



## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

### Negotiating Troubled Pasts: History, Politics, Arts and the Media

28 MAY 2021, 9.00AM-5PM CET | TELECONFERENCE

Several European societies are still suffering from the conflicts rooted in the past. The Workshop will discuss the outcomes of 12 EU funded international research projects that dealt with the processes of negotiating those troubled pasts. By analysing the discourses in history, media, politics and arts & culture the workshop explores how these discourses impact European societies.

A range of topics will be discussed in four roundtables:

#### **History and the european public sphere in the digital era. What's next for history, society and politics?**

On the peak of the turn to digital sphere what has history to say about the changing ways religion, culture, history, and national narratives are present in our digital societies? What is indeed the actual impact of technological advancements on historical sources and methods on how societies see and interpret those events? How has technology influenced the perceptions about the role of historians in societies? What makes transnational history so difficult to reach? Is it monocultural nationalism or is it some internal historical deficits in terms of methodological and conceptual tools? What is the right thing for EU to do? Keep calm and let populism and memory agents take over the mnemonic communities of Europe or strike back and aggressively propose its political vision into the reading of the past?

#### **Art and conflicting memories**

The roundtable will focus on the role of arts, aesthetics, heritage in the realm of the memory of the troubled pasts: how should we approach a plethora of micro-archives of aesthetic approaches and political sentiments towards troubled pasts and contentious heritage? What roles do artistic and cultural institutions play (what kind of agency are we ready to grant them) in working through past violence and injustice. How can conflict instigated by the artistic interventions be productively/creatively employed to overcome impasse in coming to terms with past traumas? How is dissent produced and remembered in the realm of culture and arts? These and many more questions will be addressed during the presentations and discussions.

#### **Contemporary politics and the conflicts of the past**

Political polarization and populism are on the rise in several countries. The conflicts of the past seem to be playing a crucial role in both phenomena. This panel will focus on how the memories about conflicts of the past are present in today's political discourses, policies, laws, and public opinion. Also, it will assess to what extent those memories lead to divisions or, alternatively, to find common ground and unite around democratic values. By doing so it will identify the challenges that the EU faces in this respect. The cases analyzed in these projects represent different kinds of troubled pasts, as well as in the different kinds and timing of transitional or post-transitional justice.

#### **Mnemonic Hegemony and the Media**

This panel will be discussing media processes, systems and practices and their involvement in conflict and post conflict processes. The panel will present key findings from three projects, focusing on the relationships between media systems and conflict, paying particular attention to different media

systems, historical legacies, temporalities of conflict, media actors, and current state of affairs. Issues to be discussed include processes of power and counter power, media inequalities, silences imposed, the quest for finding voice and representation, and the development of new approaches to media ethics and norms. Overall, the panel is interested in exploring how the media can mediate, facilitate or impede efforts to reach a post conflict reconciliation that achieves a sense of justice and closure.

We kindly invite you to participate at our workshop by joining us [here](#). To receive additional information you could register [here](#). If you have any question, contact us at [Georgios.Terzis@vub.be](mailto:Georgios.Terzis@vub.be)

We are looking forward to meeting you online,  
*The RePAST Team*



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### AGENDA

09.00–9.30

#### Opening Session and Introduction to the Workshop

Opening remarks

**Georgios Terzis**, Associate Professor at the Brussels School of Governance & Coordinator of dissemination, RePAST project

Working through troubled pasts: EU research projects

**Rodrigo Martin Galan**, the Project Officer, European Commission, Research Executive Agency

**Keynote speech 1:** The power of culture and media to address troubled pasts: UNESCO's approach

**Louise Haxthausen**, UNESCO Representative to the European Union and Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels

**Keynote speech 2:** The role of history in today's politics

**Alain Lamassoure**, Chair, Observatory on History Teaching, Council of Europe, Former Minister for European affairs and MEP

9:30–11.30

#### Negotiating Trouble Pasts: History

**RETOPEA:** Docutubes and Clippings: Promoting Religious Toleration and Peace Among Youth Through History

**Patrick Pasture**, Professor, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

**UNREST:** The Cosmopolitan Dilemma: Digital Democracy between History and Memory

**Wulf Kansteiner**, Professor Aarhus University

**VHH:** Haunting Images: A Digital Approach to the Visual History of the Holocaust

**Ingo Zechner**, Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History

**EHRI:** New tools for approaching trans-national Holocaust research, preservation and remembrance

**Wolfgang Schellenbacher**, researcher, Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies & **Anna Ullrich**, researcher and project coordinator, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History

**REPAST:** Refurbishing the past narratives: from state sponsored agency to cosmopolitan populism

**Georgios Antoniou**, Assistant Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and WP History Leader, REPAST, **Basil Gounaris**, Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki & **Dionysis Panos**, Assistant Professor, Cyprus University of Technology

Moderated by **Basil Gounaris**, Professor of Modern History, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

11:30–13.00

### **Negotiating Trouble Pasts: Arts**

[ECHOES](#): Why aesthetics matter in decolonizing endeavors

**Britta Timm Knudsen**, Professor Aarhus University

[COURAGE](#): Cultural Opposition: Cultural Heritage of Dissent in the Former Socialist Countries

**Sandor Horvath**, Head of the Department for Contemporary History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

[TRACES](#): Contentious Cultural Heritages: Experimenting with Creative Co-Productions

**Francesca Lanz**, Newcastle University and **Karin Shneider** (Museums of the City of Linz)

[REPAST](#): Art's Agency and Conflicting Memories

**Katarzyna Bojarska**, Assistant Professor at the SWPS University Warsaw, researcher at Widok Foundation

Moderated by **Katarzyna Bojarska**, Assistant Professor at the SWPS University Warsaw, researcher at Widok Foundation and WP Arts and Culture Leader REPAST

13:30–13:30

Break

13:30–15.00

### **Negotiating Trouble Pasts: Politics**

[COHERE](#): European Heritages in Crisis

**Chris Whitehead**, Professor Newcastle University

[MELA](#): How does Law Shape Historical Memory?

**Eric Heinze**, Professor, Queen Mary, University of London

[UNREST](#): The Memory of War and its Uses in Contemporary Europe

**Stefan Berger**, Professor, Ruhr University Bochum

[REPAST](#): An empirical analysis of how societies are divided over the past

**Irene Martin**, Professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and WP Politics Leader, REPAST

Moderated by **Rok Zupancic**, Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Coordinator of the work package 'Policy recommendations' in the RePAST project

15.00–16.30

### **Negotiating Trouble Pasts: Media**

[INFOCORE](#): Dynamics of conflict news production and dissemination in an internationally comparative perspective.

**Christian Baden**, Associate Professor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

[MECODEM](#): Voice, listening and participation in post-transitional conflicts

**Katrin Voltmer**, University of Leeds, Emeritus Professor & **Barbara Thomass**, Professor for International Comparison of Media Systems at the Institute for Media Studies, Ruhr-University in Bochum

[REPAST](#): Media and Past Conflict: Hegemonic Memory and Media Processes

**Eugenia Siapera**, Professor at University College Dublin and WP Media Leader, REPAST & **Anke Fiedler**, Assistant Professor, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

*Moderated by* **Eugenia Siapera**, Professor at University College Dublin and WP Media Leader, REPAST & **Anke Fiedler**, Assistant Professor, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

**Closing remarks**

16.30–17.00 **Dimitra L. Milioni**, Associate Professor, Cyprus University of Technology and Coordinator of the RePAST project