



MFS Lichtenberg Ausrüstung

DIA-Graduierertenkolleg

Memory Battles in Central and Eastern Europe: Changing Museum Landscapes and disputed ideas of human rights in post-communist countries

Friday, 17 May 2019, 9:30 - 13:30

Universiteit van Amsterdam, Kloveniersburgwal 48, Room: F 2.11 B

Robert Schuman, founding father of the EU, asserted that Europe should become a cultural union, much more than an economic alliance. After successive EU-crises, Schuman's idea is more topical than ever. If the EU wants to succeed, it should foster a European culture based on shared values. However, within the EU, debates on shared values, memory and human rights have proven to be difficult. The history of 'black pages', such as Holocaust and Stalinism, have remained contested. The memory battles should not be understood as an unbridgeable divide between Eastern and Western Europe, but rather as conflicts within the EU as a whole. Are we witnessing a conflict between neo-nationalist and cosmopolitan views? Should Western Europeans be more open to Eastern European perspectives and vice versa? Is there a possibility to bridge the divide? In this graduate workshop, we will reflect on recent developments in various memoryscapes in Central and Eastern Europe. We will discuss the experiences of German and Polish museum directors and focus on current research projects in the field.

Programme

9.30 – 10.45: first session

Rainer Eckert, former dissident and former director of the Zeitgeschichtliches Forum Leipzig: 'Konflikte und Debatten in der ostdeutschen Erinnerungslandschaft: Erinnerungsstätten und Museen zur Geschichte der SED-Diktatur'

Chair: Krijn Thijs, Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-13.00: second session

Pawel Machcewich, founder and former Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk, fellow of the Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena
'Retributive justice after the Second World War in Europe: crossroads of politics, law and history'

Dana Dolghin, PhD Candidate at the University of Amsterdam doing research on Re-considering forgetting: Remembrance and Memory praxis in Romania
'Memories of the Cold War and disputed ideas of human rights'

Christie Miedema, postdoctoral research fellow Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam
'Not a Movement of Dissidents, Amnesty International Beyond the Iron Curtain', book presentation (Wallstein 2019).

Chair: Hanco Jürgens, Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

13.00 lunch