



memory, remembrance, and history, as proposed by Hannah Arendt in the context of her studies on totalitarianism. Writing historically about something one does not want to conserve demands that the analysis of the past is tied to the faculty of understanding, and to anticipating and imagining new futures.

Sophie Uitz is a postdoctoral researcher in the “Genealogy of Amnesia” PEEK-project, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She received her PhD in political science from the University of Vienna in 2017.

**3.45 p.m. Max Silverman** (University of Leeds)

*Palimpsestic Memory, Ethics and Performance*

In this talk I will discuss transcultural memory in relation to ethics and performance. If a new ethics of memory must accommodate how we are bound to others' voices, memory as performance means that individuals and communities also actively redefine themselves through this interaction.

Max Silverman is Professor of Modern French Studies at the University of Leeds. He works on post-Holocaust culture, postcolonial theory and cultures, and questions of trauma, memory, race, and violence.

**4:30–5 p.m.** coffee break

**5 p.m. Nejra Nuna Čengić** (New Europe College Bucharest)

*What Happened, Happened!*

Contrasting the ubiquity of speech about the 1992-1995 war in the media space of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the prevalent silence about this in everyday interactions, this paper investigates how inhabitants of a Sarajevo neighborhood explain silence and speech.

Nejra Nuna Čengić is a postdoctoral fellow at the New Europe College, Institute for Advanced Studies, Bucharest. Her research interests focus on memory(-ies), speech, violence, and gender relations.

**5:45 p.m. Keynote: Shirley Anne Tate** (Leeds Beckett University)

*Love for the Dead: The Libidinal Economy of Post-race Conviviality*

This talk explores UK post-race amnesia by looking at the written gifts left at the grave of “Little Black Sambo” by walkers which profess love for the Black long-dead. The discussion looks at how white love can be violent consumption when it erases the fact of Black enslavement in the UK within the necessity for tolerant-deracinated conviviality in our post-race times.

Shirley Anne Tate is specialized in the areas of institutional racism and black identity. She is the UK's first Professor of Race and Education, appointed at the Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education.

Conceived and organized by Marina Gržinić and Sophie Uitz

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This symposium is organized as part of the arts and theory based research project »Genealogy of Amnesia: Rethinking the Past for a New Future of Conviviality«, funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF, project number AR439 (2018-2020).



Protest against the celebration of the 150th birthday of Leopold II's enthronement, December 2015, Brussels, Place du Trône  
(© Pierre Wachholder 2015)



“We are occupied again,” park opposite of City Hall, Sarajevo, June 28, 2014. During a major commemorative event organized by several EU countries to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the start of World War I, a small group of protesters, wearing Gavrilo Princip's masks, gathered to express disagreement with the present situation. Under the mottoes “We are occupied again,” “If Gavrilo were alive today, he would be protesting with us” and carrying banners with slogans, such as: “We are under occupation again—by fascism, capitalism, nationalism, the EU and the international community...” they attempted to point to the situation in Bosnia, which had inspired social protests a few months earlier.  
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Cover image

On the 8th of July 1986, a wooden horse was placed on Vienna's Stephansplatz, furnished with an SA-hat and SA-band. It was Austrian president Kurt Waldheim's inauguration day.  
(© Lukas Beck / Ruth Beckermann Filmproduktion)

# GENEALOGY OF AMNESIA

VIENNA, NOVEMBER 8–10, 2018

MUMOK

Museum of Modern Art

Foundation Ludwig Vienna

Crushing  
Silences,  
Constructing  
Histories

A symposium on the silencing of colonialism, anti-Semitism, and contemporary turbo-fascist nationalism in Belgium, Austria, and the former Yugoslavia. Re-examining counter-memory and counter-history projects, interventions, and processes of resistance in order to open up spaces for new directions in politics, futurity, and collective struggles. Organized by the FWF-project “Genealogy of Amnesia,” developed at the Studio of Conceptual Art (PCAP), Institute of Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

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## GENEALOGY OF AMNESIA

*Crushing Silences, Constructing Histories*

Vienna, November 8–10, 2018

MUMOK Museum of Modern Art Foundation Ludwig Vienna

### PROGRAM

*Public events, free admission*

#### Thursday, November 8, 2018

MUMOK cinema, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna, basement

#### 5:30 p.m. Inaugural opening of the symposium

*Greetings:* **Eva Blimlinger**, Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

*Introduction:* **Marina Gržinić**, head of the research project "Genealogy of Amnesia," Academy of Fine Arts Vienna; **Sophie Uitz**, researcher GoA, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

#### 6 p.m. Keynote: Gloria Wekker (Utrecht University)

*A Genealogy of Amnesia in Europe*

This talk will draw a map of imperial amnesia in The Netherlands and enlarge it with the ways that White Innocence operates in other Western European nations, and will address different aspects of conviviality.

#### 6:45 p.m. Gloria Wekker in conversation with Birgit Sauer (University of Vienna)

Gloria Wekker is a social and cultural anthropologist, with specializations in Gender Studies, Sexuality, African-American and Caribbean Studies. She was a professor in Gender Studies at the Faculty of the Humanities, Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and since 2012 she is emerita.

Birgit Sauer is a political scientist, with specializations in Governance and Gender, Gender Politics, Theories of the State and Institutions, and Politics and Emotions. She is Vice Head of the Doctoral Studies Programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna. From 2014 to 2017 she was Chair of the Research Platform Gender and Agency at the University of Vienna.

