial Landscape: Virtual Tourism and the Creation of Post-Apocalyptic Memories	
	Kinga Gajda (Jagiellonian University Krakow) – Radiophobia, Rumours and Ruins: Conspiracy Discourses and Cold War Shelters in Post-Socialist Memory	
	Mariia Rastvorova (“KROK” University & University of Graz) – Interpretation of Recent War Heritage during the Ongoing War: Tourist Guides as Narrators of Collective Memory	
	Chair: Sabine Stach (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe - GWZO)	
	6.2. Imagined Pasts, Invented Traditions	<i>Room 416</i>
	Indira Hajnács (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe - GWZO) – “Strengthening the Eastern Roots”: Reinventing Ancient Musical Traditions in Hungary	
	Matthias Schwartz (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literary and Cultural Research - ZfL Berlin) – Reimagining the Communist Past: Resentment and Escapism in Recent Eastern European Popular Culture	
	Aleksandra Szczepan (University of Potsdam) – Imagining the People, Remembering the Injustice: Peasants in Polish Popular Culture	
	Nina Weller (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literary and Cultural Research, ZfL Berlin) – “Like the Cossacks...” Reactivation and Rewriting of a Myth in Ukrainian Popular Culture (1970s–2000s)	
	Chair: John K. Cox (North Dakota State University)	

	6.3. Armenian Lost Cities and Regions: Memories, Imageries, and Practices	<i>Room 417</i>
	Karen Jallatyan (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe - GWZO) – Travelogue, Diasporic Ruin Images of the Medieval Capital of Ani	
	Konrad Siekierski (Free University in Berlin) – Memory on Foot: Armenian Pilgrimages to the Lost Homeland	
	Lilit Saghatelyan (Pázmány Péter Catholic University) – Intergenerational Narratives of Nakhijevan Armenians after 1988	
	Zhenya Ghazaryan (Pázmány Péter Catholic University) – Compatriotic Unions as Institutions of Collective Memory: The Case of the Van-Vaspurakan Compatriotic Union	
	Chair: Lilit Ghazaryan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia)	
	Discussant: Yulia Antonyan (Yerevan State University)	
	6.4. Strategic Use of the Genocide Rhetoric	<i>Palian Hall</i>
	Hanna Vasilevich (International Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies) – Memory Politics in Belarus: Navigating Historical Narratives Amidst Political Turmoil	
	Daria Khlevniuk & Boris Noordenbos (University of Amsterdam) – Conspiratorial Memory and the “Genocide of the Soviet People”	
	Irina Rebrova (Center for Research on Antisemitism at TU Berlin) – The Concept of “Genocide of the Soviet People” in the “Victorious” State: Political Dimensions of Memory on World War II in Contemporary Russia	
	Yurii Latysh (State University of Londrina) – Genocides in Ukrainian textbooks	
	Chair: Lana Lovrenčić (Independent scholar)	
	6.5. Film screening and discussion: <i>Cardboard</i> documentary (67 min, Mediazona/Razrez. Lithuania, 2025. Directed by Egor Isaev). Chair: Andrei Zavadski (TU Dortmund University) >>> <i>See Appendices for description</i>	<i>YSU Cultural Center (6th floor)</i>
16:00 - 18:30	Closing event. Screening of <i>1489</i> , documentary film by Shoghakat Vardanyan (2023). Moderator: Gayane Shagoyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia) >>> <i>See Appendices for description</i>	<i>House of Cinema, 18 Vardanants St.</i>
19 : 00	Conference Dinner	<i>Pandok (Yerevan Tavern) restaurant - 92 Teryan St.</i>
Sunday, January 25		
10:00 - 14:00	Tour to Garni and Geghard (participants' choice)	<i>Buses from the University</i>

APPENDICES

Keynote 1.

Lori Khatchadourian (Associate Professor of Archaeology, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University). "Memory in Orbit: Satellite Imagery as Cultural Witness" - Jan 22, 09:45, Academic Councils Hall.

(Simultaneous translation into Armenian provided).

As satellite images become increasingly embedded in our daily lives, what are the implications of this digital media for human perception, memory, and our relationship to cultural loss? This paper explores the evolving role of satellite imagery as a technology of remembrance, examined through the lens of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Through engagement with theories of photography and memory, I ask how satellite imagery's distinct temporal and spatial characteristics - its iterative nature, orbital perspective, and capacity to capture landscape change over time - might create new possibilities for bearing witness. While satellite imagery operates at a celestial remove from human experience, the analysis considers the ramifications of this representational form and its circulation on social media for shaping public memory in the digital age. I draw on the work of my research group, Caucasus Heritage Watch, which uses satellites to document cultural heritage caught up in the wars between Armenia and Azerbaijan. How can the evidentiary and symbolic qualities of the satellite image foster ethical engagement with heritage destruction?

