

Malach Center for Visual History (IFAL, FMP CUNI) and **Beyond Hegemonic Narratives and Myths Project** (IIS, FSS CUNI) invites you to their jointly organized research colloquium “*Memory Off-Site*”, taking “place” on **November 6, 2020**, from 13:00 to 17:00 (CET). Organized in an online form, due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak related situation, it aims at bringing together researchers who will share their experiences with dealing with memory topics outside of their usually associated primary loci.

The constraints of our current times pose numerous **new challenges in regard to research practices**, be it limitations of travel, social contact or access to sources and resources. However, the research community had been facing similar challenges in various contexts even before the recent normality shift and generated a collective capacity for overcoming these challenges, consisting of methods, technologies and skills which make such research possible. This colloquium provides platform for experience sharing and capacity building, demonstrating on presented cases how the phenomena of translocality, transnationality and digitalization have reshaped or marked new paths of research.

PROGRAM – November 6, 2020 – <https://matfyz.zoom.us/j/99853805154>

<i>Panel 1: Researcher’s life in the times of COVID-19</i> (Chair: Karin Hofmeisterová)		
13:05–13:30	Hana Kubátová (Charles University)	“Examining Topographies and Topologies of the Holocaust amid a Pandemic”
13:30–13:55	Kateřina Králová (Vienna Wiesenthal Institut)	“Family (Inter)Mission: VWI Fellow in Time of Corona”
13:55–14:20	Joanna Wawrzyniak (University of Warsaw)	“Broadening the (Research) Horizon: Global Pandemic, BLM Movement and East-Central European Museums“
<i>(Break 5 minutes)</i>		
<i>Panel 2: Translocal memory as a research practice</i> (Chair: Jakub Mlynář)		
14:25–14:50	Nataša Simeunović Bajić (University of Niš)	“Research on television heritage in Serbia: Challenges and difficulties”
14:50–15:15	Emina Zoletić (University of Warsaw)	“Intergenerational transmission of the memory of war: The cases of families in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian diaspora in Europe”
15:15–15:40	Ondřej Žíla (Charles University)	“‘Still dreaming about Sarajevo, but never again to live there’: Ex-Sarajevan Serbs and their ‘partial connections’ to their place of origin”
<i>(Break 10 minutes)</i>		
<i>Panel 3: Teaching and technology under lockdown</i> (Chair: Maria Paschalina Dimopoulou)		
15:50–16:15	Martin Šmok (USC Shoah Foundation)	“Digital testimony-based resources in distance-learning education of 2020”
16:15–16:40	Jakub Bronec (University of Luxembourg)	“IWalk in Luxembourg: Jewish public history in forgotten places”
16:40–17:00	Karin Hofmeisterová, Jiří Kocián, Jakub Mlynář (Malach CVH)	“The current practices, obstacles and opportunities of working with digital archives”



**“Memory Off-Site”
Colloquium
November 6, 2020**



ABSTRACTS

Panel 1: Researcher’s life in the times of COVID-19

(Chair: Karin Hofmeisterová)

Examining Topographies and Topologies of the Holocaust amid a Pandemic

Hana Kubátová (Charles University)

My presentation looks into two of my current research projects – co-editing a volume on places, spaces, and voids in the Holocaust and writing a topological account of the Holocaust in eastern Slovakia – through the lens of a pandemic. What binds the two research projects together, besides its primary focus, is the understanding that the longed-for integrated history of the Holocaust cannot be separated from space and place, and that the capturing, visualizing, and examining of events in their environment requires, as some have called it, the entangling of natural and cultural processes. After a brief introduction to what is that the core of both the anthology and the research manuscript, I turn to the challenges and opportunities the pandemic brings to scholars, focusing thereby on the advances of digital humanities but equally so on the necessary rethinking of spatial connections while in lockdowns, quarantines, or while following stay at home orders.

Family (Inter)Mission: VWI Fellow in Time of Corona

Kateřina Králová (Vienna Wiesenthal Institut / Charles University)

In my talk, I will bring closer how the global pandemic affected the research and wellbeing of my one-year research fellowship in Vienna. After a brief introduction to my research project, I will discuss how my planned research aims had to shift and which sources I will be able to use for my papers-in-preparation under given circumstances.

Broadening the (Research) Horizon: Global Pandemic, BLM Movement and East-Central European Museums

Joanna Wawrzyniak (University of Warsaw)

In my talk, I will reflect on how the coronavirus pandemic and BLM movement affected the agenda of a research project on decolonial heritage conceived several years ago. The project European Colonial Heritage in Entangled Cities (ECHOES) has been carried out within the Horizon 2020 framework in several cities around the globe. After a brief summary of the main aims and the developments of the project, I will focus mainly on its East-Central European part, reflecting on the challenges encountered in its realization.



