

After Violence:

Heritage-making practices in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the wake of WW2

Durham University

28-29 May 2024

In the last years, the public memory of WW2, the Holocaust and other genocides has been challenged by political extremist groups as well as collective indifference. This process is materialized in the destruction of monuments and sites of remembrance, the presence of genocide deniers in mainstream media, the lack of funding for museums and other cultural institutions, and the removal of information about WW2 atrocities from educational programs. Contemporary national and political divisions, as well as economic difficulties, have negatively affected the collaboration of stakeholders and experts towards common goals. This two-day event responds to growing concerns about the prevention of violence and war in Europe by involving grassroots organizations and stakeholders in broader discussions on human rights across Europe. The event aims to generate an international network of stakeholders and discuss community-based initiatives of international significance.

The network includes stakeholders from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina whose relatives, communities, and municipalities were affected by the genocidal practices of the Ustaše-led Independent State of Croatia during WW2. The network also includes heritage professionals and policymakers currently conducting research on this topic or collaborating with stakeholders in commemoration programs and in the development of educational projects. At Durham University, members of the network will convene to discuss a common agenda concerned with the relationship between cultural heritage and the prevention of structural violence.

Organization:

Rui Gomes Coelho, Department of Archaeology, Durham University

Sanja Horvatinčić, Institute of Art History, Zagreb

Support:

The meeting is organized through the Durham University Grant Seedcorn Fund, and realized in partnership with the research project [DIGitART](#).

Format:

The format of this meeting is discussion-based. There will be six sessions focused on different themes. Allocated presenters will address the themes and the potential problems (social, political, methodological) faced by themselves and their organizations in their work. We expect presentations to last 15 minutes to be followed by a round of discussion.

The meeting will be restricted to invited participants and selected academics from Durham University. This is to ensure that participants will feel safe and comfortable to discuss.

PROGRAM

MONDAY / May 27

Arrival at Newcastle International Airport and Durham

Minibus shuttle will wait for you at the airport

Arrival to [Hotel Indigo Durham](#)

Address: [Old Shire Hall, 9 Old Elvet, Durham, Durham, DH1 3HP](#)

TUESDAY / May 28

Elvet Riverside, Durham University, Room ER278

Address: [New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AQ](#) (3 min walk from the hotel)

Welcome (9:00 - 09.15)

- **Tom Moore**, Head of the Department of Archaeology, Durham University

Introduction (09.15-09.30)

- **Rui Gomes Coelho**, Department of Archaeology, Durham University
- **Sanja Horvatinčić**, Institute of Art History, Zagreb, Croatia

In the introduction, we will outline the broader aims and objectives of this meeting. The main purpose of this meeting is to explore the significance of WW2 sites of atrocities in today's Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina by bringing in the views of heritage practitioners, researchers and stakeholders. We will discuss ways through which memories and experiences of WW2 can be mediated by presenting different experiences and approaches.

Session I (09.30 - 11.30) - Approaching WW2 heritage in Croatia

- **Rui Gomes Coelho**, Department of Archaeology, Durham University
- **Valerija Gligora**, independent archaeologist, Croatia
- **Sanja Horvatinčić**, Institute of Art History, Zagreb, Croatia

- **Ivona Grgurinović**, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- **Iva Stojević**, KU Leuven, Belgium

In this session, we will introduce two ongoing interdisciplinary research projects in Croatia: the project [Tracing Oblivion](#), which focuses on the concentration camp of Slana, and the project [Heritage from Below](#), focused on the heritage of partisan resistance in Drežnica. We will discuss questions and methods, as well as community-based approaches.

Coffee break (11.30 - 11.45)

Session II (11.45 - 13.00) - Comparative perspectives on WW2 sites of atrocities

- **Dawid Kobiałka**, Institute of Archaeology, University of Łódź, Poland
- **Daria Chekarska**, Centre of Archaeology, Staffordshire University, UK
- **Kate Marrison**, Landecker Digital Memory Lab, University of Sussex, UK

In this session, we will bring in the perspectives of researchers and academics working on ongoing interdisciplinary projects that address politics of memory in the context of WW2 atrocities across Europe. From archaeological and ethnographic research to digital humanities, the two researchers will discuss the potential and challenges of their work, including collaborations with stakeholders.

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

Barrio Comida

Address: [34 Church Street, Durham, DH1 3DG](#)

Session III (15.00 - 16.45) - Researching and presenting Ustaše atrocities

- **Vladan Vukliš**, Archives of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Andrew Lawler**, independent researcher, Serbia
- **Danijel Vojak**, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Martina Barešić**, Jasenovac Memorial Site, Croatia

In this session, we will outline the broader framework of research on Ustaše atrocities in the context of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressing methods and sources. This session will also be an opportunity to discuss how historical research on the Ustaše and the memory of WW2 has been mediated by state agents and heritage practitioners, and what are the current challenges in heritage institutions.

Coffee break (16.45 - 17.00)

Session IV (17.00 - 18.30) - Legacies and memory

- **Vesna Teršelič**, *Documenta*, human rights defender, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Branka Vierda**, independent researcher, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Milivoj Dretar**, Primary School "Petar Zrinski" Jalžabet, Croatia

In this session, we will bring activists and researchers with experience in discussing and implementing heritage-led processes that address the crimes of fascists, Nazis, Ustaše and other collaborators during WW2, and their post-war legacies. Presenters will talk about their experiences, focusing on education and mediation practices, contextualizing them in broader conversations on human rights advocacy and transitional justice.

Dinner (19.30)

Thai River

Address: [32 Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 4SL](#)

WEDNESDAY / May 29

Elvet Riverside, Durham University, Room ER278

Address: [New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AQ](#) (3 min walk from the hotel)

Session V (09.30 - 11.30) – Stakeholders’ perspectives

- **Aneta Vladimirov**, Serb National Council, Croatia
- **Ognjen Kraus**, Jewish community of Zagreb, Croatia
- **Eli Tauber**, Haggadah Association, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Danijel Vojak**, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia
- **Milivoj Dretar**, Antifascists of Varaždin, Croatia

In this session we will bring together stakeholders from organizations that represent minorities and political groups affected by Ustaše violence and deal with the memory and commemoration of its victims. Stakeholders are asked to reflect on the significance and obstacles of their work in today’s Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Presenters will discuss their experiences, perspectives, and expectations regarding heritage work. The discussion will focus on the commemorative and educational potential of sites of atrocities, such as concentration camps, former prisons and mass graves

Coffee break (11.30 - 12.00)

Session VI (12.00 - 13.30) - Discussion and prospects

The last session will bring together all participants for a general round of discussion and to discuss ideas for future actions. Possibilities include the organization of a broader network of stakeholders, researchers and practitioners working on WW2 heritage, the development of educational initiatives, conservation work, or the co-production of research projects.

13.30 - 15.00 Lunch break

Guided tour of [Durham's World Heritage Site](#) (15.00 - 17.00). The visit includes Durham Castle and Durham Cathedral.

Dinner (19.30)

Akarsu Turkish Restaurant and Grill

Address: [21 Silver Street, Durham, DH1 3RB](#)

THURSDAY / May 30

Departure from Durham and Newcastle International Airport

Minibus shuttle will wait for you at the hotel