



© Pitcho

1. Platz der Zerstörung
der Demokratie

© Anye Wachsmuth, Sophie Lillie



© Sinila Ili (projekt Bojan Djordjevic/Sinila Ili)

Genealogy of Amnesia

Rethinking the Past for a new Future of Conviviality

FWF-PEEK project 2018–2020

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2020

Dear public, followers, researchers!

We are sending you the 4th newsletter of our interdisciplinary, arts and theory based research project “Genealogy of Amnesia: Rethinking the Past for a New Future of Conviviality” (2018-2020).

Our research focus is 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.

The project is funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF through its Programme for Arts-based Research PEEK. It is led by Prof. Marina Gržinić and developed at the Studio of Conceptual Art (Post-Conceptual Art Practices) at the Institute for Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Our project consists of **three research phases**:

- The symposium in 2018,
- the publication of an edited volume in 2019/20,
- and the concluding exhibition at the Weltmuseum Wien in 2020.

Our **project website** provides visibility of all research phases at all times. Central to this visibility is the **digital archive** embedded in the website: it consists of 82 interviews and other documentation materials on the topic of the arts-based research we conduct. The interviews in the digital archive were produced over the past 2 years (2018 and 2019) and in 2020 we work on its display.

[Visit the Genealogy of Amnesia website →](#)

Newsletter overview

The project team in 2020

- Introducing the **digital archive**,
- presenting the **edited volume**:
“Opposing Colonialism, Antisemitism, and Turbo-Nationalism: Rethinking the Past for New Conviviality” (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK 2020),
- announcing the **upcoming exhibition**:
“Stories of Traumatic Pasts – Counter-Archives for Future Memories” at the Weltmuseum in Vienna (opening in fall 2020).

In the very beginning we departed from a rough skim of the project with a small team. Over time our research led to a radical expansion of the scope of our research. This was also made possible by a growing team of researchers and artists that have become involved.

In the year 2020 the core team working with Prof. Gržinić consists of Christina Jauernik MA, Dr. Jovita Pristovšek, Dr. Šefik Tatlić, Dr. Sophie Uitz, Valerija Zabret MA, and associated fellow Dr. Tjaša* Kancler (interviews in Spain).

We want to thank all collaborators, interview partners, artists, activists and researchers that have participated and are working with us!
Special thanks also to Michaela Glanz, Andrea Holzschuh, Claudia Kaiser, Linda Klösel, Sybille Schwarzkolger and Stephanie Damianitsch.



The digital archive Countering the Genealogy of Amnesia

During the years 2018- 2019 we conducted several research trips to Belgium, Former Yugoslavia and within Austria, during which we held interviews with researchers, actors and activists. We continue to work intensively on its display. The archive consists of 82 positions and reflections (video and audio) and can be accessed online:

[Access the digital archive →](#)

Positions in the digital archive

Workshops

- 1) Brussels 2018 (with Laura Nsengiyumva, Monique Mbeka Phoba, Womba Konga aka Pitcho)
- 2) Belgrade 2018 (Marina Gržinić, Šefik Tatlić, Ana Isaković, Nebojša Milikić, Aleksandra Sekulić)
- 3) Zagreb 2019 (with the participants of the Center for Women Studies, Zagreb)

Documenting four sites of genocide

- 1) Decolonize Belgium: Walking tour with the Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations through the colonial sites of Brussels, with historical background on Belgium under King Leopold and the genocide of the Congolese (Belgium).

- 4) Linz 2019 (part of the knowledge production festival, 25th anniversary of maiz, autonomes zentrum von & für migrantinnen, Linz)

Interview series Austria

- 1) Anton Pelinka (Vienna) 56:53
- 2) Assimina Gouma (Vienna) 37:00
- 3) Benjamin Grilj (Vienna) 29:16
- 4) Bernhard Weidinger (Vienna) 33:51
- 5) Christian Dürr/Mauthausen memorial camp site (Linz) 51:26
- 6) Éva Kovács (Vienna) 40:35
- 7) Faika El-Nagashi (Vienna) 40:18
- 8) Gerhard Baumgartner (Vienna) 59:51
- 9) Georg Hoffmann/The House of Austrian History (Vienna) 01:11:46
- 10) Heidemarie Uhl (Vienna) 42:17
- 11) Ljiljana Radonić (Vienna) 34:16
- 12) Lukas Egger (Vienna) 41:22
- 13) Luzenir Caixeta (Linz) 59:36
- 14) Luana Hansen (Linz - São Paulo) 26:49
- 15) Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Vienna – Göttingen) 34:47
- 16) Oliver Rathkolb (Vienna) part 1
- 17) Oliver Rathkolb (Vienna) part 2 (both parts 01:21:65)
- 18) Rubia Salgado (Linz) 59:36
- 19) Rudolf "Rudi" Vouk (Eberndorf - Dobral Vas - Vienna) 01:05:06
- 20) Tanja Prušnik (Vienna) 19:36