Panel 1.6.

Videessay screening & conversation with the artist - "The Monument of Glory, the Glory of the Monument" (2026, 32 min.) by Ekaterina Shapiro-Obermair - Jan 22, Panel 1.6, 11:30, YSU Culture Center (6th floor)

The essayistic video work engages with the so-called "Monument of Glory" erected in 1970 in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv and then gradually dismantled between spring 2019 and the summer of 2021. Once one of the most significant war monuments in the region, the site increasingly became a focal point of public debate about Ukrainian history following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. While some groups, mourning the fall of the Soviet Union, used the memorial for gatherings on various Soviet holidays and commemorative dates, others repeatedly attacked the site to mark a symbolic break with the Soviet past. Between 2010 and 2023, the artist visited the location on multiple occasions, producing numerous photographs and video recordings. These document both the monument's gradual transformation and the ways in which people interacted with it. In light of subsequent developments, the material is unique, carrying both artistic and historical-documentary value. In the film, the visuals are accompanied by a female voice-over reflecting on the art-historical, socio-cultural, and historical dimensions of the monument.

Chair: Anna Topolska (Independent Scholar, PoSoCoMeS)

Keynote 2.

Andrew Hoskins (University of Edinburgh). "Remembering sharded war" - Jan 22, 16:15, Academic Councils Hall (Simultaneous translation into Armenian provided).

There is a digital war over memory.

Since the mid 2010s, a transformational memory boom around the self has been unfolding, at astonishing speed and scale. Never has the individual produced and shared so much information about themselves and their experiences. And the millions of messages, images and videos, pouring out of smartphones and shared on platforms, surely makes the 2022- Russian war against Ukraine, the most documented but also the most personalised war in history. Soldiers, civilians, journalists, victims, aid workers, presidents, journalists, are all recording and uploading their experience and vision of events second by second, tracking every twist and turn. The battlefield seems open to all. But visibility is no assured sign of recognition or remembrance. Rather, social media shape sharded war (Merrin & Hoskins 2025), namely that which users experience through split, splintered, fractured, personalised, streamed and shattered feeds. With the reality of continuous human suffering and trauma for entire populations combined with its digital streaming, what kind of memory of war might emerge? How will it be found and secured, erased or lost? How will it be used and to what ends?

Panel 3.5

Artist talk and AR artistic intervention - “Silence That Tore Down the Monument” by Lana Lovrenčić, Chair: Anna Topolska (Independent Scholar, PoSoCoMeS) - Jan 23, 09:00, Panel 3.5, Academic Councils Hall.

An artist talk between Sandro Đukić, multimedia artist, and Lana Lovrenčić, art historian and curator, focusing on the artistic project of re-enacting the Kamenska monument through AR (augmented reality) technology at its original site. The conversation will also explore the idea of ensuring permanent access to the monument through a QR code, allowing viewers to re-enact the monument via their smartphones. For more information and to view the development of the virtual 3D model of the monument, please visit the project page:

 <https://silence-monument.com/making-of/>.

Special event:

Slow Memory in Post-Socialism and Beyond (a roundtable) - Jan 23, 11:15, Academic Councils Hall

This roundtable will introduce the concept of “Slow Memory” developed in and through the recently concluded COST Network of the same name. Slow Memory helps us to focus on the remembrance of the long-term processes and other transformations that are not the result of sudden or extreme events, but which may be just as impactful. It also allows us to surface the memories that are often unspoken, but which continue to resonate unnamed in everyday practice and discourse. Panelists will explore how “Slow Memory” can be made productive in different disciplinary contexts and locations in post-socialism and beyond. The panel will introduce the edited volume emerging from the COST Action, *Slowing Down Memory Studies: Theory and Practice of Remembering for Transformative Change* (eds. Joanna Wawrzyniak and Jenny Wüstenberg, forthcoming with Bloomsbury in 2026), including discussion of chapters on memory of politics and memory of (de)industrialization. Respondents will reflect on the ways in which “Slow Memory” is useful in the Caucasus context and in their practice.

Lunch with demonstration - Jan 23, 13:15, Palian Hall.

Lunch with a live demonstration of preparing *jingyalov hats*, a traditional Artsakh flatbread with greens. Presenter: Kristina Balayan, owner and co-founder of Tumanyan’s ART, an inclusive education center–restaurant originally based in Stepanakert, Artsakh, and reestablished in Yerevan as a hub for the displaced Artsakh community.

Panel 4.6. Screening of Aurora’s Sunrise (2022) - Jan 23, 14:15 - 16:00, YSU Cultural Center (6th floor).

