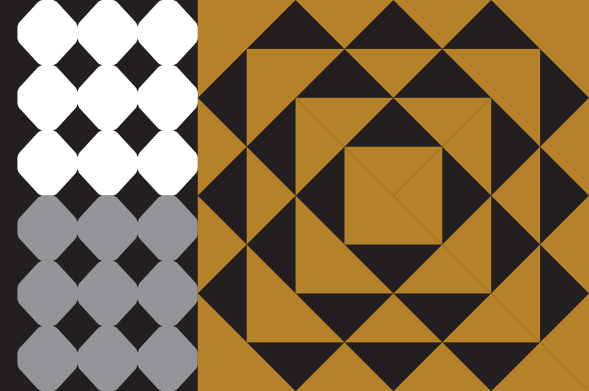


Memorials, Groups, Functions International conference – Holocaust Memorial Centre, Budapest on 17–18 th September 2025



17 SEPTEMBER, WEDNESDAY

KEYNOTE

9:30 – 10:00 – Gilly Carr

The IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites: preserving Holocaust sites in the context of the challenges of the 21st century

After five years work, the new IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites was presented and launched in Brussels at the European Commission in 2024. The aim of this international heritage charter is to make sure that all countries know how to best safeguard their authentic Holocaust heritage sites and sites of the genocide of the Roma. The advice in the Charter is also relevant to all sites of trauma. In this paper, I outline how the Charter was developed, what we learned along the way, and how we shed our naiveties to create a practical document which we hope will provide a guide to those working at such sites in Europe today and in the future.

Affiliation and short CV:

Dr Gilly Carr is Professor of Conflict Archaeology and Holocaust Heritage at the University of Cambridge, where she is also Fellow and Director of Studies in Archaeology at St Catharine's College. She is a member of the UK delegation of IHRA and the author of 8 monographs and 8 edited volumes. Her latest monograph, *A Materiality of Internment*, was published by Routledge (2024).

I. SESSION

10:30 – 10:50 – Hanna Lessing

A look at the changing nature of remembrance:

Following the mass extermination of the Holocaust, the destruction of millions of human lives, remembrance in recent decades has increasingly focused on the individual. In contrast to earlier approaches, in which the nation, the historical event, or a political idea were the focus of remembrance, the subject – the individual life story, the individual fate – moved to the forefront. Today, as the last contemporary witnesses fall silent, Holocaust remembrance is seeking new forms of expression to reach new generations. Memorials, monuments, and other 'lieux de mémoire' reflect these shifts in remembrance, as examples in Austria also illustrate.

Affiliation and short CV:

Managing Director (since January 2024)

- Until January 2024 Secretary General of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism since 1995
- General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism (May 2001 – April 2022)
- Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish cemeteries in Austria since 2010.
- Co-Head of the Austrian Delegation of the “International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance”.
- 1988 Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration (Mag.rer.soc.oec.),
- 2001/2002 Federal Administration Academy.

Participated in the negotiations on compensation topics conducted by Under-Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, member of the Austrian delegation headed by Ambassador Sucharipa for the Joint Statement signed in Washington in January 2001.

Has lectured extensively on the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund, as well as in connection with international commemoration activities regarding the Holocaust.

10:50 – 11:10 Ádám Kerpel-Fronius

The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin and its place in a diverse memorial landscape

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, an abstract memorial built at a site not directly related to the Holocaust, was initiated and built by the descendants of the perpetrators and dedicated to the victims. It is one of the central memorial sites of the state and an internationally well-known symbol of Germany's way of dealing with its dark past. But how does it fit into the diverse and eclectic German memorial landscape?

Affiliation and short CV:

Adam Kerpel-Fronius, Research Associate of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Expert on memorials, curator of an exhibition on the extermination camp Maly Trostenets. Responsible for the Foundation's international relations and member of the German delegation to IHRA.

11:10 – 11:30 – Ljiljana Radonić

The Era of Memorial Museums and Traveling Memorialization Trends

Memorial museums are flagships of national memory politics and identity production. In the era of the “universalization of the Holocaust” (very different kinds of) Holocaust references can be found in museums worldwide. I analyze how travelling musealization techniques regarding WW II translate into the national context in Europe, China and Japan, but also with regard to the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia. I am interested in how this appropriation transforms the “downloaded” traveling tropes according to the needs of national memory politics and identity-creation.

