

## 6<sup>th</sup> Future of Remembrance Forum 2020

### The mediatisation of the memory of Nazism and its significance for the relatives of former victims of Nazi persecution and for memorial sites

Wednesday, November 11; 2 pm – 6 pm

Thursday, November 12; 9 am to 5 pm, from 7 pm (online event)

Friday, November 13; 9 am – 12.30 pm

Each year the Future of Remembrance Forum offers relatives of former concentration camp prisoners and victims of Nazi persecution, memorial site staff, and interested participants the opportunity to get to know one another and to exchange their views. The 6<sup>th</sup> Forum is to be held at Neuengamme Concentration Camp from 11 to 13 November 2020 and will revolve around the ways in which the memory of Nazism is reflected in the media.

Indeed, the media is playing an ever greater role in remembrance culture. It offers new possibilities for engaging with history and helps keep historical events ever present in our awareness of history. As these events recede ever further in time, media-based forms of engagement take the place of direct encounters with the contemporary witnesses of Nazi crimes. They offer relatives of former victims of persecution new opportunities to contribute their perspectives to a forward-looking memorial work that is to come 'after the era of witness testimony has ended'. Most recently, the corona pandemic has also contributed to expediting the digitisation of the culture of remembrance.

Our aim is to take a differentiated look at the mediatisation of the culture of remembrance and its significance for our work with the descendants of former victims of persecution.

The project #WaswillstDutun? showcases Instagram stories and interviews with young people about the significance of family history, including relatives of former Nazi persecutees of the third and fourth generation. Alongside this project, the Forum will also present innovative projects initiated by associations and initiatives from Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Germany, also featuring relatives in their role as culture of remembrance protagonists.

Under discussion will be forms of digital remembrance (e.g. <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/75befreiung/>) that took the place of the commemorative ceremonies originally scheduled to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps, which had to be cancelled due to the corona virus. Various forms of storytelling focusing on the Nazi concentration camps, such as written novels, graphic novels and digital narratives in social media, will also be

presented. A performative reading will sound out the possibilities that artistic approaches have to offer remembrance and commemoration.

Another module will consider what the production conditions, reception and educational use of life-story interviews at the memorial sites might look like.

In Hamburg, relatives of former victims of Nazi persecution have teamed up with fellow campaigners to create a novel place of remembrance on the premises of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. At the Forum, they will be reporting on this Space to Remember, Connect and Support and the importance of such media as posters and websites within this context. Thereafter, in conclusion to the Forum, we will all attend the official inauguration of the Space to Remember, Connect and Support.

As part of the programme we were also planning an evening event with concentration camp survivor Dita Kraus, who recently published her memoirs. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, it cannot take place. The event will now be held online instead.

#### **Idea and concept:**

**Dr Alexandre Froidevaux** is a staff member at the Centre for Historical Studies at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial and in charge of communications with relatives of former concentration camp prisoners.

**Lennart Onken** is a volunteer trainee at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

**Dr Oliver von Wrochem** is the Director of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

#### **Venue:**

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies, Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75, 21039 Hamburg

Simultaneous interpreting will be provided in the following languages: German, English, and Polish.

#### **Registration:**

A binding registration is required by 31.10.2020. A discounted participation fee of EUR 25.00 / 15.00 will be charged for the catering.

Registration: Amina Edzards, [amina.edzards@gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de](mailto:amina.edzards@gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de)

Due to hygiene requirements and the corona pandemic measures we are only able to welcome a limited number of guests. We kindly ask for your understanding.

Those wishing to participate but unable to obtain a place on site can take part online via video conference.

