EDITION V
International Conference

OBLIVION OF WAR

Polish-German Research Seminar
OpenHouse/ClosedHouse?
Central-Eastern Europe in XX/XXI century

POZNAŃ 12.11.2015 – 14.11.2015
Faculty of History AMU
Umultowska 89D, 61-614 Poznan

ORGANIZERS
Institute of History and Faculty of History Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan,
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg,
„Memoria” Cultural Foundation and CeReFREA, Bucharest,
Centre of Ethnology and Anthropology of Contemporaneity,
Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

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Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw),
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Halle).

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oraz

MGR MACIEJ SAWICKI
FERDYDERYK MUDZÓ PhD CANDIDATES
MGR MONIKA JANIA
Faculty of History, Adam Mickiewicz University
OBLIVION OF WAR

By the theme Oblivion of war, Central-Eastern Europe in XX/XXI century we continue the issues of cyclical Polish-German research seminars organized since 2010 in Faculty of History (AMU). Our lessons. Central-Eastern Europe (XX-XXI century)”. The results of 5th edition of its were expressed in co-authorship monograph “OpenHouse/ClosedHouse? Borderland prepared for Wydawnictwo Nauka i Innowacje and in volume “OpenHouse/ClosedHouse? II. Borderlands toward the difference…” issued by Wydawnictwo Instytutu Historii (AMU) in monographic series „Studia Historica Slavo-Germanica” (both of them published in 2014). In the academic year 2013/2014 our seminar also enriched by a new form, which was the series of 9 open lectures under the title “OpenHouse/ClosedHouse?. On the migration of people and values” realized at Department of History (AMU) by scholars from Faculty of History, Faculty of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Polish Academy of Sciences and Centre for Migration Research. In the meantime, we have also met in Poznan during Polish-German seminar for young scholars entitled “Biography in Humanities”. In 2015 we are going to organize two conferences for seminar cycle.

Vth meeting in the cycle we will devote to the oblivion of war in Central-Eastern Europe in XX/XXI century. Years 2014 and 2015 was/is a peculiar time of round anniversaries of important events in the world history, history of Europe, and of its Central-Eastern borderlands. This particular time refers especially to the anniversaries of the outbreak and the end of World War I and II. Nevertheless, XX and XXI century was also a time of many other wars, conflicts and uprisings, which put the shadow on the history of national, civil, regional, local and native communities in our part of Europe. For over a year, we are observing – with deep sense of uneasiness – the state of affairs in Ukraine, and we ask, what is the guarantee of peace in Europe and in the world toward still unstable political situation in the Eastern Europe. Domesticated in peace, we have almost forgotten that quite recently, in the years 1991-1995, we have seen bloody civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

When we are referring to the history and memory of wars, we seldom reflect on their oblivion. However, against this lack of reflection we should to ask what, why, in which circumstances, and toward whom we forget the recent past. Whether the oblivion is an attempt to deal with the burden of war, or is it a rejection of its heritage?

Our discussion will be concerned about theoretical issues of memory/oblivion, as well as analyses and interpretations the collective practices of forgetting wars, which are emerging from many studies of historians, sociologists, anthropologists, literary scholars and educators.

Specific issues will be discussed around the following topics:
1. Oblivion as another form of memory.
2. Which subjects and approaches in contemporary historiography and school textbook narratives are marginal and/or silenced and which are dominant?
3. Which subjects and approaches to the memory of war are marginal and/or silenced and which are taken as their representations in contemporary historical culture?
4. Recall the history / memory of the war[s].
5. Women – oblivion, war and communism.

