

## **Monuments, War Graves, and Memorial Sites in (De)Construction**

### **Burkhard Olschowsky**

Dr. Burkhard Olschowsky is a historian specializing in East and Central European history, with a particular focus on German-Polish relations. He is a research associate at the Federal Institute for Culture and History of Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE) in Oldenburg, Germany, and also teaches at the University of Oldenburg. Dr. Olschowsky has contributed to several scholarly publications, including *Region, Staat, Europa* and *Geteilte Regionen*, which explore regional identities under dictatorship and democracy in Eastern and Central Europe [kulturforum.info+1](http://kulturforum.info+1). He has also edited works such as *Akteur im Stillen*, focusing on Enno Meyer and his role in German-Polish-Jewish reconciliation.

### **Malkhaz Toria**

Malkhaz Toria (Ph.D., 2009) is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. He is also a doctoral candidate in Sociology at the New School for Social Research in New York. His research focuses on the theories of history and the epistemology of historical knowledge, with particular attention to the legacies of Tsarist and Soviet imperialism and their impact on identity, belonging, and boundary-making in contemporary Georgia. His work explores the politics of memory, the process of dealing with totalitarian pasts in post-Soviet societies, modern museology, and memorial culture. He is also deeply engaged in studying the instrumentalization of history, the politics of exclusion, and ethnic cleansing in the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali.

He has held prestigious fellowships, including Fulbright, DAAD, OSF, and others, at institutions such as the New School for Social Research, Central European University (CEU), Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL), Humboldt University of Berlin, the University of California, Berkeley, and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. He is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.

### **Dorota Kownacka**

Dr Dorota Kownacka, art historian, associate professor in the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and expert in The Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin. Her main interests are focused on the coexistence both art and literature in their pure form as equal works of art, academically embedded but also beyond the academic level of methodological discourse, and the study of the legacy of modernism.

**Ewa Ochman**

Ewa Ochman is a Senior Lecturer in East European Studies in the Department of History at the University of Manchester. She is a member of the Centre for the Cultural History of War and the Polish Studies Group at the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies. Her research interests include the history and memory of World War II in Poland, the material heritage of dictatorships, and public and state-sponsored histories. She is the author of *Post-communist Poland: Contested Pasts and Future Identities* and has published in journals such as *Contemporary European History*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Memory Studies*, *History and Memory*, *Nationalities Papers*, and *Cold War History*. Currently, she is working on a book-length study of the history of post-communist de-commemoration in Poland.

**Mireno Berrettini**

Mireno Berrettini is a Full Professor of History of International Relations at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. He collaborates with the Italian Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) and writes for the foreign affairs section of *Panorama*. His research interests focus on the relationships between Italian anti-fascism, Resistance, and the British political world during the Second World War. Currently, his studies focus on creating the Anglo-American World War II cemetery systems in Italy.