Interview series Belgium

- 1) Anne Reijniers & Rob Jacobs (Brussels) 38:48
- 2) Gert Huskens (Brussels) 23:16
- 3) Joachim Ben Yakoub (Ghent) 31:36
- 4) Lauren Licata (Brussels)

Interview series Spain

- 1) Diego Falconí Trávez (Barcelona - Quito) 42:36
- 2) Esther (Mayoko) Ortega (Madrid) 43:37
- 3) Maria Ruido (Madrid – Barcelona) 31:02

Interviews were conducted by Marina Gržinić and Šefik Tatlić.

Research by Marina Gržinić and Šefik Tatlić.

Transcripts (where required) by Šefik Tatlić. Additional support by Jovita Pristovšek.

Translation by Marina Gržinić and Šefik Tatlić.

Additional support by Jovita Pristovšek.

- 2) “White Armband Day” to remember the ethnic cleansing of Bosniaks in the 1990s, which took place in the town of Prijedor, “Republika Srpska” (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- 3) Jasenovac concentration camp memorial site, WWII (Croatia)
- 4) Mauthausen concentration camp memorial site, WWII (Austria)

5)

Interview series Former Yugoslavia

Serbia

- 1) Aleksandar Kraus (Belgrade) 38:48
- 2) Dragomir Olujić Oluja (Belgrade) 45:30
- 3) Dušan Maljković (Belgrade) 34:47
- 4) Marija Perković (Belgrade) 38:59
- 5) Tanja Marković (Belgrade) 34:08
- 6) Srđan Hercigonja (Belgrade) 34:4

Bosnia-Herzegovina

- 7) Adela Jušić (Sarajevo) 27:15
- 8) Dražen Crnomat (Banja Luka) 32:41
- 9) Elma Hodžić (Sarajevo) 27:31
- 10) Hikmet Karčić (Sarajevo) 36:38
- 11) Leila Šeper (Banja Luka) 23:04
- 12) Mario Hibert (Sarajevo) No duration
- 13) Nevenka Tromp (Amsterdam – Sarajevo) 38:59
- 14) Selma Hadžihalilović (Sarajevo) 24:48

Kosovo

- 15) Besa Luci (Priština) 37:08
- 16) Shkëlzen Maliqi (Priština) 54:25
- 17) Vjollca Krasniqi (Priština) 43:41

Croatia

- 18) Hrvoje Klasić (Zagreb) 42:37
- 19) Ivo Goldstein (Zagreb) 46:06
- 20) Ivo Pejaković (Jasenovac) 38:39
- 21) Katarina Peović (Zagreb) 37:28
- 22) Lina Gonan (Zagreb) 49:58
- 23) Sara Lalić (Zagreb) 28:53
- 24) Tomislav Medak (Zagreb) 37:44
- 25) Tvrtko Jakovina (Zagreb) 53:36

Slovenia

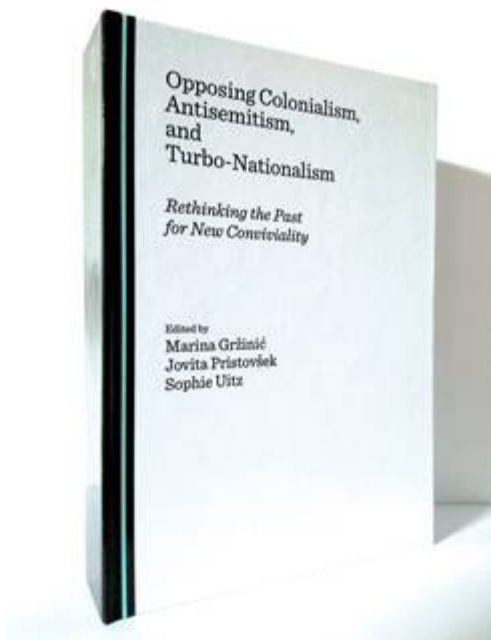
English language editing by Kate Howlett Jones.
Tjas* Kancler led, organized and edited the 3 interviews in Spain.
Editing of all the other interviews by Marina Gržinić and Valerija Zabret.

