

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

June 5-6, 2025
Mikkeli, Finland

Thursday, June 5

8:45-9:00 Welcome, Opening Remarks and General Information

9:00-10:30 Session I: Event-based Memory

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Chair: Natalija Majsova (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

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

Simona Mitroiu and Camelia Gradinaru (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

10:45-12:15 Keynote I

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Shared Past: The Roadmap to War? The Russian-Ukrainian Case

Georgiy Kasianov, Head of the Laboratory of International Memory Studies at the Institute of International Relations, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

12:15-13:30 Lunch

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

Panel II.1: Memory and National Narratives

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Chair: Francesco Biasi (University of Salerno, Italy)

Samuel Foster (University of East Anglia, UK)

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

Panel II.2: Persistence of Memory

Location: Cabinet

Chair: Pawel Dobrosielski (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Ryan Reed (University of Helsinki, Finland)

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

Panel II.1 Continued

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

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

Panel II.2 Continued

Alexander Osipov (University of Eastern Finland)

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

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

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

Panel III.1: Memory Lapses

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Chair: Michael Cude (Schreiner University, USA)

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

Taylor McConnell (JGU Mainz, Germany)
Living with memory abuse: social divisions and war memory in post-conflict environments

Panel III.2: Memory and Media

Location: Cabinet

Chair: Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka, Croatia)

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

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

17:30 Reception

Friday, June 6

9:00-10:30 Session IV: Coming to Terms with Existing Memories

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Chair: Ilya Solomeshch (Independent Scholar)

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 II

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Affective practices, difficult histories and peace education: Teachers' Affective Dilemmas in Ethnically Divided Cyprus

Michalinos Zembylas, Professor of Educational Theory and Curriculum Studies at the Open University of Cyprus

12:15-13:30 Lunch

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

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

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Chair: Simona Mitroiu (AI Cuza University of Iasi, Romania)

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

Panel V.2: Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine and the Reshaping of Memory

Location: Cabinet

Chair: Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State University, Georgia)

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

Decolonisation? "Defensive" Nationalism? Counterpropaganda? Ukrainian Response to Russian narratives

Tetiana Nahirniak (University of Eastern Finland)

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

<p><i>Panel V.1 Continued</i></p> <p>Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka, Croatia)</p> <p>The Muralization of War: A Comparative Approach to Graffiti, Murals, and Memory Politics</p>	<p><i>Panel V.2 Continued</i></p> <p>Vlada Sabadash (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University)</p> <p>Distorted Mirror: Constructing the Image of Russia in Contemporary Ukrainian Media Discourse</p>
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15:15-16:45 Session VI: Parallel Panels

<p>Panel VI.1: Individuals' Agencies in Memory</p> <p>Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)</p> <p>Chair: Aytac Yurukcu (University of Eastern Finland)</p> <p>Michael Cude (Schreiner University, USA)</p> <p>Woodrow Wilson and the Contested Legacy of International Reform</p> <p>Kristina Vugdelija (University of Zagreb, Croatia)</p> <p>“War is Finally Over, Let Us Turn to the Future” – The Making of the Exemplary Warrior Hero in Post-War Croatia</p> <p>Francesco Biasi (University of Salerno, Italy)</p> <p>War Memories and Identity Narratives: The Murattian Generals between 1814 and 1821</p>	<p>Panel VI.2: Directing Memory Through Literature and Art</p> <p>Location: Cabinet</p> <p>Chair: Sergii Pakhomenko (Mariupol State University, Ukraine / University of Latvia)</p> <p>Duccio Colombo (University of Palermo)</p> <p>The Panorama of the Battle of Stalingrad and the late-Soviet "Novel-Panorama": Modes of Representation and the Reappropriation of War Memory</p> <p>Sofia Schulgin (University of Eastern Finland)</p> <p>The War Poetics of Vera Bulich</p> <p>Anne Rothfeld (Independent Scholar)</p> <p>Eve Tucker versus Restitution Policy in U.S. occupied Austria</p>
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16:45-17:00 Closing Remarks

Location: Auditorium (Päämajasali)

Optional evening program