

6th Future of Remembrance Forum 2020 (online)

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 (online)

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

Friday, November 13; 9 am – 10.15 am (online)

Friday, November 13; 11 am – 12.30 pm (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the event will take place as a video conference.

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 6th Forum on 11 to 13 November 2020 will revolve around the ways in which the memory of Nazism is reflected in the media. It will take place as a video conference using the video conferencing tool Zoom.

Indeed, the media play an ever greater role in remembrance culture. They offer new possibilities for engaging with history and help keep historical events present in our historical consciousness. 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? (What do you want to do?) 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 75th 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 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, the official inauguration of the Space to Remember, Connect and Support will take place. It will be broadcasted via livestream on the Instagram Channel of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

As part of the programme there will also be an evening event with concentration camp survivor Dita Kraus, who recently published her memoirs. The event will also be broadcasted online via livestream.

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.

Languages:

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

Registration:

A binding registration for participating in the video conferencing of the Future of Remembrance Forum is required by November 8, 2020. Please let us know if you would like to use the English-speaking or the German-speaking channel. In order to register, please contact Amina Edzards: Amina Edzards, amina.edzards@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de.

The Future of Remembrance Forum will be hosted by the video conferencing tool Zoom. Shortly before the event, registered participants will receive a Zoom link in order to participate online via livestream.

In order to participate in the event with Dita Kraus on the evening of November 12, 2020, please contact hamburg@fes.de. This event will also be hosted by the video conferencing tool Zoom. Shortly before the event, registered guests will receive a Zoom link in order to participate online.

Programme

Wednesday, November 11; 2 pm – 6 pm

- 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 Hungarian Holocaust survivors, filmmaker); Santiago Gimeno, Madrid (descendant of a Neuengamme prisoner, Amical de Neuengamme); Jonas Reinhardt, Hamburg (student at the HafenCity Universität)
- 4.15 pm – 4.45 pm Break
- 4.45 pm – 5.45 pm Presentation: the 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 Concluding remarks

Thursday, November 12; 9 am – 5 pm

- 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 Amicale 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 Break
- 11 am – 12.30 pm Presentations: Associations and initiatives of relatives
Balbina Rebollar, Gijón/Spain (daughter of a Neuengamme prisoner, President, Amical 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 a Bavarian relatives' initiative)
Moderator: Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

- 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Break
- 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 of the project *Transgenerationelle Überlieferung von Geschichte*)
 Moderator: Dr Kristina Vagt (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 3 pm – 4 pm 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 Concluding remarks
- 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 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

- 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, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme); Uta Kühl, Hamburg (daughter of a Neuengamme prisoner, AIN Treasurer); Amelie von Marschalck and Anna Unterstab (students of the Experimental Design Studio, University of Fine Arts Hamburg)
 Moderator: Alyn Bessmann (Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres)
- 10.15 am – 11 am 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 Freundeskreis KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme and the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Registration for participating in the inauguration is mandatory. Please contact Amina Edzards: amina.edzards@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de.

The inauguration will be broadcasted via livestream on the Instagram Channel of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial:
www.instagram.com/neuengamme.memorial