

Memory, War, and Social Coherence: Bringing Together and Tearing Apart

June 5-6, 2025, Mikkeli, Finland

This program is tentative, and changes are likely. Please let the organizers know of any errors, omissions, or scheduling conflicts.

Thursday, June 5

9:00-10:30 Session I

Alexander Etkind and Johanna Gautier Morin (Central European University, Austria)

Catastrophic Learning: Does Cultural Memory Help Us Survive the Anthropocene?

Anastasiya Pshenychnykh (Loughborough University, UK)

Russia-Ukraine memory wars over monuments: social media and public perspectives

Olga Davydova-Minguet and Olga Filippova (University of Eastern Finland)

Russian-speaking and Ukrainian immigrants relating to Finnish War Memory: immigrating into history?

10:45-12:15 Keynote by Georgiy Kasianov

Lunch break

13:30-15:30 Session II: Parallel panels

Panel II.1

Taylor McConnell (JGU Mainz, Germany)

Living with memory abuse: social divisions and war memory in post-conflict environments

Ryan Reed (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Russia's Penitentiary Pasts: Identity in Official Memories of the Gulag and War

Alexander Osipov (University of Eastern Finland)

In the Shadow of the Great Patriotic War: The Elusive Memory of the Civil War

Nataliia Bulanova (Museum of History of Kamianske, Ukraine)

Museum representations in the context of "battles of memory" about the World War II: in search of an optimal model

Panel II.2

Deniz Kilincoglu (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany)

Military History as Collective Memory: The Formative Role of War in Turkish National Self-Narratives

Aytac Yurukcu (University of Eastern Finland)

An Imperial War Bringing the Finnish Community Together during the National Movements: Finnish Soldiers Letters to the Fennoman Newspapers in 1877-1878

Samuel Foster (University of East Anglia, UK)

The Absent Stage Manager: How the Security State Invented the First World War in Popular Memory

Ilya Solomeshch (Independent Scholar)

Re-inventing Finland as an Enemy. Image of Finland vis-à-vis Memory Politics and State Propaganda in Russia, 2014-2025

16:00-17:30 Session III: Parallel panels

Panel III.1

Eliza Ablovatski (Kenyon College, USA)
No Periphery: Wartime and Postwar Violence against Civilians – Expanding Memorial Narratives?

Olga Simonova (University of Turku, Finland)
The Memorization of Female Participants in the Civil Wars on the Fringes of the Russian Empire: The Red Heroines from the 1920s to the Present

Olga Zaslavskaya (ASCEI, France)
Far from Home: Children and Youth Experiences in the Two World Wars

Panel III.2

Ari Ofengenden (Tulane University, USA)
Dual Narratives of Memory: Memorializing the Israeli War of Independence and the Nakba

Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State University, Georgia)
The Instrumentalization of History as a Tool of Exclusion: Identity Politics and Post-Colonial Memory Regimes in Breakaway Abkhazia Region of Georgia

Pawel Dobrosielski (University of Warsaw, Poland)
“I survived the Nazis, I will survive the Rashists”. The Second World War and the Holocaust in the Current Ukrainian Discourse on the Ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War

Reception

Friday, June 6

9:00-10:30 Session IV: Parallel Panels

Panel IV.1

Simona Mitroiu (AI Cuza University of Iasi, Romania)
Weaponisation of Memory. A World War I Cemetery and the Mobilization of the Distant-Past by a Romanian Populist Party

Rachel Merrill Moss (Colgate University, USA)
Daffodil Diplomacy: Affective Performances of Politicized Historical Memory at the 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Peter Vermeersch (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Ana Devic (Aix-Marseille University, France)
National commemorations versus the dynamics of local citizen-led commemorative practices: the case of Vukovar

Panel IV.2

Yuliya V. Ladygina (Pennsylvania State University, USA)
The Past and Its Presence: Historical Memory and Political Rhetoric in Akhtem Seitablaev’s “87 Children” (2017)

Frederic Worthington (University of Exeter, UK)
“Should Germany be rearmed?” Wartime Memories and the Debate on Post-WWII West German Rearmament on the BBC German Service

Ville Kivimäki (Finnish Literature Society)
Dealing with Defeat: War Memories and the Nation in Finnish Post-World War II Movies

10:45-12:15 Keynote by Michalinos Zembylas

Lunch

13:30-15:00 Session V: Parallel Panels

Panel V.1: Mnemonic Aesthetics and Strategies of War and Transition in Popular Culture

Owen Kohl (Grinnell College, USA)

The Stakes of Storytelling and Solidarity's Multimodality

Natalija Majsova (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Wartime Agency and Post-Yugoslav Film: Implication as a Posthuman Category

Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka, Croatia)

The Muralization of War: A Comparative Approach to Graffiti, Murals, and Memory Politics

Chair: Faris Kočan (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Panel V.2

Sergii Pakhomenko (Mariupol State University, Ukraine / University of Latvia)

Decomunisation and Derussification in De-(Post) colonial Discourse of Ukraine

Tetiana Nahirniak (University of Eastern Finland)

The Impact of War on Ukrainians' Meaning and Memories of the Soviet Past

Vlada Sabadash (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)

Distorted Mirror: Constructing the Image of Russia in Contemporary Ukrainian Media Discourse

15:15-16:45 Session VI: Parallel Panels

Panel VI.1

Michael Cude (Schreiner University, USA)

Woodrow Wilson and the Contested Legacy of International Reform

Kristina Vugdelija (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

“War is Finally Over, Let Us Turn to the Future”

– The Making of the Exemplary Warrior Hero in Post-War Croatia

Francesco Biasi (University of Salerno, Italia)

War Memories and Identity Narratives: The Murattian Generals between 1814 and 1821

Panel VI.2

Duccio Colombo (University of Palermo)

The Panorama of the Battle of Stalingrad and the late-Soviet "Novel-Panorama": Modes of Representation and the Reappropriation of War Memory

Sofia Schulgin (University of Eastern Finland)

The War Poetics of Vera Bulich

Anne Rothfeld (Independent)

“Eve Tucker versus Restitution Policy in U.S. occupied Austria”

Optional evening program