

Workshop as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2021

## Zero-Sum Game in Every Direction: Post-Yugoslavia as Non Site of Multidirectional Memory

Two case studies: genocide(s) on screen and two strands of *xplaining* (Yugosplaining and Albnsplaining)

### Organizational details

Instructor: Zoran Vuckovac

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021, from 2 pm to 6 pm

Location: Online (link will be sent in advance to the lecture)

### Content

Through the workshop I wish to explore several concepts in memory studies and their application to the specific contexts of a non-place of memory, that is the former Yugoslavia. I will treat Yugoslavia as a memory object which is at the same time platforming collective grievances and a cause of contention, despite the fact it does not exist as a geo-political reality for almost three decades. Therefore, I take Michael Rothberg's multidirectional memory (2009) as a starting point of the workshop and work through memory conflicts on the case of Yugoslavia as a non-site of memory. Echoing Judt's (1992) claim that the past is always another country I wish to explore what happens when the country is no more - extant only as a knowledge project and a memory object. I propose a workshop that traces competitive victimization springing from unresolved memory conflicts on one side and methodological nationalism on the other as played out in the case of Post-Yugoslavia, a country whose non-existence renders it a perfect object of memory studies, both in terms of its utopian potential (Kirn 2019) as well as shared history of violence (Assmann 2012). The workshop will look at two case studies, discussions arising from cinematic depictions of genocide(s) in *Quo Vadis*, *Aida* (2020) and *Dara from Jasenovac* (2020) and intellectual exchange on the supranational project of Yugoslavia that occurred around the project of "Yugosplaining the World" - series of blog posts that sparked a discussion in post-Yugoslav academic circles both on nature of the project and its consequences. In both cases, the participants will discuss how Yugoslavia is discursively reified as a memory platform, and how memory discussions render this past very much present.

Key words: Yugoslavia, genocide, multidirectional memory, Srebrenica, Jasenovac, pop-culture, socialism, decolonization

### Learning Targets

- Helping participants from various educational backgrounds master basic concepts in memory studies, how to study memory and how to apply concepts to their own social contexts.
- The role of collective memory during conflict and peace, its social and political ramifications.
- Introduction and a brief history of Yugoslav conflict and post-Yugoslav nation building in the context of transformation of former socialist block at the end of 1980s

- Learn about uses and abuses of cultural production for the purposes of national grievances in the past and present on a specific context of (Post)Yugoslavia

**Target group**

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

**Course language**

English

**Registration**

Please register **by 18th of April 2021** via e-mail at [info@ggs.uni-giessen.de](mailto:info@ggs.uni-giessen.de).