May 11, 2020

Our newsletter focuses on issues relating to historical dialogue, historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory. More details about items in our newsletter (and more!) can be found on our website.

Both our website and newsletter provide information and resources to encourage innovative interdisciplinary, transnational and comparative research. They are housed at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, New York City.

How is COVID-19 affecting conflict and post-conflict societies? In our newsletter we will highlight the ways in which the pandemic is affecting historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory work.

Rwandan genocide commemorations dampened by COVID-19 lockdown. For more, click here.
The Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network coordinated by a Steering Committee and the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, held its annual conference at Columbia University in New York City on December 12-14, 2019. The title of the conference was “Prevention Activism: Advancing Historical Dialogue in Post-Conflict Settings.” The conference hosted over 100 panelists, held 26 panels, 3 roundtables and was attended by over 400 participants. The keynote speaker of the conference was Mr. Pablo de Greiff, who is a Chair of the Advisory Board of the Open Society’s Justice Initiative, and a member of the advisory board of the International Center for Transitional Justice, of Universal Rights Group, of the International Center for the Study, Prevention and Treatment of Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma, and of the Archives and Dealing with the Past Project. In 2012, Mr. Greiff was appointed as the first UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence, a position he held until May 2018.

The conference focused on prevention activism—the effort to record, acknowledge, address and redress the violent past—which seeks to counter nationalist myths and identities that are central ingredients of ethnic and political violence. The goal of prevention activism is to deny the propensity for the future escalation of violence by acknowledging the role that the misuse of history has played in dividing societies. In other words, by enhancing public discussions about the past, prevention activism has become a central part of the efforts in post-conflict societies, as well as in democratic societies, to come to terms with their violent past. The conference explored activities that can be defined as “prevention activism” and included their academic analysis. The conference raised the question: What forms do projects and initiatives take to address past violence, and what impact have they had? These projects often range from civil society initiatives, to government-instituted commissions, to the work of international bodies. The conference particularly examined how specific body has worked to address past violence. Other topics evaluated the successes and failures of such initiatives; exploring the challenges faced by prevention activism and understanding the ways in which pressures, from funding resources to political developments, affect, suppress, or inform activism. The presentations ranged from country-specific, such as “The Future of the Soviet Past: Can ‘Doing History’ Further Reconciliation in Russia?,” to thematic ones, such as “Memorial Museums and Their Educational Programs: The Struggle to Confront and Reconcile Difficult Historical Pasts.” This was the 8th conference of the network. The interest in the conference shows a growing captivity with the past as a tool for activism in prevention. The link to the conference materials is here.
We are delighted to share the latest contribution to our working paper series, Angela Bermudez's essay, "The Normalization of Political Violence in History Textbooks: Ten Narrative Keys". Angela Bermudez is a researcher at the Center for Applied Ethics in the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain).

**Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network Working Paper Series**

Interested in submitting a paper for possible publication on our Network? E-mail us at dialogues@columbia.edu!

Read Bernd Schaefer’s review of *The Army and the Indonesian Genocide: Mechanics of Mass Murder* (Jessica Melvin). Based on archives and many witness interviews, this study is a breakthrough for establishing the case for the Indonesian military’s orchestration and implementation of the 1965/66 mass killings.

Interested in reviewing a book? Below are a list of books currently available for review. Interested in proposing a book for review? E-mail us at dialogues@columbia.edu!

**OPPORTUNITIES**
Select postings for career and academic advancement.

Please note that COVID-19 is leading to frequent changes and/or cancellations of events. Check details carefully for updated information.

**May 2020**

**CfA: Persecution at Home: Eviction and Resettlement of Jews Within the City Space, 1938-1942**
Location: Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance and Renner Institute, Vienna, Austria
Conference: September 21-22, 2020
Application deadline: May 15, 2020

**CfA: Terence MacSwiney, Cork Men's Gaol, and the Political Hunger Strike, 1920-2020**
Location: University College Cork, Ireland
Conference Dates: October 9-10, 2020
Deadline: May 15, 2020

**CfA: Regional Representative for Asia, Artists at Risk Connection: PEN America**
Location: New York
Deadline: May 15, 2020

**CfA: 2020 International Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies**
Location: online
Course Dates: June 22-27, 2020
Application Deadline: May 18, 2002
CfP: Research Workshop Program, USHMM
Location: Washington, DC
Dates: variable
Deadline: May 22, 2020

CfA: Civic Europe: Call for Ideas on Civic Cohesion and Democracy
Deadline: May 27, 2020

CfA: Virtual Conflict Sensitivity Course
Location: online (Swisspeace)
Course dates: 12, 19 & 26 June 2020
Application deadline: May 30, 2020

CfA: Researcher, Americas
Location: Human Rights Watch
Deadline: May 30, 2020

CfP: Genealogies of Memory: The Holocaust between Global and Local Perspectives
Location: Warsaw, Poland
Conference dates: November 25-27, 2020
Deadline: May 31, 2020

CfA: Social Divisions and Questions of Identity in Germany and the United States
Location: Buffalo, NY and Dortmund, Germany
Deadline: May 31, 2020

CfA: Helmut Schmidt Fellowship
Location: Berlin, Germany
Deadline: May 31, 2020

CfA: Rotary Peace Fellowships
Location: Variable
Deadline: May 31, 2020

CfA: Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival: Displacement
Exhibit dates: November – December 2020
Deadline: May 31, 2020

