



American Institute  
for Contemporary  
German Studies  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

HAKİKAT ADALET HAFIZA MERKEZİ



## Dealing with the Past in Spaces, Places, Actions, and Institutions of Memory: A Comparative Reflection on European Experiences

Sunday, October 18, 2015 – Wednesday, October 21, 2015

### Agenda

In 2015 we commemorate the anniversaries of some of the most gruesome atrocities against ethnic and religious minorities in human history. Until today, these crimes shape our understanding and modes of living together in Europe and beyond. This project looks at different cases and the way the past and atrocities have been dealt with. Germany, with its over 6,000 places of memory in honor of the victims of the Holocaust, and its comprehensive way of dealing with its history, can provide a framework for discussion and debate in other cases. The project aims to identify the opportunities, conditions, challenges, and obstacles for processes of confronting the past in different contexts. Increasingly, other regions plagued by “history wars” look to Germany for guidance about commemoration, memorialization, and remembrance.

#### **Day One: Arrival**

**Date: Sunday, October 18, 2015**

6:30 – 8:30pm                      **Welcome Dinner**

Featured Speaker:              Micha Brumlik, Center for Jewish Studies in Berlin

#### **Day Two: Conference**

**Date: Monday, October 19, 2015**

8:45 – 9:00am                      **Opening Remarks**

Michael Schwarz, Stiftung Mercator  
Lily Gardner Feldman, AICGS  
Meltem Aslan, Hafiza Merkezi

9:00 – 12:30pm                      **Panel I: Memorialization, Remembrance, and Acts of Commemoration**

Why do memory, commemoration, and memorialization matter? How do physical spaces, cultural expressions, and symbolic gestures address the past? Who defines the past? How are conflicts about the past mediated in memorialization,

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remembrance, and commemoration? How do memorials, as instruments in the public recognition and acknowledgement of state violence and repression, help create a healthy and democratic dialogue about the past and promote healing and reconciliation?

9:00 – 10:45am: **Part I**

Speakers: Corine Defrance, Sorbonne University, Paris  
Hans-Christian Jasch, Haus der Wannseekonferenz  
Sultan Şafak, Diyarbakır Municipality, Initiative for Diyarbakır Prison  
Mirjana Dragosavljevic, Initiative for Contemporary Art and Theory, Belgrade

Moderator: Günter Saathoff, Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft

10:45 – 11:00am: **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30pm **Part II**

Speakers: Meltem Ahıska, Boğaziçi University  
Jörg Lüer, Justitia et Pax, Berlin Office  
Stasa Zajovic, Women in Black

Moderator: Günter Saathoff, Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft

12:30 – 1:30pm **Luncheon**

1:30 – 5:15pm **Panel II: Institutional Expressions of Dealing with the Past**

How do civil society organizations confront history in their daily work? What are the ingredients of societal leadership that make commitment to memorialization, remembrance, and commemoration possible and effective? What are the challenges in building memorials/museums? How can non-governmental actors engage young people and local communities in memory projects? What are the most effective ways of disseminating project results beyond the localities in which they are completed?

1:30- 3:15pm **Part I**

Speakers: Basil Kerski, European Solidarity Center, Gdansk  
Murat Çelikkan, Hafıza Merkezi  
Natasa Kandic, Humanitarian Law Center  
Katharina von Münster, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

Moderator: Lily Gardner Feldman, AICGS

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3:15 – 3:30am **Coffee break**

3:30 – 5:15pm **Part II**

Speakers: Eckhardt Fuchs, Georg Eckert Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung  
Meral Cildir, Human Rights Association  
Vlatka Mihelic-Landay, Human Rights Consultant

Moderator: Lily Gardner Feldman, AICGS

5:15 - 6pm Featured Speaker: Fethiye Çetin, Habap Fountains Restorations Initiative

### **Day Three: Conference**

**Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

9:00 – 12:45pm **Panel III: The Link between Non-Governmental Organizations and Governments in the Process of Facing History**

How do civil society and governments interact over the choice of memorialization, remembrance, and commemoration and its manifestation? How do civil society actors maintain their independent history agenda in light of financial and logistical support from governments? How do civil society actors introduce new information challenging official or commonly communicated narratives? What are the relative weights of society and the state in the process of confronting history?

9:00 - 10:45am **Part I**

Speakers: Özge Genç, PODEM  
Tomáš Jelínek, German-Czech Future Fund  
Vesna Teršelič, Documenta  
Gert Weisskirchen, Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

Moderator: Markus Meckel, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge

10:45 – 11:00am **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:45pm **Part II**

Speakers: Bülent Bilmez, History Foundation  
Jenny Wüstenberg, York University  
Mario Mazic, Youth Initiative for Human Rights  
Nimet Tanrıkulu, 78'ers Foundation, Diyarbakır Prison Initiative

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Moderator: Markus Meckel, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge

12:45 - 1:30pm **Luncheon**

1:30 - 3:30pm **General Forum of Reflections**

- What lessons about dealing with the past can be drawn from looking at a broad range of memory experience?
- What are the current and future challenges in dealing with the past through memorials and commemoration?
- How can civil society and governments be engaged in such work?

Speakers: Meltem Aslan, Hafiza Merkezi  
Lily Gardner Feldman, AICGS  
Cengiz Aktar, Istanbul Policy Center  
Martina Fischer, Berghof Foundation  
Gert Weisskirchen, Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

Moderator: Meltem Aslan, Hafiza Merkezi

4:00 – 6:00pm **Site Visits**

7:30 - 9:30pm **Dinner**

Featured Speaker: Cengiz Aktar, Istanbul Policy Center

#### **Day Four: Site Visits**

**Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**Location: Berlin**

9:00 – 1:00pm **Site Visits**

1:00 – 2:00pm **Luncheon**

2:30 – 5:30pm **Site Visits**

7:00 - 8:30pm **Core Group Reception**

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