26) Boris Hajdinjak (Maribor) 44:17

27) Irena Šumi (Ljubljana) 47:23

28) Miha Marek (Ljubljana) 52:04

[Access the digital archive →](#)



Cover design © Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020

Contributors: Jamika Ajalon, Ruth Beckermann, Elisabeth Brainin, Véronique Clette-Gakuba, CMCLD/Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations, Nejra Nuna Čengić, Matthias De Groof, Nicole Grégoire, Marina Gržinić, Adla Isanović, Araba Evelyn Johnston-Arthur, Geneviève Kaninda, Hikmet Karčić, Kasereka Kavwahirehi, Sophie Lillie, Michael Loebenstein, Nikita Mazurov, Berthold Molden, Pedro Monaville, Sir Geoffrey Nice, Jovita Pristovšek, Markus Rheindorf, Drehli Robnik, Tony Kokou Sampson, Birgit Sauer, Max Silverman, Kalvin Soiresse Njall, Shirley Anne Tate, Šefik Tatlić, Claudia Tazreiter, Nevenka Tromp, Hedvig Turai, Sophie Uitz, Tanya Ury, Gloria Wekker, Renée Winter, and Ruth Wodak

Volume on theory and critical approaches **Opposing Colonialism, Antisemitism, and Turbo-Nationalism: Rethinking the Past for New Conviviality**

Edited by Marina Gržinić, Jovita Pristovšek, and Sophie Uitz (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK 2020, 578 pp.)

The volume focuses on collective amnesia in regards to traumatic events of the European past and the ways in which memory and history are presented for the future. It gathers together reflections on racism and nationalism, empowerment and futurity. As the subtitle indicates, ultimately this volume is about achieving a future conviviality.

[Order the book online →](#)

Errata book: Chapter "Amnesia and Lies in Austrian Reality" by Elisabeth Brainin
Page 112, and page 549: "Educational Analyst" should read "Training Analyst"

The editors of *Opposing Colonialism, Antisemitism, and Turbo-Nationalism: Rethinking the Past for New Conviviality* sincerely apologise to Dr. Elisabeth Brainin for this mistake that occurred in the translation of German into English.

The scheduled book presentation in Vienna on March 24, 2020 had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We will hold book presentations in Vienna, Brussels and Belgrade at a later time this year.

Preview: Exhibition 2020/21

Stories of Traumatic Pasts – Counter-Archives for Future Memories, at *Weltmuseum Wien*

Opening: October 7th, 2020

Last day: April 3rd, 2021

October 8-9th, 2020: Symposium with artists and guests in the exhibition
(at Weltmuseum Wien)

The exhibition “Stories Of Traumatic Past – Counter-Archives for Future Memories” will host an international group of artists, exhibiting multiple formats across a variety of media. The intention is to perform a visual-epistemic delinking from amnesia in order to expose the pluriversality of thought, communities, histories, narratives, epistemologies, and alliances in relation to memory and history. Therefore, displayed works will serve the function of the double index, footnote, and hypertext in relation to the project’s main topic. The goal is to create a network of deeply discursive and visual cross-references via photography, performance, text-based works, and video screenings, in order to initiate the involvement of different communities.

Artists and positions:

Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe (Congo, Austria / decoloniality, fine arts, coreography)

Lana Čmajčanin and Adela Jušić (Bosnia and Herzegovina / turbo-nationalism)

Bojan Djordjev and Siniša Ilić (Serbia / artistic maps connecting the territories)

Dani Gal (Berlin, Jerusalem / history)

Martin Krenn (Austria / anti-Semitism)

Monique Mbeka Phoba (Belgium / colonialism)

Joëlle Sambu Nzeba and Nicolas Pommier (Belgium, France / colonialism, LGBT)

Arye Wachsmuth (Austria / anti-Semitism, refugees in today’s Europe)

Valerie Wolf Gang (Slovenia / Balkan project)

Parallel research sites in the exhibition:

Access to the 82 interviews and positions in the digital archive;

Poster production workshop with students from the Academy of fine arts Vienne, with guest artist Arye Wachsmuth

Working teams

Curatorial team FWF-PEEK AR439: Prof. Marina Gržinić (philosopher, video artist), Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien, Institut für bildende Kunst / Christina Jauernik, MA (architect, artist), AKBild Wien, FWF-PEEK AR439 / Dr. Sophie Uitz (political scientist), AKBild Wien, FWF-PEEK AR439.

Catalogue editors FWF-PEEK AR439: Marina Gržinić, Christina Jauernik, Jovita Pristovšek and Sophie Uitz

Organizational team FWF-PEEK AR439: Christina Jauernik (space architectural concept), Jovita Pristovšek (co-editor of the catalogue, leaflet, poster), Valerija Zabret (artist and developer)

Welt Museum Wien: Consultation by Dr. Claudia Augustat (curator)

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 Grzanic (project leader): m.grzanic@akbild.ac.at
Dr. Sophie Uitz (assistance, research): s.uitz@akbild.ac.at
<https://archiveofamnesia.akbild.ac.at/>



»Genealogy of Amnesia:
Rethinking the Past for a New
Future of Conviviality« is funded
by the Austrian Science Fund FWF,
project number AR439.