Panel 2: Translocal memory as a research practice

(Chair: Jakub Mlynář)

Research on television heritage in Serbia: Challenges and difficulties

Nataša Simeunović Bajić (University of Niš)

Television is a mass medium that marked the 20th century. The emergence, development, and spread of television have greatly influenced the various social transformations of the turbulent century. Having in mind this, it is clear why some of the authors define TV as a ‘cultural forum’ and a contemporary ‘storyteller’ (Newcomb&Hirsch 1983; Gerbner et al 1986). The beginning of television in Serbia and Yugoslavia reaches back to 1958. The earliest report on television ratings was prepared in the Material on Quantitative Surveys on Television Broadcasting, in June 1960. However, more than a half-century, public television didn’t establish its archive. When it comes to commercial and local television, we could perceive the same situation. Concerning the representation of the past, one must not overlook the significance of television as a cultural heritage. Bearing in mind the relevance of the television archive issue, the paper aims to discuss challenges and difficulties in the digitization process, the experience of researchers and organization, and the dissemination of archival material in Serbia. The case study is the Radio-television of Serbia.

Intergenerational transmission of the memory of war: The cases of families in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian diaspora in Europe

Emina Zoletić (University of Warsaw)

Research on transmission of war memory is of great significance for sociology and psychology, particularly for understanding the post-war social and psychological context of family memory, i.e. family dynamics and the nature of coping strategies. This project will consider specific legacies of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tens of thousands eventually fled to safer parts of Bosnia or to other countries; many never returned. Now, a generation on, the memories of that war continue to evolve with largely unknown consequences for emotional health, identity, or social cohesion. The proposed research focuses on the intergenerational transmission of the memory of war, exploring its sources and mechanisms. The focus will be on families who lived in Sarajevo during the war. I will examine the intergenerational transmission of the memory of war through two memory processes: retelling and recalling. The main aim of this research will be to examine if the memory of lived historical events was transmitted from the generation of participants/witnesses to the generation of non-participants/non-witnesses; for short: from parents to children. With this presentation, I would like to raise a few methodological dilemmas and questions.

‘Still dreaming about Sarajevo, but never again to live there’: Ex-Sarajevan Serbs and their ‘partial connections’ to their place of origin

Ondřej Žila (Charles University)

After the 1995 Dayton Agreement that ended the Bosnian war, Sarajevan Serbs left en masse the capital city. Majority of them put down roots in the Republika Srpska, one of the entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the basis of their recollections, the paper analyses the striking ambivalence in their approaching Sarajevo, grounded in the absence of desire to return but the presence of emotional, symbolical, cultural, or material linkages towards the place of origin. By addressing their ‘partial connections’, this paper attempts to unpack the temporal, territorial, and political dimensions of their place of origin and examines the nature of loss, absence, and a past that cannot be restored. This paper argues that ex-Sarajevans do not embrace the idea of returning to a ‘point fixed in space’, but rather a utopian dream of returning to a ‘point fixed in time’.

Panel 3: Teaching and technology under lockdown

(Chair: Maria Paschalina Dimopoulou)

Digital testimony-based resources in distance-learning education of 2020

Martin Šmok (USC Shoah Foundation)

This contribution will offer some insights into the practice of using digital, testimony based educational resources such as the IWitness e-learning platform or the IWalks application during the forced school closures of 2020, as well as the unexpected impact of the mass migration of teachers and pupils to digital distance learning on such digital humanities resource usage.

IWalk in Luxembourg: Jewish public history in forgotten places

Jakub Bronec (University of Luxembourg)

The contribution will introduce the process of designing two IWalk tours with bachelor students in Luxembourg. The presentation will contain the digital source criticism and new perspectives of digital hermeneutics related to themes of individual stops. The students were divided into two working groups, with each group assigned to a different area. Group A was in charge of designing a virtual tour in Luxembourg City and group B created one for the town of Esch-sur-Alzette. The participants took pictures of current buildings and locations associated with Jewish war history and compared them with original historical photos taken before and during the war. The students were encouraged to reflect on how the appearance and function of certain buildings had changed over time. Besides critical analysis of all pros and cons, I will introduce MAXQDA, a tool for qualitative data analysis to be an invaluable assistant for easier pre-selection of interviews. From a methodological perspective, we were able to judge the relevance of interviews for our work. Students also learned to link different text passages to each other as well as to other documents, educational websites, images or geographical locations. When several students are working with one data set, it is important to create a clear system of memos, codes and intercoder agreements. For a comparative analysis, students used a unified thematic coding tree they had created themselves. The use of a common code book tree enables them to find thematic intersections in their work. The contribution will also demonstrate the purpose of pre-question and post-questions, which make users consider the content of each IWalk stop.

The current practices, obstacles and opportunities of working with digital archives

Karin Hofmeisterová, Jiří Kocián, Jakub Mlynář (Malach Center for Visual History)

Since 2010, Malach Center for Visual History at the Charles University provides access to large audiovisual oral history archives to researchers, educators, students and wide public. The national and international epidemiologic situation of 2020 introduced a number of challenges to our work. In this contribution, we will focus on the pros and cons of the main aspects of our recent novel experiences as the coordinators of Malach Center for Visual History. First, we will reflect on the practice of distance workshops. Second, we will consider the individual on-line consultations. Finally, we will discuss these topics in a broader framework of the Malach Center's general aims and scope.