#### Friday, November 9, 2018

MUMOK cinema, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna, basement

#### 10 a.m. Marina Gržinić (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

*Introduction: Burdened by the past, re-thinking the future*

Increasingly confronted with a political and social amnesia that draws from the past without any historical context, we have been able to identify a process of de-historicisation and de-politicisation that is exerting great pressure on contemporary art and culture. This process is taking present day Europe as its hostage. The result is amnesia, oblivion, forgetting, and an inability to any relationship with the past.

Marina Gržinić is a philosopher, theoretician, and artist from Ljubljana, Slovenia. She has been Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, Austria since 2003. She is head of the FWF-funded research project "Genealogy of Amnesia" (2018–2021).

#### 10:45 a.m. Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations (Brussels)

*The Challenges of De-Colonial Movements – The Afrodescendants Facing the Colonial Denial and the Mutations of the Colonial Propaganda in Belgium*

The rise of a new generation of Afrodescendants in Belgian society who are calling for an end to Belgian colonial paternalism and attainment of a citizenship that will be respected, is creating a fundamental movement in Belgian society, forcing the political system to adapt.

**Geneviève Kaninda**, **Tony Kokou Sampson**, and **Kalvin Soiresse Njall** are activists of the CMCLD, a decolonial movement, formed by several African associations in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia. Its main themes are colonial memory and the fight against discrimination, its mission is to uphold a fight for building a decolonial society.

#### 11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. coffee break

#### 12:15 p.m. Sophie Lillie (Vienna)

*The Burden of Proof. How Neglect, Ineptness and Anti-Semitism Shaped Art Restitution Policies in Post-War Austria*

The Mauerbach Collection comprised of about 8,000 individual objects of unknown origin dating from the Holocaust era. Austria did little to identify the rightful owners of these works, responding to restitution too late, too slowly and only under international media pressure. Austria did not inspect the records of its state institutions which documented the systematic removal of artworks from Austrian homes, and instead declared restitution a matter of private rather than public concern.

Sophie Lillie is an independent scholar specializing in the field of pre-war private collecting and patronage in Vienna.

#### 1–3 p.m. lunch break

#### 3 p.m. Araba Evelyn Johnston-Arthur (Howard University, Washington DC)

*(Re)membering Resistances in the African Diaspora in post-Nazi Austria as "Counteramnesic Practice"*

Moving the silenced protest politics in the African diaspora during the distinct period of the early 1960s into the center of the analysis, the lecture unearths the urgency of "critical remembering" in light of the suppressed presences of these marginalised histories.

Araba Evelyn Johnston-Arthur currently teaches at Howard University in Washington DC, where she is also completing her dissertation on resistances in the African Diaspora in Austria.

#### 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. coffee break

#### 4:15 p.m. Filmscreening *The Waldheim Waltz* (directed by Ruth Beckermann, Austria 2018, 93 min.)

A film about truth and lies or "alternative facts". About individual and collective consciousness.

#### 6 p.m. Ruth Beckermann (Vienna) in conversation with Michael Loebenstein (Austrian Filmmuseum Vienna)

Ruth Beckermann has worked as a writer and filmmaker since 1985, exploring Austria, Judaism, questions of individual background and

collective identity, as well as their fractures and ambivalences, on the basis of precise observation.

Michael Loebenstein is director of the Austrian Film Museum and served as CEO of the National Film and Sound Archive in Australia from 2011–2016.

#### Saturday, November 10, 2018

MUMOK Lounge, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna, 5th floor

#### 10 a.m. Šefik Tatlić (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

*"New" Fascism. The Aftermath of the Europeanization of Western Balkans and the Necropolitics of Historical Revisionism*

This talk analyses "new" racism and fascism in the First World of capital as contemporary iterations of Eurocentric colonial epistemic normative. The talk interprets historical revisionism, the (re) emergence of fascism and necropolitics as parts of the process of structuring necrocapitalist sovereignty on colonial basis.

Šefik Tatlić is a theorist in the field of political philosophy, decolonial theory, and cultural critique. He holds a PhD in sociology and lives in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

#### 10:45 a.m. Pedro Monaville (New York University Abu Dhabi) *Between Hauntology and Memory Work. The global afterlives of Belgian colonialism*

In the context of the history of Belgian colonialism, this talk addresses the questions: Why are conflicts around memory persisting? And how can memory work about the colonial past help us to live together in the 21st century?

Pedro Monaville is assistant professor of history at New York University Abu Dhabi. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 2013.

#### 11:30 a.m.– 12 noon coffee break

#### 12 noon Keynote: Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University and University of Vienna) and Markus Rheindorf (University of Vienna)

*Austrian Identity after WWII: Contested Narratives and Lingering Silences*

In this talk, we investigate how different contested narratives regarding Austria's past were constructed and debated in official speeches by politicians at commemorative events from 1995 to 2015.

Ruth Wodak is Emerita Distinguished Professor and Chair in Discourse Studies, Lancaster University, UK/ University of Vienna, Austria. She has published widely on identity politics and politics of the past (see <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/about-us/people/ruth-wodak> for more information).

Markus Rheindorf is a lecturer at the Department of Applied Linguistics, University of Vienna, Austria. He is an applied linguist with extensive work on cultural studies and on discourse in politics, the media, and the sciences.

#### 1–3 p.m. lunch break

#### 3 p.m. Sophie Uitz (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

*Rethinking Politics, Memory and History after Totalitarianism*

This talk discusses political dimensions of the distinction between