



ACCESSING CAMPSCAPES: INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES FOR USING EUROPEAN CONFLICTED HERITAGE

16.10.2019



Accessing
Campscapes

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute
for Holocaust Studies (VWI)
Rabensteig 3, 1010 Wien

In most postwar European countries, former Nazi camps have become icons of antifascist resistance and the Holocaust, and they have played a consistent role in postwar European memory of totalitarianism and genocide. In Western European countries, former camps have been reused by postcolonial migrants and other refugee groups. In the Eastern European centre of the Holocaust and Stalinist terror, many former camps are still contested spaces where consecutive internments of prisoners by occupying powers and political regimes transformed the victims of one event into the persecutors of another. This entanglement of remembering with forgetting, along with the silencing of competing narratives, shows the strong connection between heritage, storytelling and the politics of identity, posing a serious challenge to museums, remembrance institutions, civil society organizations, social activists, critical academics and educators tasked with the development of new and alternative narratives to make such spaces ever more relevant.

The cultural, political and material dynamics of former camps in Europe was investigated within the framework of iC-ACCESS, drawing from interdisciplinary research perspectives in historical, heritage and memory studies, forensics, archaeology and material culture studies, and digital humanities. We have explored what has become, in the European context, a dominant set of issues: the dynamics affecting the staging and presentation of some Holocaust camps into heritage, and the forgetting of others; the acknowledgement and presentation of Stalinist camps in Eastern Europe; dissonant heritage and competing memories, and simmering ethnic/regional tensions from the past, exacerbated by the present EU crisis affecting the identity and future of the European integration project. iC-ACCESS has addressed the role of the camps as monuments of the '20th century of camps' in an age of transnationalization, digitization, and migration.

At the conference, we will present the results of research carried out between 2016 and 2019 at key camps across Europe: Westerbork (The Netherlands), Treblinka (Poland), Falstad (Norway), Jasenovac/Donja Gradina (Croatia/Republika Srpska), Bergen-Belsen (Germany), the former Roma camp at Lety (Czech Republic), former uranium labour camps in the Jáchymov region (Czech Republic), the former Holocaust site at Maly Trostenets (Belarus) and the Civil War camp Castuera (Spain). The conference will spotlight the role of testimonies in increasing accessibility and visibility for visitors to such sites, explore new technologies of VR/AR reality to 3/4D mapping and connect competing memories on camps, and focus on contested political, narrative and material dynamics at and around camps.

This HERA-JPI project has been a collaboration between the University of Amsterdam, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, the Staffordshire University, the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Freie Universität Berlin and the Institute for Bioengineering in Barcelona. The project was carried out in collaboration with associate partners: Bergen Belsen Memorial, Camp Westerbork Memorial Centre, the Museum of Struggle and Martyrdom in Treblinka, Falstad Memorial and Human Rights Centre, Jasenovac Memorial Museum, Postbellum, the Museum of Roma Culture, and the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI), and profited from the support of companies such as UCL Scanlab, Eodyne Systems, VU Spinlab, and Calibro.

Public Conference: **ACCESSING CAMPSCAPES: INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES FOR USING EUROPEAN CONFLICTED HERITAGE (iC-ACCESS)**

Final event, 16.10.2019 at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)

9:15-9:30 Welcome (Prof. Éva Kovács and Prof. Rob van der Laarse)

9:30-11:00 **Session 1: Presentation of iC-ACCESS Research Results: Narrating, Experiencing and Representing Campscapes**

Campscapes as Contested Sites and Narratives – Prof. Rob van der Laarse (University of Amsterdam)

Lived Stories: Testimonies and Campscapes – Dr. Cord Pagenstecher (Freie University of Berlin)

Digital Representation of iC-ACCESS Research Results – Matteo Azzi (Calibro) and Dana Dolghin (University of Amsterdam)

Chair and Commentator: Prof. Nanci Adler (NIOD, University of Amsterdam)
Discussion

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:45 **Session 2: Presentation of iC-ACCESS Research Results: Materiality, Archaeology, and Digital Representations of Campscapes**

Materiality of Camps and Uncovering of the Invisible – Prof. Marek Jasinski (Trondheim University of Science and Technology)

Mapping Campscapes – Prof. Caroline Sturdy Colls (Staffordshire University)

Digitality: Recovering Campscapes – Prof. Paul Verschure (Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia)

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Gilly Carr (University of Cambridge)

Discussion

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-15:15 Session 3: Exploring Contemporary Landscape of Contested Campscapes

Anne-Lise Bobeldijk (NIOD, University of Amsterdam)

Dr. Laura Muñoz Encinar (University of Amsterdam, University of Extremadura)

Maria Mikaelyan (Polytechnic University of Milan)

Dr. Gilly Carr (University of Cambridge)

Chair and Commentator: Prof. Roma Sendyka (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)

Discussion

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Session 4: Associate Partners: Site Specific Projects and Developments

Falstad Centre for Human Rights – Christian Wee

Bergen Belsen Memorial Museum – Stephanie Billib

Jasenovac Memorial Museum – Dr. Andriana Bencic

Camp Westerbork Remembrance Centre – Bas Kortholt and Jitte Waagen

Lety Memorial Site – Prof. Pavel Vařeka (University of West Bohemia)

Chair and Commentator: Dr. Zuzanna Dziuban (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

17:30-19:00 Accessing Campscapes: Artistic Responses

Presentation of and panel discussion around an art project by **Michael Branthwaite** with **Éva Kovács** (VWI), **Pavel Vařeka** (iC-ACCESS), **Rob van der Laarse** (iC-ACCESS), **Caroline Sturdy Colls** (iC-ACCESS), and **Csaba Szilágyi** (Central European University, Open Society Archives)

19:30 Dinner

Places are limited and registration is required. Please confirm your attendance via email by Tuesday 13 October 2019: anmeldung@vwi.ac.at

Please note ID is required upon arrival.

The last barrack
at Belsen-Belsen.
Photographer
Bert Hardy.
Collection Robert
Jan van Pelt.



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WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (WII)



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