## Programme

### Wednesday, November 11; 2 pm – 6 pm

(Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies, Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75, 21039 Hamburg)

From 1.30 pm Arrival and registration

2 pm – 2.30 pm Welcome and introductory remarks

Dr Oliver von Wrochem and Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (both Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

2.30 pm – 4.15 pm Presentation: #WaswillstDutun? multi-media project

Thorsten Fehlberg and Swenja Granzow-Rauwald (both of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, #WaswillstDutun? project); Viviane Andereggen, Berlin (granddaughter of a Hungarian Holocaust survivor, filmmaker); Santiago Gimeno, Madrid (descendant of a Neuengamme prisoner, Amical Español de Neuengamme); Jonas Reinhardt, Hamburg (student at the HafenCity Universität)

4.15 pm – 4.45 pm Coffee break

4.45 pm – 5.45 pm Presentation: the [www.zeit-und-zweitzeugen.de](http://www.zeit-und-zweitzeugen.de) project

Barbara Keimer, Recklinghausen (retired teacher)

Thereafter: open discussion on the role of relatives, education experts and honorary activists in remembrance culture

Moderator: Dr Susann Lewerenz (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

5.45 pm – 6 pm End of the day

### Thursday, November 12; 9 am – 5 pm

(Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies, Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75, 21039 Hamburg)

9 am – 9.15 am Welcome to Day 2

9.15 am – 10.45 am Discussion: culture of remembrance storytelling in various media

Reinhard Kleist, Berlin (author of the graphic novel *Der Boxer*); Dr Martine Letterie, Vorden/Netherlands (granddaughter of a Neuengamme prisoner, author of novels on National Socialism, President, Internationale KZ Neuengamme/AIN); Dr Iris Groschek, Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres (digital storytelling in memorial work)

Moderator: Dr Alexandra Köhring (Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres)

- 10.45 am – 11 am Coffee break
- 11 am – 12.30 pm Presentations: Associations and initiatives of relatives
- Balbina Rebollar, Gijón/Spain (daughter of a Neuengamme prisoner, President, Amical Español de Neuengamme); Kristof Van Mierop, Dudzele/Belgium (grandson of a Neuengamme prisoner, Amicale Belge de Neuengamme, AIN Secretary General); Thom Klück, Utrecht/Netherlands (President, Stichting Vriendenkring Neuengamme); Inge Kroll, Augsburg (daughter of a Dachau prisoner, active in the Bavarian relatives' initiative)
- Moderator: Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm – 3 pm Reflection and discussion: How do we deal with life-story interviews within the culture of remembrance?
- Dr Anika Reichwald, Hohenems (Head of the Scientific Department at the Jewish Museum Hohenems/Austria, co-curator of the touring exhibition 'The End of the Era of Witness Testimony?'); Dr Ulrich Baumann, Berlin (Deputy Director of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, in charge of '*Sprechen trotz allem*' – life-story interviews); Karin Heddinga, Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial (staff member on the project '*Transgenerationelle Überlieferung von Geschichte*)
- Moderator: Dr Kristina Vagt (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 3 pm – 4 pm Coffee break and time-out for informal exchanges
- 4 pm – 4.45 pm Performative reading: Sława Harasymowicz, London (artist and great-niece of a Neuengamme prisoner)
- Moderator: Lennart Onken (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 4.45 pm – 5 pm End of the day
- from 7 pm Online event: 'A Life Postponed'
- A reading from the memoirs of concentration camp survivor Dita Kraus (Prague/Czech Republic and Netanya/Israel), followed by a discussion with her and her son Ron Kraus (Netanya/Israel)
- Moderator: Ulrike Jensen (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- Registration for the online event at [hamburg@fes.de](mailto:hamburg@fes.de) is mandatory. Shortly before the event is due to start, you will receive a Zoom link so you can join in online.

In co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

**Friday, November 13; 9 am – 12.30 pm**

(Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies, Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75, 21039 Hamburg)

9 am – 9.15 am Welcome to Day 3

9.15 am – 10.15 pm Presentation: Place of Remembrance, Connection and Support

Bernhard Esser, Hamburg (son of a Neuengamme prisoner); Uta Kühl, Hamburg (daughter of a Neuengamme prisoner, AIN Treasurer); students of the Experimental Design Studio (University of Fine Arts of Hamburg)

Moderator: Alyn Bessmann (Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres)

10.15 am – 11 am Coffee break

Official inauguration of the Space to Remember, Connect and Support (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Plattenhaus (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte – Mahnmal'))

11 am – 12.30 pm Official inauguration of the 'Space to Remember, Connect and Support'

In co-operation with the Friends of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, the Neuengamme Working Group and the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)