Affiliation and short CV:

Ljiljana Radonić is the vice-director of the Institute of Culture Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and from 2019-2024 headed an ERC project on “Globalized Memorial Museums”. She has been teaching antisemitism theory at the University of Vienna.

II. SESSION

13:00 – 13:20 – Matej Beranek

Memorials in Slovakia – history and present

The paper will deal with memorials in Slovakia that are connected to the persecution of Jews and Roma during the Slovak state. In the period of its existence, various repressive measures were taken against the Jewish and Roma communities. These measures resulted, for example, in the establishment of labour camps and centres for Jews, labour units for Roma, and direct physical liquidation in various places after the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising at the end of August 1944. Today, memorials or commemorative institutions have been established at some of these sites to commemorate their victims.

Affiliation and short CV:

SNM – MJC – Sered' Holocaust Museum

Department of philosophy and political science, Faculty of Arts of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Matej Beránek studied political science and Slovak history at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. Currently he works at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra and at the Holocaust Museum in Sered. His professional activity is focused on the theory and practice of undemocratic regimes, research on the Holocaust from its historical and political context and the genocide of Sinti and Roma.

13:20 – 13:40 – László Csősz

Site of Glory, Site of Shame.

The Komárom Forts in the Hungarian collective memory

This presentation offers a concise history of the Komárom/Komárno fort system and its public memory at the crossroads of historical narratives. The last stronghold of the Hungarian revolutionary troops in the lost War of Independence (1848-1849), Komárom has become an emblematic site of Hungarian patriotism. The 20th century, however, added traumatic chapters to its legacy, including the Nazi and the Soviet occupation, the Holocaust, ethnic and political persecution, as well as the genocide of the Roma. However, since the transition era in 1989-1990 the dark past of the fortress system have been largely pushed into oblivion. Nominated for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the site has received marked attention and considerable state funds in the last two decades. However, the site still lacks adequate state or community memorials, and the genocidal past is strikingly downplayed in the educational, commemorative and research activities of the state museum and memorial centre. The presentation also outlines the efforts of IHRA's Committee on the Genocide of the Roma to advocate the creation of a new memorial and an exhibition since the Hungarian Chairmanship year in 2015.

Affiliation and short CV:

Dr. László Csősz is historian and senior archivist at the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives and also research fellow at the Centre for Psychological and Social Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Košice. He is a member of the Hungarian delegation of IHRA and a contributor to the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) project since 2010. His fields of research include comparative genocide, Jewish social history and the Holocaust in Hungary. He is the author/co-author of eight monographs and edited volumes, as well as several articles and online publications.

13:40 – 14:00 – Michal Brandl

Holocaust between global and local: Holocaust memorialization in Croatia

Holocaust in Croatia had not been a topic from the immediate postwar period until 1990s. Jews, making less than one percent of the total population in Croatia and even less in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which seen a destruction in heavy occupation and collaboration with around a million of victims (290,000 in Croatia and 382,000 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, then part of the Independent State of Croatia) of both occupation and a civil war, Jews were incorporated in the culture of remembrance that put emphasis on “fighters against fascism” and the “victims of fascism” irrespectable of their national or religious affiliation. On the contrary, the culture of remembrance was built on a state ideology of “Brotherhood and unity” where the emphasis that names of different national collaborators (i.e. ustaše, četnici) did not represent their nations whatsoever. Since the 1990s the focus of the national memory has still been concentrated on the ideological struggle within Croatia, thus the Holocaust as a European process is immersed into the terror of the Independent State of Croatia and localisation of the Holocaust is mixed into the general memorialisation of the Ustaša’s terror.

Majority of Jewish survivors opted to leave both Croatia and Yugoslavia after the end of the war in 1945, but especially after the possibility of leaving for the newly established State of Israel was enabled between 1948 and 1952. Organized emigration corresponded with the initiative for organized commemoration and memorialization of the Jewish victims in all larger prewar centres of Jewish life in Croatia (Yugoslavia).

