

Proposal for a GIF Young Scientists' Meetings (GYSM)

Remembering Genocides and Violent Conflicts: Intergenerational Memory and Post-History in Contemporary Societies

Mass atrocities, ethnic cleansing, and cultural genocide continue to unfold across the globe, from the Russian invasion of Ukraine to the ongoing massacres in Ethiopia's Tigray region. From the first outbreak of violence, perpetrator and victim collectives begin the construction of their own side's future memories which are (re)produced through the narrativization of collected stories of historical events, influencing representations of violent conflicts in both local and international arenas. Shaped by evolving socio-political contexts, these memories are (re)interpreted in each generation and vary in relation to the temporal proximity of perpetrator and victim collectives to the genocide or conflict. As victim collectives grapple with processing (post)memories of contemporary and historical genocides, perpetrator collectives simultaneously must negotiate between official and private cultures of remembrance, responsibility, distortion, and denial. Post-histories of past atrocities instrumentalize genocide memories depending on current political powers and social struggles and engage political actors in the re-writing of history. Varied socio-political conditions may prompt disparate genocides memories, including that of a global Holocaust memory (Levy & Sznajder 2006) with multiple interpretations: using Shoah education to combat contemporary anti-Semitism, to promote the respect of minorities and indigenous peoples, and to advance human rights education in the face of extreme right-wing movements. Education systems, museums, and mass media are the main institutions in which the discourses and practices of remembering violent conflicts are negotiated and/or reimagined (e.g., Lorenz et al. 2021), with social media playing an increasingly influential role in local and global debates around intergenerational memories.

Against this background, we propose to bring early career researchers together in a GIF Young Scientists' Meeting to discuss the post-histories of genocide and violent conflict from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, and to question the future of remembering and intergenerational memory transmission in an increasingly radicalized and digital world.

Early career researchers from diverse fields including (but not limited to) anthropology, conflict studies, cultural studies, education, museum studies, political science, psychology, religious studies, social work, and sociology, will be invited to present research which relates to the following topics:

1. The dynamics of transfer of intergenerational memories of past and contemporary genocide and violent conflict (including, but not limited to, the Holocaust, Armenian, Bosnian, Rwandan, and Darfur genocides).
2. Post-histories of violent conflict and how they reflect contemporary socio-political and temporospatial contexts (including, but not limited to, the Palestinian-Israeli-conflict)
3. The linking of historical genocides and their postmemories with contemporary conflicts and cultural genocides

4. The dynamics and discourses of perpetrator-victim relationships, including issues of compensation and political support
5. Politics of memory in education systems, including how lessons of genocide and violent conflict have transformed considering changing socio-political contexts, and how educators deal with emotional heritage in the classroom.
6. Remembering in museums and memorials dedicated to genocides and violent conflicts, and their evolving content, meanings and lessons.
7. Intergenerational memory and the media, including how discourses and representations of genocides and violent conflict have evolved over time, and the influence of new technologies, social media, and “fake news.”

References

Levy, D., & Sznajder, N. (2006). *The Holocaust and memory in the global age*. Temple University Press.

Lorenz, F., Levenson, L., Resnik, J., & Kessl, F. (2021). *German teachers learning about the Shoah in Israel: An ethnography of emotional heritage and contemporary encounters*. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University of Wuppertal. <https://doi.org/10.25926/37he-aq36>

Who are the principal researchers?

Prof. Dr. Julia Resnik, Lance Levenson (both Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Prof. Dr. Friederike Lorenz-Sinai (Potsdam University of Applied Sciences)

How will you attract early career researchers?

The planned GIF Young Scientists' Meetings will be widely advertised in Israeli and German networks for young scientists and disseminated on university department email lists. Our primary target population will be young scientists who are in the midst of their PhD studies, but young researchers with relevant master's theses and/or involved in relevant research projects, as well as postdoctoral researchers will be addressed. To ensure an interdisciplinary workshop, we will advertise to young scientists from multiple disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, education, social work, history, psychology, humanities and law. As early career researchers involved in the workshop's organization, Lance Levenson (currently completing his PhD in Israel) and Friederike Lorenz-Sinai (who completed her PhD in 2019 in Germany) are well-positioned to attract other young scientists to the workshop.

Where will you hold it?

Potsdam/ Germany, at Potsdam University of Applied Sciences

When?

Suggestion: 18-20 June 2024

Estimated budget calculation

Issue	Costs
Flights and travel costs for up to 10 young researchers and two senior scientists from Israel	12 x 500 Euro = 6000 Euro
Travel costs for up to 10 young researchers from Germany	15 x 250 Euro = 2500 Euro
Hotels for up to 20 young researchers and two senior scientists in Potsdam, three nights	22 x 270 Euro = 5940 Euro
Catering during Workshop in Potsdam for 23 people (20 participants, three senior scientists), 2 days (drinks, coffee breaks and 2 x lunch)	5560 Euro (Plus possibly co-funding: A supplement for the catering costs will also be applied for at the host university in Potsdam)
Total Estimated Budget	<u>20.000 Euro</u>