



Historical memory as a medium for collective self-delusion

Genealogy of Amnesia
Rethinking the Past for a new Future of Conviviality
FWF-PEEK project 2018–2020

Winter Newsletter 2019

“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). The project is led by Marina Gržinić and developed at the Studio of Conceptual Art (Post-Conceptual Art Practices), Institute for Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Launched in February 2018, the three year project concentrates on amnesia and politics of silence and oblivion that have shaped the constitution of nation-states, identities and communities in Europe and the globalized world. We address colonialism (Belgium), anti-Semitism (Austria), and turbo-nationalism (“Serb Republic”), all of which are central but not the sole factors for the construction of the past and the present in these territories.

This newsletter provides you with

- a general introduction to the digital archive of the project
- an overview of the interviews conducted in the first research year that were realized in Belgium, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018)
- a documentation of the symposium „Genealogy of Amnesia – Crushing Silences, Constructing Histories“ in Vienna (November 8-10, 2018).

[Find out more on our website](#) 

About the digital archive

The aim of “Genealogy of Amnesia: Rethinking the Past for a New Future of Conviviality” is to understand how

The archive is a collection of digital and digitized materials that address the subjects and objects, the territories and events of

processes of empowerment are built against the politics of collective forgetting and silence. The research is focussed on political, social, ideological, and cultural mechanisms that produce collective amnesia — such as antisemitism, racialization, political and economic dispossession, gender discrimination, or hegemonic nationalism.

In order to establish different narrative methodologies and to build a link with the present, an important element of our research project is the development of an alternative archive. The archive “Countering the Genealogy of Amnesia” will be continually updated on our website as our research unfolds.

oblivion and amnesia. The collection consists of different topics in order to make the documentation of events and interviews accessible.

The materials are either original works of artists and researchers or materials collected and edited during the project’s research phase. It is possible to search the archive in regard to territories, topics and names (see drop-down menu).

[More infos about the archive→](#)

Interviews in Belgium, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mai-June 2018

The interviews in Belgium, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina were conducted with activists and researchers, dealing with the specific histories and experiences of politics of amnesia in regard to traumatic events of the proper and generally wider European past. The interviews took place at the cultural centre *Le Space* (Brussels), the art centre *Argos* (Brussels), the *Center for Cultural Decontamination* (Belgrade), *Crvena – Association for Culture and Art* (Sarajevo), and in institutional settings such as the *Kosova National Art Gallery* (Pristina) and the *Université libre de Bruxelles*. Following an arts and theory research approach, the edited materials aim at creating a platform for the production of knowledge of history.

Participants in Belgium

Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutttes contre les Discriminations (Collective Colonial Memory and Fight against Discriminations), on a decolonial tour through Brussels with Calvin Soiresse Njall; Gert Huskens, historian and political scientist; Laurent Licata, Vice Rector for the academic policy and career management in charge of the diversity and gender policies of the *Université libre de Bruxelles*; Anne Reijniers and Rob Jacobs, filmmakers affiliated with the performance festival *Kinact* in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Joachim Ben Yakoub, PhD Fellow at the *Department of Conflict and Development Studies* at *Ghent University*.

[Visit the section "Belgium" in the archive →](#)

Participants in Serbia

Srđan Hercigonja, project manager at the Serbian office of *Ziviler Friedensdienst* (Civil Peace Service) and former researcher at the Belgrade-based *Center for Comparative Conflict Studies*; Aleksander Kraus, active in *Savez Antifasista Srbije* (Union of the Antifascists of Serbia) and in *Struggle for Socialism*; Dušan Maljković, philosopher and activist in the LGBT movement; Tanja Marković, psychologist and former Vice President of *Savez Antifasista Srbije*; Dragomir Olujić Oluja, journalist and former activist in the student's movement in Yugoslavia; Marija Perković, activist in the peace and women's movement;



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[Visit the section "Serbia" in the archive →](#)

Participants in Kosovo

Vjollca Krasniqi, professor at the *Department of Social Work, University of Prishtina*; Besa Luci, editor-in-chief and co-founder of *Kosovo 2.0.*; Shkëlzen Maliqi, philosopher, art critic and one of the founders of the *Social Democratic Party of Kosovo*

[Visit the section "Kosovo" in the archive →](#)

Participants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Selma Hadžihalilović, feminist activist and co-founder of a large number of women's organizations in BiH; Elma Hodžić, curator at the *Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina*; Adela Jušić, artist and one of the creators of an online archive about the antifascist struggle of women in BiH and former Yugoslavia; Hikmet Karčić, researcher at the *Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosnians* and former member of the *Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina*; Nevenka (Nena) Tromp, member of the *Leadership Research Team* at the *International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)*;

[Visit the section "Bosnia and Herzegovina" in the archive →](#)

Symposium in Vienna,
November 8-10, 2018

*Genealogy of Amnesia –
Crushing Silences, Constructing
Histories*

Videos of talks and discussions are now online:
with
Nejra Nuna Čengić,
Marina Gržinić,
Araba Evelyn Johnston-Arthur,
Geneviève Kaninda,
Sophie Lillie,
Pedro Monaville,

MUMOK Museum of Modern Art
Foundation Ludwig Vienna

Symposium on the silencing of colonialism, anti-Semitism, and contemporary turbo-fascist nationalism in Belgium, Austria, and former Yugoslavia: Talks and discussions are 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.

[Detailed program →](#)

Kalvin Soiresse Njall,
Markus Rheindorf,
Birgit Sauer,
Max Silverman,
Shirley Anne Tate,
Šefik Tatlić,
Sophie Uitz,
Gloria Wekker,
Ruth Wodak.

[Visit the section "Symposium" in the archive →](#)

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
Institute for Fine Arts, Conceptual Art Studio (PCAP)
FWF-PEEK Project AR 439
Lehargasse 6-8/II, 1060 Vienna

Prof. Marina Grzinic (project leader): m.grzinic@akbild.ac.at
Dr. Sophie Uitz (assistance, research): s.uitz@akbild.ac.at
Mag. Ruth Kager (assistance, research): r.kager@akbild.ac.at
<https://archiveofamnesia.akbild.ac.at/>.



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