The focus of the presentation will be on two different examples: The Jewish memorial in the former Jewish section of the Municipal Cemetery in Zagreb erected in 1952 and redefined in 1990s as a memorial for Jews from Zagreb murdered elsewhere and the Jasenovac camp memorial as *in situ* memorial that has not been focused on Jewish victims. The challenges this memorial face in the presentation of its past and memorialization are due to the fact that the Jews were the third largest group incarcerated and murdered here (After Serbs and Roma) and at the same time it was the largest place of Jewish persecution in the Independent State of Croatia. The challenge is then how to contextualize these different layers of history and memory balancing between global and local.

Affiliation and short CV:

Dr. Michal Brandl is Associate Professor of Jewish and Holocaust Studies and the head of the Centre for Jewish History and Heritage at the University of Zagreb. Her research interests include Jewish history in Croatia in the 20th century, especially in the immediate post-war period, and tangible and intangible Jewish heritage in Croatia. She is the principal research consultant to the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) for a project on the restitution of immovable Jewish property in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Claims Conference for a project on the restitution of movable Jewish property in Croatia. She is a member of the Croatian delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as well as the national coordinator for the establishment of the Croatian National Node for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). Her latest publications include two books: *Židovi u Hrvatskoj nakon Holokausta* [Jews in Croatia after the Holocaust] (Zagreb: Leykam International, 2023) and *Oduzimanje židovske imovine u Hrvatskoj: Zagreb kao studija slučaja / Appropriation of Jewish Property in Croatia: Zagreb as a Case Study* (Zagreb: Leykam International, 2022), which received the annual state award for science in the field of Humanities for 2022.

III. SESSION

14:45 – 15:05 – Éva Kovács

Fluid and Forgotten Knowledge of the Roma Genocide. The Memoryscape of the Grábler Lake

Sándor Sára's 1962 film "Gypsies" begins with a song about the suffering of Roma people in 1944. For decades, no one noticed the lyrics of the song, and after 50 years, even Sára did not remember why he had chosen this particular song.

In 1970, Hungarian sociologist István Kemény launched a large-scale project known as "Gypsy Research". As a by-product of this project, numerous interviews were conducted with Roma Holocaust survivors, but these were not included in the research data. Nevertheless, knowledge of the Roma genocide appeared as a kind of latent, tacit knowledge in the local Roma communities and among intellectual dissenters. In 1974, skulptor György Jovánovics created a model of a monument at the Grábler lake where a mass murder had taken place during WWII. However, the communist authorities prevented him to turn the model into a memorial. Interestingly, he also forgot about this episod. More than 40 years later, in 2019, British filmmaker Roz Mortimer presented a docufiction with the title "The Deathless Woman". A scene of which recalled the memory of the massacre at the side.

The quasi-memoryscape of the Grábler lake and the knowledge that emerged around it but was unable to crystallize into historical knowledge is the subject of my presentation.

Affiliation and short CV:

Éva Kovács is Deputy Director (Academic Affairs) at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and also a Research Professor at the Centre for Social Sciences in Budapest. Kovács studied sociology and economics University in Budapest, PhD 1994, Habilitation 2009. Her research fields are the history of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, research on memory and remembrance, and Jewish identities. She has authored five monographs, edited twelve volumes, published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, co-curated exhibitions in Budapest, Berlin, Bratislava, Krems, Prague, Vienna and Warsaw. She is the founder of the audio-visual archive "Voices of the Twentieth Century" in Budapest.

15:05 – 15:25 – Krinka Vidaković

Memorialization Today: A Case Study of "Staro Sajmište"

The *Memorial Center "Staro Sajmište"* (MCSS) in Belgrade was established less than three years ago by the Government of Serbia and is based on a Special Law on the foundation of this cultural institution adopted by the Parliament of Serbia in 2020.

The MCSS is focused on three Nazi camps that existed in Belgrade from 1941-1944. The challenges in memorialization strategy and practice stem from the complexities of their history. Two of the camps represent of the earliest phases of the implementation of the Final Solution in Europe. All three, however, also refer in a substantial way to non-Jewish victims – Serbs, Roma, antifascists, civilians as well as members of the armed resistance (both Partisans and Chetniks) – labeled as "enemies" by the Nazi German occupation authorities in Serbia as well as by occupation authorities ruling other parts of