June 2020

CfA: The Photography of Persecution. Pictures of the Holocaust
Location: The American University of Paris
Conference Dates: January 6-8, 2021
Application Deadline: June 1, 2020
**Summer Human Rights Institute**
Location: Fordham University, New York City
Dates: June 15-26, 2020
Application Deadline: June 1, 2020

**CfP: Studies in Modern Italy**
Seminar proposals for 2020-2021
Submission Deadline: June 10, 2020

**CfA: MA in Transcultural Studies**
Location: Heidelberg University
Application Deadline: June 10, 2020

**CfA: Bergen-Belsen International Summer School 2020**
Location: Online
Dates: August 2-7, 2020
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Alps and Resistance: Conflicts, Violences and Political Reflections (1943-1945)**
Deadline: June 30, 2020

**CfP: Civitates grants for public interest journalism**
Location: Europe
Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

---

**RESOURCES**

Online resources related to historical dialogue, historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory that may be of particular interest during this period of institutional closures and social distancing.

- [Anne Frank Video Diary](#) - NEW
- [Story Center - Storytelling in the Time of COVID-19 Webinar (free)](#) - NEW
- [WITNESS Video Lab COVID-19 Response Hub](#) - NEW
- [24-hour Global Vigil Online to Conclude Genocide Awareness Month](#) - NEW

***

- [European Center of Solidarity virtual exhibits](#)
- [Experience the Tenement Museum from Home](#)
Objects of Comfort: New Digital Collection Gallery!
The Census Reading Between the Lines
Virtual Tour of the POLIN Museum in Poland
Your Story, Our Story

UPCOMING EVENTS

Select activities relate to historical dialogue, historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory

ALL EVENTS

Please note that COVID-19 is leading to frequent changes and/or cancellations of events. Check details carefully for updated information.

April 2020

Restorative Justice Trainings
Location: Columbia University, New York City
Dates: April 2020 (multiple)

COVID-19 in Conflict: What to Expect? And What Can be Done?
Location: online (Human Rights Institute, Columbia University)
Date: April 21, 2020

COVID-19 and its Response: Risks to Refugees, Migrants, and Asylum-Seekers
Location: online (Human Rights Institute, Columbia University)
Date: April 22, 2020

Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights: A Continuing Emergency
Location: online (Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University)
Date: April 22, 2020

Understanding Genocides: The Genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire
Location: American University in Paris, France
Dates: April 24-25, 2020

May 2020

Racial Justice, Inclusion and Restoration
Location: online (Columbia Law School)
Date: May 1, 2020

Gather: A Virtual, Interactive, Oral History Exhibit
Location: online (Oral History Program, Columbia University)
Date: May 1, 2020
European Remembrance Symposium
Location: Talinn, Estonia
Date: May 4-6, 2020

RELEVANCE: 60th Annual Conference of the Estonian National Museum
Location: Estonian National Museum, Tartu, Estonia
Date: 5-7 May 2020

Young Scholars Workshop Germans and Jews in Eastern Europe
Location: Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
Conference Dates: May 6-May 7, 2020

(Re-)Making Citizenship: Explorations of Belonging and Participation in the Arts
Location: University of Warwick, UK
Conference Date: May 7, 2020

On the Possibility and the Impossibility of Reparations
Location: Columbia University, New York City
Date: May 7-8, 2020

One Day Oral History Training Workshops
Location: online (OHMA, Columbia University)
Date: May 9, 2020

In the Wake of Red Power Movements: New Perspectives on Indigenous Intellectual and Narrative Traditions
Location: University of Warwick, UK
Dates: May 15-16, 2020

Location: Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Date: May 21-23, 2020

Post-War Memory, Holocaust Memorialization, and the Implications for the Present
Location: Durham, North Carolina
Dates: May 22-24, 2020

June 2020

Summer Institute for Genocide Studies and Prevention
Location: Keene State College, New Hampshire
Dates: June 1-5

Globalization and Social Movements: Familiar Patterns, New Constellations?
Location: Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
Dates: 4–5 June 2020

The 12th Annual Summer Institute: Teaching Peace in the 21st Century
Location: University of Notre Dame
Dates: June 8-12, 2020
Jews and Whiteness in Colonial Spaces  
Location: SOAS, London, UK  
Conference Dates: June 10-11, 2020

CfP: Literature and International Law Conference  
Location: Nairobi, Kenya  
Dates: June 15-16, 2020

War and Genocide, Reconstruction and Change: The Global Pontificate of Pius XII, 1939-1958  
Location: École Française and the German Historical Institute in Rome, Italy  
Dates: June 17-19, 2020

Memory Studies Association: Fourth Annual Conference  
Location: University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
Dates: June 18-21, 2020

Summer Human Rights Institute  
Location: Fordham Law School, New York City  
Course Dates: 15-26 June 2020

Europe’s Past, Present, and Future: Utopias and Dystopias  
Location: University of Iceland, Reykjavik  
Conference Dates: June 22-24, 2020

Overcoming the Darkness? – Holocaust Survivors’ Emotional and Social Journeys in the Early Postwar Period  
Location: Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel  
Conference Dates: 29-30 June, 2020

Tell us about events, opportunities and initiatives you are working on! E-mail dialogues@columbia.edu.