Language of the conference Polish, German (simultaneous translation), English

"The beautiful cemeteries of Normandy (to say nothing of the various convents, chapels, or museums that will perhaps one day take the place of the concentration camps entirely) align their tombs all along the intertwined pathways. Nobody could say that this arranged beauty is not moving, but the emotion it arouses is born from the harmony of forms, from the impressive spectacle of the army of the dead immobilized in the white crosses standing at attention. Sometimes, among the oldest visitors, it is born from the image they associate with it of a relative or companions who disappeared more than half a century ago. It does not evoke the raging battles, nor the fear of the men, nothing of what would actually restore some of the past realistically lived by the soldiers buried in the Normandy soil". Marc Augé, Oblivion
## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
### WEDNESDAY 12.11.2015

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<tr>
<td>9.30–10.00</td>
<td>Conference opening</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10.00–11.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>KEYNOTE SPEECH</strong></td>
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| 10.20   | **Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Szpociński**  
Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw  
*Transformations of war „oblivions”*  
**Prof. dr hab. Bernd Martin**  
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany  
*Personal memories on the end of the Second World War in historical perspective* |
| 11.00–11.20 | Coffee break                                |
| **11.15–13.40** | **PLENARY SESSION 1 Oblivion as another form of memory** |
| Chair:  | • **Prof. UAM dr hab. Violetta Julkowska** – Faculty of history AMU, Poznan  
• **Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Szpociński** – Instytut Studiów Politycznych Polska Akademia Nauk, Warszawa  
**11.20–11.40** | **Prof. UAM dr hab. Maciej Bugajewski**  
Faculty of history AMU, Poznan  
*What is the memory of deceased’s name?* |
| 11.40–12.00 | **Dr Jerzy Gąsowski**  
Faculty of history AMU, Poznan  
*Amnesia of historical facts – causes, psychological conditions, mechanisms* |
| 12.00–12.20 | **Dr Iwona Miedzińska**  
School of Higher Vocational Leszno, Academy of Sport Education, Poznan  
*Forgotten landscapes – the problem of oblivion in landscape narrative* |
| 12.20–12.40 | **Mgr Maciej Sawicki**  
Faculty of History AMU, Poznan  
*Oblivion as aestheticizing the war. A commentary to Saul Friedländer’s Reflections of Nazism* |
| 12.40–13.00 | **Dr Małgorzata Praczyk**  
Faculty of History AMU, Poznan  
*The nature at war: European wars and their impact on natural landscape of Europe* |
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<td>13.00–13.40</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>13.40-15.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 17.30</td>
<td>PLENARY SESSION 2</td>
<td><strong>Which subjects and approaches in contemporary historiography and school textbook narratives are marginal and/or silenced and which are dominant?</strong></td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
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<td>• <strong>Prof. dr hab. Bożena Górczyńska-Przybyłowicz</strong> – Faculty of History AMU, Poznan</td>
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<td>• <strong>Prof. Christine De Gemeaux</strong> – François Rabelais Tours Université</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00–15.20</td>
<td>Prof. UAM dr hab.</td>
<td>Between forgiving and forgetting. Alternative ways in constructing mutual Polish-German relations after World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violetta Julkowska</td>
<td>Faculty of History AMU, Poznan</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20 – 15.40</td>
<td>Dr Marta Cobel –Tokarska</td>
<td>Reminiscences of war in contemporary literature in Central Europe</td>
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<td>Academy of Special Education, Warszawa</td>
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<td>15.40 – 16.00</td>
<td>Prof. dr hab. Hanna Wójcik-Łagan</td>
<td>Politics of history and political correctness – issues of memory and oblivion in the case of school historical education</td>
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<td>Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce</td>
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<td>16.00 – 16.20</td>
<td>Dr hab. Edyta Głowacka-</td>
<td>War girls, Polish cursed women, forgotten female witnesses</td>
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<td>Sobiech</td>
<td>Faculty of Educational Studies AMU, Poznan</td>
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<td>16.20-16.40</td>
<td>Mgr Fryderyk Mudzo</td>
<td>The Great War and its memory in contemporary Polish-German relations</td>
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<td>Faculty of History AMU, Poznan</td>
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<td>16.40-17.00</td>
<td>Olaf Eybe</td>
<td>Against oblivion. Texts, photographs, comments</td>
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<td>Deutsch-Polnischen Gesellschaft in Essen e.V</td>
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<td>17.00-17.40</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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17.40 – 18.50  **Polish-German Exhibition of Photography „The Art of Testimony”**