dismembered Serbia/Yugoslavia (represented by Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Independent State of Croatia). In addition, these camps manifest a hybrid character in the diachronic perspective: they served as concentration, transit, forced labor and extermination camps, and finally as the biggest Nazi POW camp in South Eastern Europe. Some victims were killed in situ, others were killed in mobile gas chambers (gas van), while still others killed in mass shootings at other locations. Almost all were buried in mass graves at various locations outside the camps. Finally, the diachronic perspective of this space (location) suggests a paradigmatic case of the construction, deconstruction and reconstruction of memory – individual, communicative (family), group and public memory – while “groups” are defined by various parameters (racial, ethnic, national, religious, ideological, generational, according to gender). Some parameters may have primary, others secondary significance in the construction of narratives, while they often intersect in the construction of identities.

One of the main challenges the MCSS faces is the construction of a “master” narrative integrating various sub-narratives (which may be complementary, but also competitive) and providing an accurate representation of facts and their historical context. Eighty years after World War II we also have several new challenges influencing narratives: the passing of survivors and the political and ideological pressures stemming from changes in national, regional and global relations.

Affiliation and short CV:

Scholar, professor, diplomat. Full professor /Senior Fellow. Worked at the Institute of Literature and Art in Belgrade, University of Pittsburgh, Ohio State University (currently retired). She served as ambassador of Yugoslavia to Israel (2001-2006). Currently she is director of the “Staro Sajmište” Memorial Center in Belgrade.

K. Vidaković Petrov has published a number of scholarly books and studies in academic publications in Yugoslavia and abroad. Fields of interest: comparative literature, folklore, Hispanic, Sephardic and Jewish Studies, Holocaust Studies, Diaspora and Memory Studies.

15:25 – 15:45 – Milovan Pissari

A Winding Path to Memorialization: The Case of the Bor Concentration Camp

During World War II, the German occupation authorities transformed the Bor mining complex into a concentration camp for forced labor. In addition to thousands of Serbian civilians, prisoners of war, and Yugoslav partisans, 6,000 Hungarian Jews were also interned there, many of whom died due to the extremely harsh living conditions.

In the post-war period, some monuments were erected to remember the victims of the camp, but a museum has never been built. Over time, the memory of the camp and its 33 subcamps has faded; younger generations are today unaware of its existence. In recent years, the municipality of Bor has taken the initiative to build a memorial, but progress remains slow and limited.

The presentation discusses the various attempts at memorializing the camp and the current situation, emphasizing the necessity and importance of establishing a memorial.

Affiliation and short CV:

Milovan Pissari, research fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

PhD Milovan Pissari is research fellow at the Belgrade University, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. He is the coordinator of the ShoahLab, a research unit for the study of the Holocaust, Claims Conference University Partnership in Holocaust Studies Lecturer, and the scientific coordinator of the project "Up2Us: Recommendations for Addressing Contemporary Antisemitism in Serbia, Croatia and Romania"

18 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

IV. SESSION

10:05 – 10:25 – Tanja Tuleković

Memorial sites – Places of education

Memorials are significant places for research and study of a particular historical event, person or phenomenon. They represent a link to the past, reminding us of the dignity of human life and death.

This paper will analyze the memorial in Donja Gradina: "Poplar of horrors" as well as memorial sites in the wider area that were part of the Jasenovac Concentration Camp system as a places for educating groups and individuals on the topic of World War II on a macro and micro level.

Affiliation and short CV:

Tanja Tuleković, museum advisor and director at the Public Institution "Donja Gradina Memorial Area", Republic of Srpska. Main topics: the history of the Independent State of Croatia, the formation of the Jasenovac Concentration Camp and its largest execution site Donja Gradina, collecting verbal testimonies of surviving witnesses, lectures on this topic.

The editor-in-chief of the professional-scientific magazine Topola, published by the Public Institution "Donja Gradina Memorial Area". Author of two books, the editor of three books. She published 21 scientific papers, organized 9 exhibitions and 7 memorial academies.

Participant of The Holocaust education seminar and conferences in Belgrade, Banja Luka, Donja Gradina, Jerusalem, Budapest.

10:25 – 10:45 – Ladislav Trajer

Preserving Jewish cemeteries in Serbia

The speaker approaches the discourse on memorial sites from a practical perspective. The preservation of memorial sites for future generations is at the heart of his work. The author is a member of the Serbian Jewish community.

