

**WORKSHOP, Belgrade May 20, 2018**

**MEMORY / HISTORY: THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NATIONAL IDENTITY  
IN SERBIA AND REPUBLIKA SRPSKA BASED ON THE NEGATION OF THE  
WAR CRIMES AFTER THE DISSOLUTION OF YUGOSLAVIA**

**THE EFFECTS OF HISTORICAL REVISIONISM AND AMNESIA**

**Where: Centar for cultural decontamination / CZKD (<https://www.czkd.org/en/>),  
Paviljon Veljković, Birčaninova 21, 11000 Beograd**

**When: May 20, 2018, at 10.00**

The workshop is organized within the project “Genealogy of Amnesia” that unites research and art. It was initiated in Vienna, Austria and will last from 2018 to 2020. The project with a team of researchers builds an interdisciplinary platform for the study of the current politics of oblivion concerning three traumatic pasts’ events of the twentieth century in the European context. These traumatic pasts and its events take a fundamental role in the construction of national identities. These events are all connected with genocides. The project focuses on three case studies:

—The construction of a Belgian identity in the aftermath of its colonial past (1885–1960).

—The construction of a national identity in Austria after the *Anschluss*, “annexation” of Austria into Nazi Germany on 12 March 1938.

—The construction of a new national identity in Serbia and “Republika Srpska” (“Serb Republic”), along with the negation of war crimes after the dissolution of Yugoslavia (1990–present). It is important to state immediately that in contrast with Austria and Belgium, “Republika Srpska” is not a state, but a an ethnically homogeneous territorial entity within Bosnia and Herzegovina, with aspirations for separation.

The goal of the research project is to display a new map of Europe or of the European Union that reconceptualizes new postcolonial subjectivities that are closely connected to Western European (Occidental) colonialism and the migrant labour force that came to Occidental Europe in order to reconstruct its physiognomy after the Nazi past of Western Europe. Finally, the forming of new post-socialist identities in the former Yugoslavia is a direct result of the Balkan war in the 1990s. Last but not least, Austria’s own past and its endemic and durable anti-Semitism is a key for the critical understanding of Europe (European Union) of today.

*Genealogy of Amnesia: Rethinking the Past for a New Future of Conviviality* is the title of an interdisciplinary, arts and theory based research project. It is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) through its Programme for Arts-based Research (PEEK); Project number AR 439. The research is developed at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, from 2018 to 2020.

Workshop with:

- ANA ISAKOVIĆ
- NEBOJŠA MILIKIĆ
- ALEKSANDRA SEKULIĆ

**Moderation: Marina Gržinić and Šefik Tatlić**

**With the participation of researcher Sophie Uitz, and Muzaffer Hasaltay (video documentation).**

### **About the workshop**

This workshop is envisioned as a conversation that leads toward consultation and education on the proposed topic. It unites a selected group of theorists, researchers and activists in order to exchange different positions of knowledge and interpretations on the proposed topic. The workshop will elaborate on issues of the construction of national identity in Serbia and “Republika Srpska” in the post-socialist era. These issues are based on several relations: the past and present negation of war crimes committed by the regime of Slobodan Milošević’s; the wider effect of historical revisionism; the link(s) between these processes and the suppression of social struggle based on the class issues in the region. Additionally, the workshop focuses on the analysis of the correlation between these and similar processes that are at work in Western Europe in relation to the negation of the colonial past and the lack of confrontation with the Nazi past. The workshop therefore aims to detect and/or decode those common denominators that are forming institutional, ideological and epistemic paradigms in order to halt or suspend thinking on the future of conviviality in the region and Europe.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE INVITED WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS:**

**Ana Isaković**—has been the archive editor, project coordinator and theatre production organizer at the Center for Cultural Decontamination since April 2011. She used to work as project coordinator and theatre production organizer of the Heartefact Foundation. She wrote for the web portal e-Novine (articles, theatre and art critique, interviews), she worked as a translator, correspondent and sales manager for the company “Dragačevac promet,” she was assistant project coordinator for the NGO CEDEUM (Center for Drama in Education and Art); from February 2006 until June 2007 she worked as an English teacher at the foreign language school INTRANET. She worked as a theatre critic for the monthly magazine “MAGAZIN 011,” organizer at the puppet theatre “Pinocchio,” secretary of directing in the play „Kuku Todore“ by Dragoslav Todorović; assistant organizer of the Meeting of Professional Puppet Theatres of Serbia. She was also a journalist for the cultural section of the magazine “Beorama.”

**Nebojša Milikić** is cultural worker and producer, researcher and activist, lives and works in Belgrade, Serbia. Studied and worked at the Institute for Regional Geology and Paleontology in Belgrade, attended The School of History and Theory of Image of the Centre for Contemporary Art Belgrade) and The Queer Studies at The Center for Queer Studies, Belgrade. Since 1995, he is involved in political activism, organizational, artistic and curatorial practice in visual and relational arts. Initiated, realized or co-realized many cultural and artistic programs and projects, in Serbia and abroad. He participated in a number of independent research projects and activist campaigns. Milikić writes about cultural and artistic production, political and ideological topics. From 1999 onward works in Cultural Center Rex in Belgrade, as the initiator and coordinator of the debate programs and the programs of democratization and decentralization of culture. One of the founders of the non-governmental cultural organization ReEX, dedicated to struggle against historical revisionism and negationism.

**Aleksandra Sekulić**—PhD candidate at Faculty of Media and Communication at the department of Theory of Art and Media. MA in Cultural management and cultural policy in the Balkans, UNESCO Chair, University of Arts, Belgrade and Universite Lumiere Lyon 2. Graduated in General Literature and Theory of Literature in Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. Program director at the Center for Cultural Decontamination (CZKD) in Belgrade since 2010. Initiator and co-editor (with Lazar Bodroza and Radovan Popović) of the project *The Invisible Comics* in cooperation with National Library of Serbia and Metaklinika Studio, consisting of the digital archive of alternative comics in Serbia, the publication *The Invisible Comics – Alternative comics in Serbia 1980-2010* and the exhibition at Leipzig Book Fair in the Pavillion of Serbia. Together with Branka Benčić, she curated exhibitions “Video, Television, Anticipation” at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade (2013) and Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (2014). Since 2006, she is member of the archive and program platform *Media Archaeology*. Since 2001 member of *Kosmoplovci* group (digital arts, music, film, alternative comics), and with whom she established the online platform Altarchive.org, online archive of alternative film and video. Editor of books: *Performing The Museum—A Reader* (2016). Co-ed. with Dušan Grlja, *Videography of the Region* (2009), *Media Archaeology: The Nineties* (2009), and more.