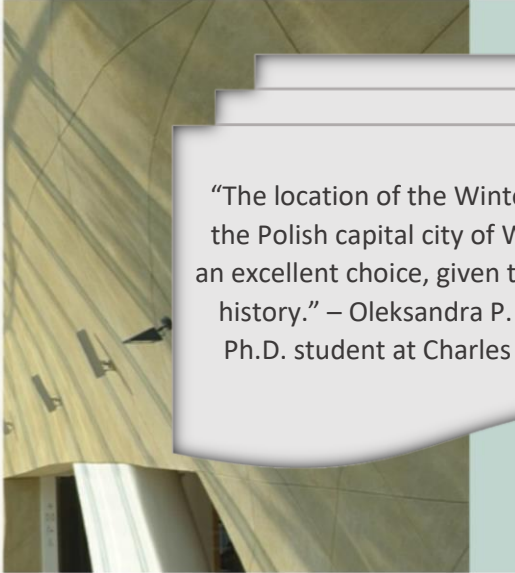


MEMORY IN CONFLICT

WINTER SCHOOL

organized by 'Plurality of Memories in Europe in a Global Perspective' project (4EU+ Alliance)



“The location of the Winter School in the Polish capital city of Warsaw was an excellent choice, given the city’s rich history.” – Oleksandra P. Modelska, Ph.D. student at Charles University

The 1st 4EU+ "Plurality of Memories in a Global Perspective" Winter School – "Memory in Conflict" – took place in Warsaw, Poland, 9-15 February 2020. Organized by the 4EU+ University Alliance (incl. University of Warsaw, Sorbonne University, Charles University, Heidelberg University, University of Milan and University of Copenhagen), the Winter School aimed to bring together M.A. and Ph.D. students from different disciplinary backgrounds alongside well-known experts in the memory studies field. The purpose of the Winter School was to provide participating junior researchers with a systematic introduction into memory studies, motivate them and enhance their ongoing research. The School was co-hosted by Dr. Nicolas Maslowski, Director of the Centre for French Culture and Francophone Studies, A/Prof. Kateřina Králová, Head of the Russian and East European Studies Department (IIS) at Charles University and Prof. Luba Jurgenson, Head of the Slavonic Institute at Paris-Sorbonne University. The initiative was also locally coordinated by Dr. Anna Dzabagina (University of Warsaw) and Oleksandra P. Modelska (Charles University).

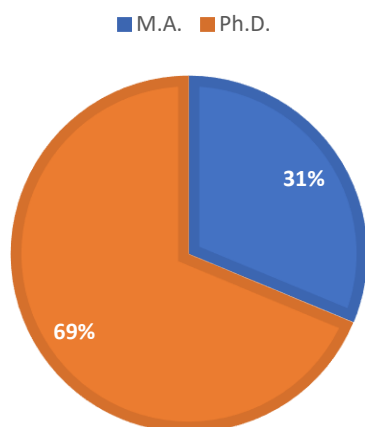
The main subjects discussed were both the collective memory of violent conflicts and the conflicted memories of mutual experiences, which are often being misused in the political arena. The program of the Winter School started with a thought-provoking keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Annette Becker (Université Paris Nanterre), with the title “Comparing Genocides: Social Sciences and Memory.” A productive week of multiple lectures, seminars and hands-on workshops led by professors from partner universities had followed.

The event brought together 34 M.A. and Ph.D. students from seven different universities and 18 countries of origin as well as scholars and experts in the field of memory studies, affiliated with all six 4EU+ institutions. The one-week intensive programme aimed at introducing the students to the wide range of interdisciplinary topics, varying from psychology and literature to history, political sciences and performing arts, all interconnected by the concept of memory. Following

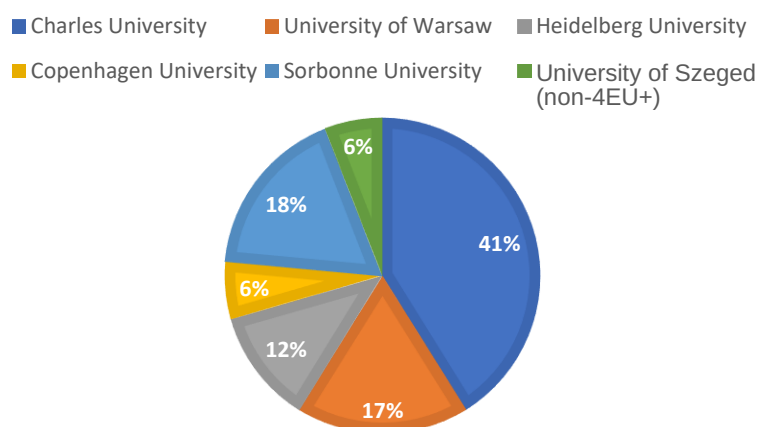
the official opening ceremony and the keynote speech, the event kick-started on Tuesday 11th with a hands-on seminar *“Digital Testimonies of Holocaust Survivors”* by the Charles University team: A/Prof. Kateřina Králová and Dr. Jiří Kocián. During this session, students were introduced to the world of historical testimony in digital times and, as a bonus – could test their newly-acquired research skills of operating within an online oral history database. The seminar was followed by an interactive lecture *“Memory and monuments in the contemporary debate”* by the Italian colleagues, Dr. Elisabetta Modena and Dr. Giancasrlos Maria Grossi, from the University of Milan. On Wednesday 12th, the Winter School began with a lecture *“Artists in migratory context”* presented by Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky from Heidelberg University. At the end of this lecture, the students had a chance to discuss their own migratory experience, as many of the participants pursue their M.A./Ph.D. studies abroad. In the afternoon, the floor was given to Dr. Pawel Dobrosielski from the University of Warsaw with his provocative public debate on anti-Semitism in contemporary Poland. The discussion was fueled by the students’ questions, comments and reflections. The highlight of the day was a guided tour to the POLIN Museum (Museum of the History of Polish Jews).