Affiliation and short CV:

President of Jewish community of Novi Sad and in charge of real estate management in the community. Member of the delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia to IHRA. President of the Novi Sad City Council for the Prevention of Antisemitism. Member of the Supervisory Board of the Restitution Agency of Serbia.

10:45 – 11:05 László Mód

Transformation of War Landscape to Memorial Landscape. Examples from the Italian–Slovenian Borderland

„Similar to the Western Front, the Isonzo Front has become a symbolic memory landscape, where visits to routes, monuments, and museums shape personal and local identities and the local or national memory of the First World War.” (Fikfak–Jezernik, 2018,12.) The commemorative practices began already during the war by erecting monuments in the frontline. At the same time some elements of the battlefield in San Martino del Carso (Martinščina) were removed and transferred far away to the hinterland, to the hometowns (Szeged, Temesvár/Timișoara) of the military regiments. The paper focuses on the contemporary memorialization processes and heritage construction managed by Karst Speleological Group (San Martino del Carso, Italy) and Meritum Association (Szeged, Hungary) in Doberdo plateau.

Affiliation and short CV:

Positions

1998– Curator (Museum József Koszta, Szentes)

2005–2012 assistant (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged)

2012– assistant professor (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged)

Research Interests

His research interests cover wide range of topics, but his main field is museology and cultural heritage studies. As a curator, he organized many exhibitions in museums and cultural heritage sites. He took part in several international projects focusing on cultural heritage and local knowledge.

Teaching

He has wide range of courses at the Department for Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. Most of them are dealing with museology and cultural heritage studies. He is the Erasmus coordinator of the department, so he is taking an active part in sending and accepting incoming and outgoing students. He teaches regularly Erasmus students who are from different European countries. He organized several international summer seminars for Hungarian and foreign students. He is a permanent lecturer of the international summer school organized by the Department of Hungarian Studies.

12:00 – 12:20 – Norbert Glässer and András Zima

Places preserved by their multivocality

A frequent topos in Holocaust memoirs is the neglect, oblivion, and disappearance of memorial sites. Memory is tied to place, but it requires a community of remembrance. The community provides the framework for individual remembrance and gives meaning to the practice of remembrance. In the decades following the change of political regime, synagogues and cemeteries were rediscovered, restored, and in some cases renovated and given new functions. By the 2010s, heritage tourism and religious tourism had taken over some of these places. However, visitors/remembrancers arrived with very different motivations and backgrounds. Our presentation deals with this multivocality. Multiple uses can help preserve memorial sites.

Affiliation and short CV:

Dr. Norbert Glässer PhD, is a research associate at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest, habilitated associate professor at the Department of Ethnography and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Szeged. His research interests include Hungarian Jewry and modernity. Main topics: Israelite press, modern challenges of institutionalizing Orthodox Judaism, Israelite symbolic politics, history of everyday life. He was awarded the Alexander Scheiber Prize in 2015, the Leopold Löw Memorial Plaque in 2019 and Hungarian Gold Cross of Merit in 2025 for his research on Hungarian Jewry.

Dr Zima, András is an Associate Professor of the History Department at Jewish Theological Seminary – University of Jewish Studies. From 1 August 2019 leads the Department. His research interests include Jewish collective memory, Zionism, Zionist and Neolog press in Hungary in the 19th and 20th century. Dr. Zima, András published a number of chapters in English from 1. July 2022, he became the director of the Holocaust Memorial Center.

12:20 – 12:40 – Nicolae Dragusin

Before and After 1989/1991. Memorializations of the Holocaust in former Communist States

The presentation aims to explore how the Holocaust has been memorialized in some of the former communist states. The focus will be on Romania and the Republic of Moldova. This comparative approach is useful in demonstrating how the memorial discourse on the unique historical reality of the Holocaust changed depending on the political regime (Soviet communism, national communism, transitions to democracy). The presentation is based on a field research that took place early this year in several localities in the Republic of Moldova, as part of a project carried out by Agudat Israel in Chisinau in partnership with the INSHR-EW with the support of Claims Conference.

Affiliation and short CV:

Nicolae Drăgușin, Scientific Researcher at the „Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania (INSHR-EW) since 2017. PhD in Philosophy (Romanian Academy, 2013). Member of the Romanian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).