

Sites of violence and their communities: critical memory studies in the post-human/post-witness era

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Online Lecture in the framework of
Una Europa PhD Workshop:

*Heritage Hybridisations: Concepts,
Scales and Spaces*

Introduction: Associate Professor Magdalena Banaszekiewicz

April 16, 2021, 11h CEST

ZOOM link

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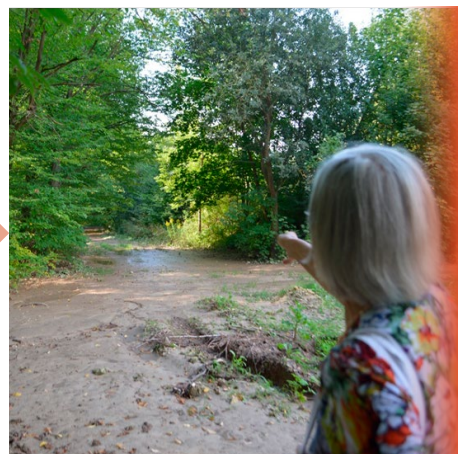
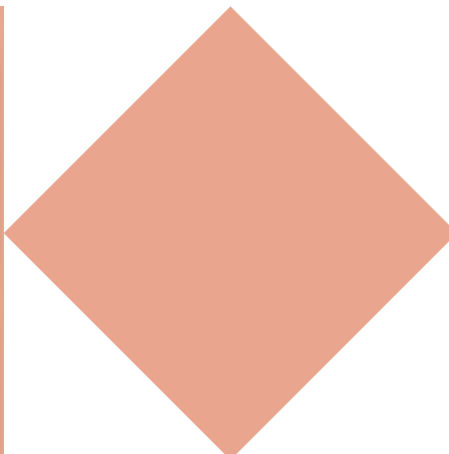
Workshop website

Clandestine or contested post-genocide sites pose challenging questions about memory practices and policies: about the status of unacknowledged victims and those who witnessed their deaths; about those who have inherited the position of “bystander”; about the ontology of human remains; and about the ontologies of the sites themselves, with the natural and communal environments implicated in their perdurance. Claude Lanzmann – one of the first to undertake rigorous research on abandoned, uncommemorated or clandestine sites of violence – responded to Pierre Nora’s seminal conception with his work and with the critical notion of “non-lieux de mémoire.”

Methodologies emerging from more traditional as well as recently introduced perspectives (like forensic, ecological, and material ones) allow to engage with such “non-sites of memory” from new angles. The goal of the seminar will be to consider the needs and interests of post-conflict sites and their contemporary communities; to identify and critically read unofficial transmissions of memory; and to re-locate memory in new contexts – in the grassroots of social, political and institutional processes where the human, post-human and natural merge with unanticipated mnemonic dynamics.

Roma Sendyka, associate professor, Director of the Research Center for Memory Cultures, teaches at the Center for Anthropology of Literature and Cultural Studies at the Polish Studies Department, Jagiellonian University, Krakow. Specializes in criticism and theory, visual culture studies, and memory studies. Focuses on relations between images, sites and memory. Head of several national and international research projects, currently working on non-sites of memory in Central and Eastern Europe. Co-editor of book series „New Humanities” (Polish Academy of Science). Her new book on uncommemorated sites of trauma will be published in Polish Academy of Science. In 2011 taught at the University of Chicago.

Magdalena Banaszekiewicz, cultural anthropologist, associate professor in the Institute of Intercultural Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Her research interests focus on the processes of heritage interpretation, cultural tourism and dissonant heritage. She is the coordinator of the MA specialization “Intercultural relationships in tourism” at the Jagiellonian University and co-editor of the scientific journal “Cultural Tourism”. Recently, she has been exploring tour guides’ narratives in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (research project funded by the National Science Centre, Poland).



Radecznicza, 2016, c. Roma Sendyka