The following day was devoted to two sub-sequent lectures offered by experts from Sorbonne University: Prof. Luba Jurgenson and Dr. Delphine Bechtel on the topic of *“Representation of Violence”* in literature. Later that day, a group visit was paid to the Warsaw Rising Museum. On Friday, 14th February the students had a chance to attend two captivating seminars prepared by University of Warsaw scholars. The first seminar on “Agonistic memory and its discontents” by Prof. Joanna Wawrzyniak and the second on *“Psychology of historical denial”* – by Prof. Michal Bilewicz. Both seminars were met with curiosity and interest. The official farewell ceremony took place on Saturday 16th in the majestic hall of Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace (WU).

DEGREE SEEKING



UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION



¹ Graphs demonstrating proportional division of student-participants and their 4EU+ University Affiliations.

¹ The first 4EU+ Plurality of Memories in Global Perspective (Memory in Conflict: 2020) Internal Statistics acquired through surveying the student-participants.

During the Winter School, several crucial debates were held surrounding the issue of traumatic memory experience caused by either genocide, the Holocaust or forced migration. As the questionnaires revealed, it was an essential topic for participants to be confronted with:

“The Winter School was a unique opportunity for me to meet international students and young scholars from various disciplines and get to know their point of view on certain issues of Memory Studies. The composition of participants and speakers of the Winter School underlined the interdisciplinarity of Memory Studies as they came from fields of Literature, Psychology, Memory Studies or Archaeology, etc. We have discussed many different topics, but most of them were related to remembering the Holocaust globally and Polish Memory of the Holocaust and WWII, which is currently very relevant. I personally enjoyed the visits of the POLIN Museum and the Museum of Warsaw Rising and the following discussion the most.” – says Anezka Brozova (Czechia), a Ph.D. student at Charles University.

According to the overall reaction, the Winter School has exceeded the expectations of the participants. To quote a few respondents:

“The Winter School was beyond anything I expected, it helped me in my research and also allowed me to bond with like-minded people in order to navigate through life and research as a community,” comments Yann Kaci (France), a Ph.D. student at Sorbonne University.

“I have very much appreciated both visits to the museums, as they gave me a wider perspective on what the lectures were about. They also sparked some heated debates, which I found critical,” claims Anne Louise Andreasen (Denmark), an M.A. student at Copenhagen University.

Based on the feedback from the junior researchers, the first 4EU+ Winter School set a high standard for future joint events.

“I was very happy to be part of the Winter School where the main subjects were both collective memory during the conflict and conflicted memories of mutual experiences. It was a highly beneficial experience for me as the Winter School helped me gain a different perspective on my own research area. Overall, Memory in Conflict was a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to the next one.” comments Ediz Hazic (Turkey), a Ph.D. student at Charles University.

Most importantly, the Winter School served as a platform for both junior and senior researchers in the memory studies field. The participants were able to not only make friends at the 4EU+ partner universities but also extend their professional networks.

“I appreciated the opportunity of interacting with so many researchers working on topics related to memory from different fields and perspectives,” states Eugenia Sarapina (Ukraine), a Ph.D. student at the Sorbonne University. *“The Winter School was very instructive, the exchange of different opinions helps the conduction of further research,”* adds Tamás Szekeres (Hungary), a Ph.D. student at the University of Szeged.

By the end of the programme, junior researchers were able to explore multiple dimensions of local memories and also put them in a dialogue with national and transnational actions within and beyond European borders. As a result of 7 intellectually demanding days of the Winter School, a new window of future opportunities has been opened. It portends the cooperation between the

4EU+ partner universities towards a more integrative history approach of education through research.

“The school created a space for a discussion on the most crucial and, in many cases, painful aspects of memory, and I sincerely believe that it was an example of how a genuine multidisciplinary dialogue can be made possible. This experience, both the academic programme and simply being among all the like-minded people I met there, deeply affected me both professionally and personally,” says Ekaterina Zheltova (Russia), a Ph.D. student from Charles University. Aida Murtic (Bosnia), a Ph.D. student at Heidelberg University, adds: *“It was challenging to think about memory in a city charged with memories. Big thanks to organisers!”*

Photo material:

(more pictures can be retrieved [here](#))