The concept of the exhibition: **Wojciech Olejniczak** and **Olaf Eybe**  
Cooperation: **Dr Justyna Budzińska**  
Speeches: **Wojciech Olejniczak** and **Olaf Eybe**  
Cello Improvisation: **Bartłomiej Zboralski**

**Main Hall of Collegium Historicum AMU, Poznan**  
Producer: Faculty of History, AMU (Umultowska 89D, 61-614 Poznan)

Two authors of the exhibition „The Art of Testimony” – Wojciech Olejniczak from Poznan and Olaf Eybe from Essen – have received, at one time, family collections of wartime photographs. „You will do better use with this than I” – said German soldier’s daughter to Olaf Eybe. „You will know what to do with it” – heard Wojciech Olejniczak from daughter of Polish war camp prisoner.

In this way, these two artist became heirs of difficult past for its witnesses – Polish and German soldiers. This decision obligates. It is because the wartime past, captured on the photographs, although it has ended with the end of the war, it returns for us through the exhibition. However, this is not an ordinary return to that difficult past, but a project focused on cooperation and practice of two artists in relation with the people of the past, and also, or rather especially, with today’s public of the exhibition. We would like to reveal for publicity the truth of the war, as important as captured on the cliché, that could also prove to be the truth of its representations in the circumstances of the Polish-German dialogue – represented here by authors of event of exhibition.

18.50  Diner

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**FRIDAY 13.11.2015**

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<tr>
<th>9.00-11.20</th>
<th>PLENARY SESSION 3</th>
<th>Recall the history / memory of the war</th>
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| Prowadzący: | • **Prof. dr hab. Bernd Martin** – Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany  
• **Dr hab. Maciej Michalski** – Faculty of History AMU, Poznan |
| 9.00-9.20. | **Dr Claudia Florentina Dobre**  
“Memoria” Cultural Foundation and CeReFREA, Bukareszt | **Remembering World War II: Personal Narratives and Public Discourses in Post-communist Romania** |
| 9.20-9.40 | **Prof. UAM dr hab. Jakub Wojtkowiak**  
Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | **Forgotten generals – losses among senior officers of the Red Army in old ranks during World War II** |
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.40-10.00</td>
<td><strong>Prof. UAM dr hab. Marek Figura</strong> Institute of Eastern Studies AMU, Poznan</td>
<td>In the shadow of belligerent powers. Polish-Ukrainian conflicts in the years 1918-1947 and their interpretations in Poland and Ukraine after the fall of Communism. The memory and oblivion of two neighbouring nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 – 10.20</td>
<td><strong>Mgr Magdalena Kowalska</strong> Faculty of History AMU Poznan, Polish Scientific Society in Exile, Great Britain</td>
<td>A Polish heart in a feldgrau uniform - complicated journeys from the Wehrmacht to the Polish Army in Exile</td>
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<td>10.20-10.40</td>
<td><strong>Mgr Maciej Kościuszko</strong> Faculty of History AMU Poznan</td>
<td>Condemned to oblivion. The secret of carnage in Myślibórz in the context of politicization problem of so called „Recovered Territories”</td>
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<td><strong>Mgr Valentin Yushko</strong> independent researcher, Moscow, Russia</td>
<td>The forgotten legion. Puławy Legion in historiography (text to read out)</td>
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<td>10.40-11.20</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>11.20-11.40</td>
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<td>11.40 - 13.00</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY SESSION 4.1.</strong></td>
<td>Which subjects and approaches to the memory of war are marginal and/or silenced and which are taken as their representations in contemporary historical culture?</td>
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<td>Chair:</td>
<td><strong>Prof. UAM dr hab. Marek Figura</strong> – Faculty of History AMU, Poznan</td>
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<td><strong>Prof. dr hab. Hanna Wójcik-Łagan</strong> – Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.40-12.00</td>
<td><strong>Dr Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska</strong> Centre of Ethnology and Anthropology of Contemporaneity, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw</td>
<td>Condemned to eternal oblivion or remembered? On representing the enemy in historical reconstruction of World War II</td>
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<td>12.00-12.20</td>
<td><strong>Mgr Monika Jania</strong> Faculty of History AMU, Poznan</td>
<td>Necropolises of oblivion – selected military and civil cemeteries of Poles and Germans on Poland’s territory</td>
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| 12.20-12.40  | Dr hab. Maciej Michalski  
Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | Forgotten space or the „Recovered Lands” that ceased to exist        |
| 12.40 – 13.00| Dr Klaudiusz Święcicki  
Faculty of Geographical and Geological Science AMU, Poznan | The past repressed from memory. History, culture, and extermination of the Jews in consciousness of contemporary inhabitants of Wielopolszczyzna |
| 13.00-13.40  | Discussion                                   |                                                                      |
| 13.40 – 14.40| Lunch                                        |                                                                      |
| 14.40 – 17.00| PLENARY SESSION 4.2.  
Which subjects and approaches to the memory of war are marginal and/or silenced and which are taken as their representations in contemporary historical culture? |                                                                      |
| Chair:       |                                               |                                                                      |
| 14.40 – 15.00| Dr Christine Lavrence  
King’s University College at Western University, Canada | Transnational memorialization of the Srebrenica genocide (on-line lecture) |
| 15.00-15.20  | Mgr Erica Fontana  
University of San Diego, California | The Historical Museum as Cultural Institution: Patterns of Remembering and Forgetting |
| 15.20-15.40  | Dr Sylwester Zagulski  
Wrocław University | Today’s youth in Poland toward historical problems of World War II and issue of memory |
| 15.40-16.00  | Dr Bernadette Jonda  
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg w Halle | Today’s youth in Germany toward historical problems of World War II and issue of memory |
| 16.20-17.00  | Prof. dr hab. Stanisław Jankowiak  
Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | Inhabitants of Wielkopolska and their civil identifications toward the German occupation during World War II (text to read out) |
| 16.20-17.00  | Discussion                                   |                                                                      |
**SATURDAY 14.11.2015**

