



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



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# Workshop Trauma Studies in the Digital Age

## **DAY 1 – Round table ‘Trauma Studies in the Digital Age’**

venue: Belle van Zuylenzaal, Amsterdam University Library, Singel 424, Amsterdam  
when: 18:00 – 19:00

During this round table, Chaja Polak, Arnoud Arps, Lisette Bijker and Anna Menyhért will discuss issues related to trauma processing. Historical trauma and its long-term impact, current trends and methods in trauma treatment, and the relation of trauma to colonization and the memories of violence will be examined from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The round table will be followed by drinks from 19:00 – 20:00.

### About the speakers:

Chaja Polak is a Dutch writer and artist. She is the child of a survivor and victim of Auschwitz. The trauma done to her parents highly influenced her life and work.

Arnoud Arps is a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam. His research project is called: ‘Remembering Violence: Cultural Memory, Popular Culture and the Indonesian War of Independence’.

Lisette Bijker is a PhD candidate at VU University Amsterdam at the faculty of Behavioural- and Movement Sciences, where she conducts an interdisciplinary research on E-Health.

Anna Menyhért is a writer, researcher, university lecturer, and a teacher of creative writing. Her research fields are literary studies, trauma studies, gender studies, and cultural and digital memory studies.

## DAY 2 - Thursday 11 May 2017

Venue: NIAS – Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, conference room, Korte Spinhuissteeg 3, Amsterdam

**9:00 – 9:15 Registration**

**9:15 – 9:30 Welcome and Introduction by Ellen Rutten**

**9:30 – 10:45 Session one: Trauma and Migration** – chair: Ellen Rutten

1. Koen Leurs “Young Connected Migrants: the Smartphone as Pocket Archive”
2. Nour Munawar “The Role of Media in Postwar Heritage Reconstruction”
3. Anna Menyhért “Transcultural Trauma and Digital Homes: Blogs and Facebook Communities of Hungarian Migrants in Europe”

10:45 – 11:05 Coffee break

**11:05 – 12:00 Session two: Memory transmission** – chair: Yra van Dijk

1. Orsolya Rákai “Between Collectivity and Particularity: „Lost in Translation””
2. Réka Deim “Conflicting Memories of the Communist Era in Hungary and New Traumas after 1989”

**12:00 – 13:15 Session three: Trauma and Contemporary Conflicts** – chair: Orsolya Rákai

1. Koen Kluessien “Mass Atrocities in the Digital Age: can we stop a genocide with our cell phone?”
2. Vlad Strukov “The Trauma of Digital Coming-Out: Sexuality and Social Media in the Russian Federation ”
3. Lisa Gaufman “The Ukrainian Crisis as Manifestation of WWII Post-Trauma in Russia”

13:15 – 14:00 Lunch

**14:00 – 15:15 Session four: Digital Monuments 1** – chair: Laura Boerhout

1. Marielle Wijermars “New Media and the Expression of Alternative Views on the Past in Russia: The Russian Revolution as a Social Media Feed”
2. Annelieke de Natris “#Holodomor – Transcultural Trauma: the Migration of Trauma and Manifestation in a new homeland”
3. Stéphanie Benzaquen-Gautier “Crowdfunding Remembrance: the Digital Economy of Memorials on Kickstarter”

**15:15 – 16:30 Session five: Digital Trauma and Literature** – chair: Yra van Dijk

1. Gwen le Cor “Trauma Narratives in Electronic Literature: of Fragments and Glitches”
2. Silvana Mandolessi “Is Trauma Fiction Out Of Place in Digital Culture?”

16:30 – 16:50 Coffee break

**16:50 – 18:25 Session six: Digital Trauma Cultures** – chair: Paul Arthur

1. Melissa Kerr Chioyenda [skype] “Ethnic Hazara Cultural Trauma and Social Media: Afghanistan’s Enlightening Movement”
2. Shruti Devgan [skype] “Digital Construction of Traumatic Memory: The Case of Anti-Sikh Violence”
3. John Hanna “Mapping Conflict: the Lebanese Civil War in Social Media and Digital Archives”

**19:00 Dinner – Café de Jaren**

**Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20, Amsterdam**

## DAY 3 - Friday 12 May 2017

Venue: NIAS – Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, conference room, Korte Spinhuissteeg 3, Amsterdam

**9:00 – 10:30 Session seven: Digital Monuments 2** – chair: Vlad Strukov

1. Paul Arthur “Virtual Memorials and Grief Networks”
2. Laurie Faro "The Digital Monument to the Jewish Community of the Netherlands: Ritualization and Meaning”
3. Elena Zezlina “Taborišče Rižarna/Risiera di San Sabba: a Virtual Reminder on the Italo-Slovenian Border”

**10:30 – 11:45 Session eight: Digital Archives and Trauma** – chair: Mykola Makhortykh

1. Courtney Cole [skype] "The Public Afterlife of Personal Testimony: Online Trauma in South African, Sierra Leonean, and Liberian Truth Commission Testimony”
2. Angela Boone "The deportation of German Jews from the Netherlands to Germany by the Dutch government in the period 1945-1950”
3. Kartika Pratiwi [skype] "Hopes out after 51 of waiting”
4. Gernot Howanitz and Erik Radisch "Contextualizing Bandera: A Quantitative Approach towards a Traumatic Figure”

**11:45 – 12:00 Coffee break**

**12:00 – 13:15 Session nine: Digital Trauma Sotytelling** – chair: Katalin Bálint

1. Natalia Sanchez-Querubin "The wounded-healers of Instragram”
2. Jenna Altomonte [skype] "Occupying Online Space: dead-in-Iraq and the Iraqi Memorial”
3. Lora Nouk [skype] "Vulnerable Webs: Notes Towards the Trauma Monster”

**13:15 – 14:30 Session ten: Digital testimonies of Holocaust** – chair: Angela Schwarz

1. Mykola Makhortykh "Encyclopedizing the Holocaust: Memory about the Babi Yar Massacres in Wikipedia”
2. Aleksandra Szczepan “Traumatic Performances in the Digital Age: Video Testimonies of Holocaust Bystanders”
3. Maria Zalewska "From #Auschwitz to Yoloocaust: The Epistemology and Ethics of Documenting Digital Encounters with the Holocaust Past”

**14:30 – 14:45 Concluding remarks** by Angela Schwarz and Anna Menyhért

**14:45 Lunch**

## Additional information

The workshop 'Trauma Studies in the Digital Age' is part of Anna Menyhért's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Research Fellowship project, supervised by Ellen Rutten at the University of Amsterdam, titled 'Trauma Studies in the Digital Age: The Impact of Social Media on Trauma Processing in Life Narratives and in Trauma Literature: the Case of Hungary' (TRAPRODIG). The MSCA TRAPRODIG project provides a new digital perspective for literary and cultural trauma research. According to its interdisciplinary scientific goal, it introduces the new concept of 'digital (cultural and literary) trauma processing' and develops the new field of 'digital trauma studies' at the intersection of three fields: digital/cultural memory studies, cultural/literary trauma studies and digital media studies (social media research).

The TRAPRODIG project defined four sub-themes within digital trauma studies:

- 1.) Personal trauma, digital identity in relation to social media as an online community: coping with illness, loss, grief, virtual cemeteries, the role of online support groups;
- 2.) Transcultural trauma (migration, forced migration, cultural shock) and transnational (online) writing (literary texts, blogs and Facebook groups);
- 3.) Social media and the painful past: collective trauma processing online, collective memory and national identity formation, a special focus on Post-Soviet countries, the East-Central European region and Hungary;
- 4.) Literary (printed, offline) texts and (digital) trauma processing: online reading groups, reviews in personal blogs, literary websites interpreting trauma texts. These sub-themes provide the framework for discussion for the workshop 'Trauma Studies in the Digital Age'.

The workshop is supported by the peer-reviewed journals 'Environment, Space and Place' and 'Digital Icons' with the prospect of publishing selected papers in the journals.



Digital Icons, Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Med



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