

# KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme

Ausstellungen  
Begegnungen  
Studienzentrum

## 9<sup>th</sup> "Future of Remembrance" Forum 2023

### *History in the present: Social commitment and dealing with family history against the background of National Socialist crimes*

Relatives of victims of Nazi persecution, descendants of Nazi perpetrators, people interested in the culture of remembrance and memorial staff are cordially invited to our two-day "Future of Remembrance" Forum at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial to exchange ideas and network on future issues of remembrance culture.

The 9th Forum on **15 and 16 November 2023** will focus on social engagement against the background of family history under the title "History in the Present": To what extent does one's own family history during National Socialism influence one's personal attitude towards current political and social conditions? What is the connection between one's own commitment against current forms of racism, anti-Semitism and other anti-human ideologies and the experiences and memories within one's own family?

**On the first day, before the public part of the forum begins**, two staff members of the Hamburg Memorials and Learning Places Foundation will offer a writing workshop for relatives of former concentration camp prisoners who are interested in publishing something about their family history. In this context, relatives will also have the opportunity to exchange ideas with each other.

The general part of the Forum begins in the **early afternoon of November 15** with a conversation with Yvan Mbomo from France. His grandfather, born in the then Spanish colony of Guinea, was an aircraft mechanic who fought on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. At the end of the war, he fled to France, where he joined the *Résistance* during the German occupation. He was deported to Neuengamme concentration camp and survived the sinking of the "concentration camp ship" Cap Arcona in early May 1945.

In the panel that follows, we will talk to three children of former Nazi persecutees from Hamburg about their family memories of resistance and persecution in the first years of the Nazi regime, 90 years after the handover of power to the Nazis. What role does resistance to the rise of the NSDAP and early persecution during the Nazi era play in the political and social engagement of members of the second generation? How do the descendants perceive the rise of radical right-wing parties and positions in Germany and Europe?

The continuities of German history are also a topic of the **public evening event in Hamburg-Bergedorf**. Survivors and victims as well as their relatives have been fighting for many years to ensure that victims of right-wing violence are publicly remembered and that anti-Semitism and racism, against Roma and Sinti and other groups, are resolutely opposed. What connections can be made between Nazi terror and right-wing violence after 1945 in Hamburg and elsewhere in Germany? What kind of commitment is there on the part of those affected and

their descendants? In a panel discussion with descendants of Nazi persecutees and perpetrators, we will talk about continuities, memories and struggles.

For two years now, a panel series of the Forum has been dealing with the cultures of remembrance in different countries. On the **morning of November 16**, the culture of remembrance in Poland will be examined from the perspective of descendants of former Polish concentration camp prisoners. In this context, we will talk, among other things, about the relationship between Polish remembrance policy and social and family remembrance. To what extent have the general conditions for remembering political persecution by the Nazi regime changed with the political and social upheavals in Poland?

Representatives of the associations of former Neuengamme concentration camp prisoners and their relatives from various European countries travel to the "Future of Remembrance" Forum every year. In a short round, they present their current activities. Afterwards, the participants of the Forum have the opportunity to visit the tables of the associations at a "market of opportunities", to inform themselves about their projects and to talk to the relatives present.

**After lunch**, we will talk with the granddaughter of a Nazi perpetrator and the great-granddaughter of a follower of the Nazi regime about different artistic approaches in their confrontation with the guilt and responsibility of their ancestors: Solo theatre with a puppet on the one hand, scenographic adaptation of a diary on the other. What questions and themes are at the centre of their artistic explorations? In what way and by what means do they negotiate their relationships to their relatives?

In recent years, the unexpected return of the belongings of former concentration camp prisoners ("Effekten") – a watch or a ring, for example – has triggered great emotion in families. In the last panel of the Forum, we talk with two relatives of Polish and Spanish concentration camp prisoners about their relatives' fate, the significance of the return of their personal belongings and their commitment to remembrance culture. A historian explains the path of the personal belongings and provides information about their significance for families and the culture of remembrance in Spain.

**Note on the Space to Remember, Connect and Support:** Anyone who has designed a poster and would like to print it during the days is cordially invited to contact us in good time in advance.

**Concept:** Dr Alexandre Froidevaux, Dr Susann Lewerenz and Paula Scholz

**Venue:** Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Study Center, Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75, 21039 Hamburg

There will be simultaneous translation into German and English and, if required, into French Polish and Spanish.

## Conference program

Wednesday, November 15, 9:30 am–5:00 pm; Study Center, Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial

- Directions:*                    *Bus 227 at 8:33 am from Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB"), arrival at 9:08 am at stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung"*  
*Alternatively, for hotel guests: Bus 127 at 9:07 am from stop "Vierlandenstraße" (directly in front of the H4 Hotel), arrival at 9:26 am at stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung"*
- From 9 am*                    *Arrival and informal exchange*
- 09:30 am–12:30 pm    Exchange Meeting and Writing Workshop for Relatives of Former Concentration Camp Prisoners  
  
Moderators: Franciska Henning (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial) and Dr Christiane Heß (Hamburg Foundation of Memorials and Learning Centers)
- 12:30 pm–1:30 pm    Lunch
- 1:30 pm–2:00 pm    Welcome and Introductory Remarks on the 9<sup>th</sup> "Future of Remembrance" Forum  
  
Dr Susann Lewerenz and Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (both Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 2:00 pm–3:00 pm    French Résistance Fighter from Equatorial Guinea and Spain: Descendant of a Deportee from France to the Neuengamme Concentration Camp  
  
Conversation with Yvan Mbomo, Bordeaux (grandson of a Guinean-Spanish prisoner)  
  
Moderator: Dr Christel Trouvé, Bremen (National Agency for Civic Education / Memorial Site Denkort Bunker Valentin)
- 3:00 pm–3:30 pm    Break
- 3:30 pm–5:00 pm    1933 in Family Memory: Resistance and Persecution in the First Years of Nazi Rule in Hamburg  
  
Conversation with Detlef Baade (father arrested in 1933), Daniel Rebstock (parents arrested in 1934), both Hamburg, and Norma van der Walde, Buchholz in der Nordheide (father arrested in 1936)  
  
Moderator: Dr Christine Eckel (Hamburg Foundation of Memorials and Learning Centers)
- Departure*                    *Bus 227 at 5:08 pm from stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung", arrival at 5:30 pm at the Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB")*  
*Bus 127 at 5:35 pm from stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung", arrival at 5:53 pm at stop "Vierlandenstraße" (H4 Hotel), at 5:58 pm at Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB")*
- 6:00 pm–7:00 pm    *Dinner at KörberHaus, Holzhude 1, 21029 Hamburg-Bergedorf (close to H4 Hotel) for participants of the Forum (with registration)*

**Wednesday, November 15**, 7 pm–8:30 pm; KörberHaus, Holzhude 1, 21029 Hamburg-Bergedorf (close to H4 Hotel)

**Public evening event**

7:00 pm–8:30 pm      Committed against right-wing radicalism: Family-Historical References to Nazi History and Social Commitment in the Present

Conversation with Melani Klarić (granddaughter of a forced laborer), Daniel Manwire, both Hamburg (grandson of two Nazi perpetrators) and Adriano Paßquali, Oldenburg (son of a Sinto imprisoned in Neuengamme)

Moderator: Dr Susann Lewerenz (both Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

Event in German with English simultaneous interpretation.

**Thursday, November 16**, 9:45 am–5:55 pm, Study Center, Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial

**Conference program**

*Arrival:*                      *Bus 127 at 9:03 am from Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB"), from stop "Vierlandenstraße" (H4 Hotel) at 9.07 am, arrival at 9:26 am at stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung"*

*From 9:30 a.m.*              *Arrival and informal exchange*

9:45 am – 10 am              Welcome to day two

   Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

10 am–11:30 am              Polish Culture of Remembrance from the Perspective of Descendants of Former Politically Persecuted People from Poland

   Conversation with Maria Buko, Zurich (sociologist and historian), Katarzyna Piotrowska-Cholewińska, Warsaw (daughter and granddaughter of Polish concentration camp prisoners) and Magdalena Wajsen, Lodz (granddaughter of a Polish Neuengamme prisoner)

   Moderator: Natalia Wollny (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Lüneburg "Euthanasia" Memorial)

11:30 am–11:45 am      *Break*

- 11:45 am–12:45 pm Presentations: Associations and Initiatives of Descendants of Former concentration camp prisoners  
Elevator Pitch and subsequent "Market of Opportunities" with Angelika Burghardt (Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme), Franciska Henning (Young Committee of the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme), Kristof Van Mierop (Amicale Belge de Neuengamme), Freddy Duerinckx (NCPGR Meensel-Kiezegem 44), Thomas Käpernick and Ute Meßfeldt-Strutz (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme), Balbina Rebollar and José Luis Villaverde (Amical de Neuengamme, Spain)  
Moderator: Dr Alexandre Froidevaux (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- 12:45 pm–2:10 pm *Lunch*
- 2:10 pm–3:40 pm Artistic Approaches to Perpetrators and Followers of the Nazi Regime in the Family  
Conversation with Jan and Sophia Firgau, Muenster (great-grandchildren of a follower of the Nazi regime) and Ilka Vierkant, Toulouse (granddaughter of a Nazi perpetrator)  
Moderator: Dr Alexandra Köhring (Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centers)
- 3:40 pm–4:10 pm *Break*
- 4:10 pm–5:40 pm What does the Return of the Belongings of Former Concentration Camp Prisoners ("Effekten") mean for their Relatives?  
Input and conversation with Anja Hasler, Bremen (Denkort Bunker Valentin, Universität zu Köln), Nieves Cajal Santos, Madrid (niece of Spanish prisoners of Neuengamme concentration camp) and Sandra Polom, Wiesbaden (granddaughter of Polish prisoners)  
Moderator: Dr Alexandre Froidevaux
- 5:40 pm–5:55 pm Closing and farewell  
Dr Susann Lewerenz (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)
- Departure* *Bus 227 at 6:08 pm from stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung", arrival at 5:30 pm at Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB")*  
*Bus 127 at 6:35 pm from stop "KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung", arrival at 6:53 pm at stop "Vierlandenstraße" (H4 Hotel), at 5:58 at Bergedorf central bus station ("ZOB")*
- From 7:30 pm* *Dinner for invited guests at the H4 Hotel Bergedorf*