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| 10.00 – 13.00 | PLENARY SESSION 5  
  **Women – oblivion, war and communism** |
| **Roundtable:** | „Regaining the future by rebuilding the past”: Women’s narratives of life during communism in Poland, Romania, and former DDR |
| **Prof. dr hab. Anna Wachowiak**  
 School of Higher Education in Humanities in Szczecin | |
| **Prof. UAM dr hab. Izabela Skórzyńska**  
 Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | |
| **Dr Bernadette Jonda**  
 Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg  
 w Halle, Ośrodek Etnologii i Antropologii  
 Współczesności | |
| **Dr Claudia Florentina Dobre**  
 “Memoria” Cultural Foundation and CeReFREA, Bukareszt | |
| **Discussion** | „Regaining the future by rebuilding the past”: Women’s narratives of life during communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Continuation of the project. |
| **Dr hab. Edyta Głowacka – Sobiech**  
 Faculty of Educational Studies AMU, Poznan | He narratives of women’s lives during communist period in historical textbooks – upper secondary school |
| **Dr Iwona Chmura – Rutkowska**  
 Faculty of Educational Studies AMU, Poznan | The Women of „Solidarity” |
| Azre Junuzovic  
 Warsaw | The role of memorial sites in creation of identities in Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| **Prof. UAM dr hab. Maria Solarska**  
 Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | History against violence? |
| Mgr Stanisława Kostić  
 Institute of Slavic Philology AMU | Balkans yesterday and today – women’s perspective |
| **Dr Justyna Budzińska**  
 Faculty of History AMU, Poznan | Andrzej Wroblewski’s narratives about women |
| 12.30-13.30 | Lunch |
OBLIVION OF WAR