

# REFRAMING MASS VIOLENCE IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

## The Holocaust & Global Memory Constellations

### Transatlantic Summer Institute – Graduate Student Fellowship Program

Universität Bayreuth (June 12-19, 2016)

Application deadline: Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Faculty:** Bernt Schnettler (U. Bayreuth), Alejandro Baer (U. Minnesota)

This Summer Institute's objective is to explore the particular developments and transnational entanglements of memory discourses in societies revisiting their legacies of large-scale political violence. This entails processes of re-interpretation, renaming and reframing of a) the atrocities themselves and b) the (often questioned) transitional justice mechanisms that were adopted in their aftermaths. We place special emphasis on the analyses of practices, rituals and social events that help creating, supporting and disseminating social memories related to mass violence.

We look forward to assembling a group of emerging scholars who bring interdisciplinary commitments and concerns to their work, and who are interested in sharing their work with their peers internationally.

Sample questions that might serve as the framework for our discussions include:

- How are events reframed through Holocaust-related and also specifically legally-bound concepts such as "genocide," "crimes against humanity," and "forced disappearances"? And how are these concepts becoming a guide for action for grassroots organizations, shape the content and terminology in ceremonies, museums, memorials and other sites of memory, become recurrent tropes in literature, film, and art?
- How do different generations in the same setting look at the past from different time angles and how does generational transition involve different interpretations of past events in different contexts?
- What is the role of organizations and institutions (such as the judicial world, human rights advocacy networks, mass media, and the academic community) that mediate the production, public articulation, circulation, and legitimation of memories of mass violence?
- How do new forms of communication shape, transform or enhance social memories of mass violence? What challenges emerge from the use of digital and visual forms of communication in this area?
- What methods of analysis are appropriate for studying phenomena in this field? How can we deal with technical, legal, ethical restrictions and possible distortion? How can we balance analysis, scrutiny and activism?

The TASI's collective discussions across disciplinary and geographic boundaries will serve to identify new emerging patterns of social memory, which have distinct national features and are at the same time shaped by interdependence, linkages, and transnational cross-fertilization.

Sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies through a grant of the DAAD.

## Faculty bios

[Alejandro Baer](#) is Associate Professor of Sociology, Stephen C. Feinstein Chair and Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota. He has published on social memory theory and research methods, visual sociology, Holocaust representations and antisemitism in Europe. His current research interests include comparative genocide studies and memory politics. He is particularly interested in the socio-political consequences of memory narratives and the delicate relationship between processes of collective remembering, reconciliatory initiatives, and the demands of justice in post-conflict or post-authoritarian societies.

[Bernt Schnettler](#) is Professor of Sociology at the University of Bayreuth (Germany). He has written on different areas in the sociology of knowledge, including religious experiences and memory rituals, computer supported presentations and cultural events in social worlds of migration. His research interests encompass phenomenology, hermeneutics, interaction, social forms of knowledge, visual sociology and sociological theory. By studying social forms of communication and social events, he seeks to explore the intersection of interaction, communication and processes of constructing, disseminating and legitimizing meaning and knowledge in contemporary societies.

In addition to the lead faculty, several guest faculty will participate in the workshop. These guest faculty include [Natan Sznajder](#), Professor of Sociology at Academic College Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel, and [Francisco Ferrandiz](#), researcher in the Institute of Languages, Literature and Anthropology at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid.

## Fellowship Information & Application Materials

The Institute is intended for advanced graduate students working toward a Ph.D. or other terminal degree at a North American or European university. Preference will be given to students who have already defined a dissertation topic. The language of instruction is English. Competency in English and a reading knowledge of another European language are required.

All fellows will receive a fellowship to cover *most* expenses:

- Institute tuition
- Housing and meals for the duration of the Institute
- Access to library and archival materials and Internet resources
- partial travel support

Fellowships for advanced graduate students enrolled at North American universities include up to \$750 in support of round-trip airfare to Germany. Although not required, we encourage fellows to apply to their home department for match to cover the remainder of their travel expenses. Fellows enrolled at a European university will receive up to \$150 to cover travel costs to Bayreuth.

Complete applications for admission to the Institute must be received by **Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Applications must be submitted electronically to [cges@umn.edu](mailto:cges@umn.edu). Decisions will be made by April 10th, 2016.

A complete application consists of 1) [applicant information sheet](#), 2) a letter of interest, 3) a two-page dissertation abstract, or a two-page statement about the relevance of this topic to the applicant's research, 4) a curriculum vitae, 5) an unofficial graduate transcript, and 6) one confidential letter of recommendation by a faculty member familiar with the applicant's research project. The letter of interest should include information on the applicant's scholarly background, interests, and career goals.