The film directed by Inna Sahakyan is an award-winning animated documentary based on the life of Aurora (Arshaluys) Mardiganian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Combining animation with rare archival footage from the long-lost 1919 silent film *Auction of Souls*, interviews with the elderly Mardiganian, and historical materials, the film reconstructs Aurora’s journey from genocide and displacement to activism in the United States. Mardiganian’s testimony, first published in her autobiography *Ravished Armenia* (1918), became a powerful tool for humanitarian fundraising for genocide survivors and orphans. Through its multilayered narrative, the film reflects on trauma, survival, and the afterlives of memory across generations.

Keynote 3.

Harutyun Marutyan. *The Biography of a Memorial: Anthropological Perspectives on Armenian Genocide Commemoration* (with a Museum tour). Chair: Edita Gzoyan (Director, Genocide Museum-Institute) - Jan 23, 16:30, Genocide Memorial-Institute.

This keynote offers an anthropological rethinking of genocide memorials as dynamic mnemonic actors rather than fixed sites of remembrance. Focusing on the Armenian Genocide Memorial, the presentation develops the concept of a memorial’s “biography” to trace how commemorative spaces accumulate, reconfigure, and transmit meaning across shifting political regimes, temporal horizons, and crises. Drawing on long-term ethnographic research and engaging with key contributions to memory studies (Pierre Nora, James E. Young, Jay Winter, Peter Jan Margry), the talk examines how architectural additions, ritual practices, inscriptions, and spatial reconfigurations transform the memorial into a

layered mnemonic assemblage - a palimpsestic memory landscape in which genocide remembrance is continuously reframed in relation to later episodes of mass violence, forced displacement, and renewed existential threat. The memorial serves as a site where historical trauma is reinterpreted through present anxieties, moral claims, and competing memory regimes, revealing how post-socialist societies negotiate the relationship between past catastrophe and contemporary insecurity.

Keynote 4.

Yuliya Yurchuk (Södertörn University). *“Invasive Memory and Mnemonic Resilience: Studying Memory from the Epicenter of History” - Jan 24, 9:00, Academic Councils Hall. (Simultaneous translation into Armenian provided).*

The lecture approaches the challenges of memory studies in the context of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. It proposes revising some concepts of memory studies that were elaborated in the peaceful context and for the peaceful times. The lecture focuses on the entanglement of memory and history in the context of a global polycrisis in which geopolitical, epistemic, environmental, and technogenic threats interconnect and amplify each other. The lecture proposes insights that can be relevant not only to Ukraine or Eastern Europe but to a broader global context. Multiple crises and war have a detrimental impact on collective memory resulting in corroboration and fragmentation of communities. In my talk I will introduce a new theoretical framework for studying cultural memory in the rapidly changing world approaching destructive aspects of memory as *invasive memory*. These destructive aspects range from disinformation that contributes to post-truth and post-trust societies to total corrosion of memory because of the annihilation of the living environment and remembering communities. I also introduce the concept *mnemonic resilience* that addresses strategies and practices aimed at counteracting invasive memory and sustaining social ties. The proposed conceptual framework draws on writings of intellectuals based in Ukraine. In this way, the lecture shares insights on memory and history from the epicenter of the war which defines the future of the region and of the world.

Panel 6.5.

Cardboard (Kartonnaia pamiat) documentary (Mediazona/Razrez, Lithuania, 2025, directed by Egor Isaev) - Jan 24, 12:45, YSU Cultural Center (6th floor)

The film tells the story of protest memory in Moscow, focusing on the civic initiative Last Address. It documents a grassroots project that commemorates victims of Stalinist terror through small memorial plaques installed on residential buildings. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, these plaques have been increasingly destroyed or removed across the city, while a small group of volunteers continues to restore them one by one, often at personal risk.

“1489” documentary film by Shoghakat Vardanyan - Saturday, 16:00, House of Cinema, 18 Vardanants St. (20 min walk from campus).

“1489” (documentary film, 2023), Shoghakat Vardanyan’s debut film, is an intimate account of loss and the unresolved grief surrounding the 2020 Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh War. A musician with no formal film education, Vardanyan filmed on her phone over the course of two years as her family searched for her missing brother, Soghomon, 21, a music student serving mandatory military service. Through this process, she transforms personal tragedy into a universal reflection on disappearance and the emotional void it creates. The film’s title refers to the number assigned to his remains.

The film won the “Best Film” major award and the FIPRESCI Prize at IDFA, the world’s leading documentary film festival, as well as awards at other international festivals. The IDFA jury described “1489” as: “A film that acts as a piercing light that makes visible the vast hidden interior landscape of grief, and creates a tangible presence from unbearable absence. Cinema as a tool of survival - to allow us all, to look at the things we would rather not see. And ultimately, an unforgettable example of cinema as an act of love.”

