

Politics of Memory in the Present

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. 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.

Mindaugas Kvietkauskas

Prof. Dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas is a literary scholar, writer and translator, Dean of the Faculty of Philology at Vilnius University. In 2019-2020, Kvietkauskas served as Minister of Culture of Lithuania. Prior to becoming Minister, Kvietkauskas worked at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius and headed this institution in 2008-2018. Kvietkauskas holds a PhD from the Department of Lithuanian Literature at the University of Vilnius and studied Yiddish language and literature at the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish

Studies at Oxford University. His main areas of research are multilingual literary modernism and urban culture in Lithuania and East-Central Europe. He is the author of a monograph on multilingual literary modernism in Vilnius (2007), co-author of a study on the Lithuanian contexts of Czesław Miłosz (2011), and editor of the collection of research articles *Transitions of Lithuanian Postmodernism. Lithuanian Literature in the Post-Soviet Period* (Amsterdam, New York, 2011). Kvietkauskas has published a collection of literary essays *The Port Fugue* (2017), a collection of poems *Groundwater* (2025), and translated several books from Yiddish and Polish, including works by famous poets Czesław Miłosz, Abraham Sutzkever, and Moyshe Kulbak, as well as Holocaust diaries written by Lithuanian Jewish children - Yitskhok Rudashevski and Matilda Olkin.

Anna Zadora

Habilitation : Sociology of Education, Education and Identity, University of Corse 2018

Ph.D : Political Science, University of Strasbourg 2010

Associated Professor at Strasbourg University

Social Sciences Department from 2002

Expert of the Council of Europe on digital education

Expert of the Council of Europe Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, responsible for curricula analysis

Evaluation of the Education Policy of Strasbourg

Expert of European Science Foundation

Reviewer for:

Global Education Review,

Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology,

Visual Studies...

Research Projects:

11. Religions, discriminations and racism at school University of Lyon 2

10. European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations/European Commission

9. The Holocaust and Genocide in Contemporary Education, Georg Eckert Institute

8. Teaching of Controversial and Sensitive Issues,

7. Project Views on Historical Events. WWII Moral Schemas, Université de Kent/COST

6. Project Europe in School textbooks, Principal investigator, COST

5. Project Social Psychological Dynamics of the Narrative Transmission of History,

4. Project The Encyclopaedia of War: Social Science Perspectives

3. Project How Schools Worldwide Teach the Holocaust, UNESCO/ Institute Georg Eckert

2. Project Representations of the Past : The Writing of National Histories in Europe, European

1. Project Belarus : Writing on The Wall ? Centre for Advanced and Comparative EU-Russia

(NIS) Research, Vienne

Publications

1 Book

25 International Publications

26 Chapters in Books

Organizer/Invited speaker at more than 90 international conferences

Sophia Winkler

Sophia Winkler – Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) Berlin

Sophia Winkler joined ZOiS in September 2023 as a researcher in the ERC-funded project Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU). In her associated doctoral research, she is conducting an in-depth analysis of the media landscape that Russian-speakers abroad are exposed to and how they perceive it. She holds a bachelor's degree in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna and a master's degree from the Institute for European Global Studies in Basel. From January to May 2025 she visited Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at New York University (NYU) as a guest researcher. She focuses mainly on interpretive qualitative research. Before joining ZoIS, Sophia Winkler has worked in the policy realm at the EU and OSCE, as well as on Swiss peace policy.

Félix Krawatzek

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Félix Krawatzek is a political scientist and, since September 2018, a senior researcher at ZOiS, where he coordinates the research cluster Youth and Generational Change. He is also an Associate Member of NuKield College (University of Oxford). His research focuses on the comparative analysis of politics in Eastern and Western Europe. Félix Krawatzek is particularly interested in the role of youth in politics, the significance of historical representation in political processes, and questions related to migration and transnationalism. Before joining ZOiS, Félix Krawatzek held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations. He finished his doctorate at the University of Oxford and was a visiting fellow at Sciences Po Paris (Centre d'études et de recherches internationales) and at the Mind de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. Since September 2022, he heads the ERC-funded project Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU).