



© Andrii Volgin



EVZ HISTODAY

For Democracy, Facts
and Dignity

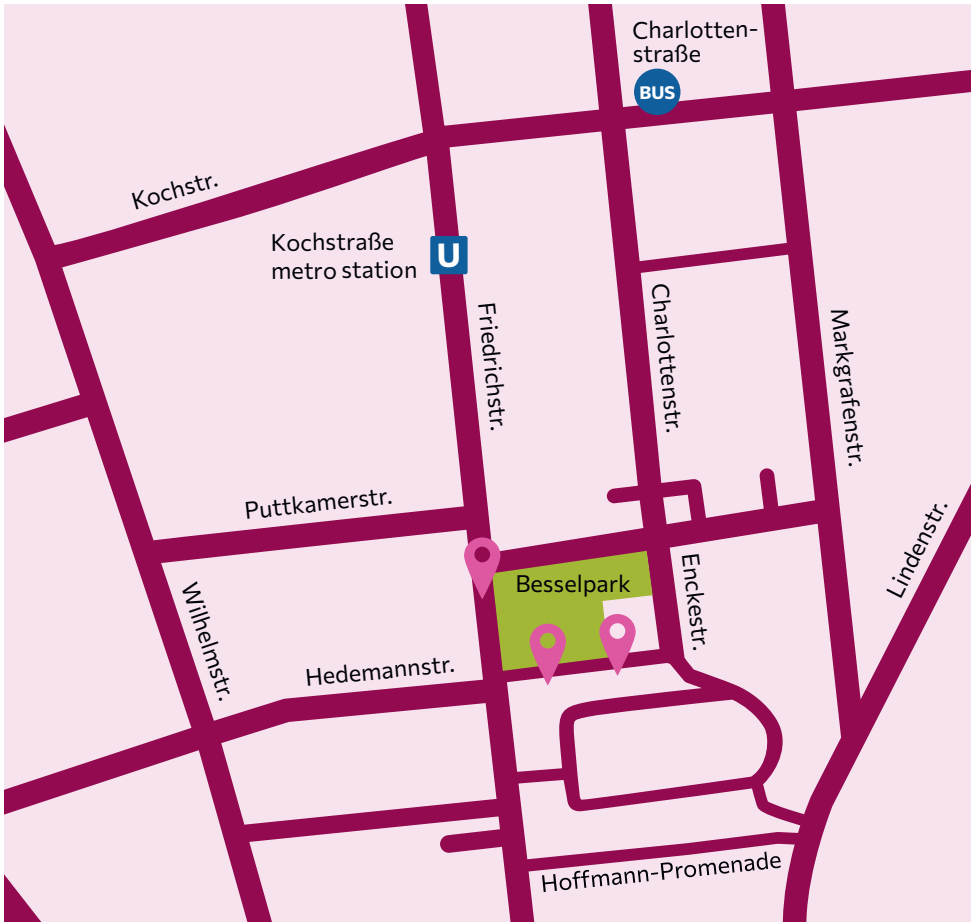
EVZ HISTODAY

For Democracy, Facts and Dignity

MAY 7–8, 2026, BERLIN

LOCATIONS: frizzforum, Friedrichstraße 23, 10969 Berlin
taz Kantine, Friedrichstraße 21, 10969 Berlin

DIRECTIONS: Metro line 6, stop Kochstraße (Checkpoint Charlie)
or bus M29, stop Charlottenstraße



To mark our 25th anniversary, the EVZ Foundation invites you to **EVZ Histoday in Berlin**. Under the motto “No Time to Forget,” this history festival brings together international participants to explore key questions of the culture of remembrance, democracy, and historical-political responsibility. EVZ Histoday offers a vibrant and multifaceted engagement with historical themes related to National Socialism.

The event begins on **May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with an evening program followed by a reception with live music**. Several different **city tours** will also be offered that day, providing additional **insights into Berlin’s history**. On May 8, the festival continues with a full-day program based on a diverse range of submissions, many conceived and produced the participants themselves.

Histoday comprises some 30 sessions organized into six thematic areas, ranging from **historical revisionism** and the **contested politics of memory**, to **questions of remembrance** and **historical learning**, to **entangled histories** and **digital cultures of memory**. The goal is to foster exchange and develop new approaches to contemporary remembrance practices that strengthen democracy. Selected artistic offerings will be presented alongside these sessions.

Histoday will conclude on May 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. with the “Liberation Dance” on Friedrichstraße, at Besselpark in Berlin-Kreuzberg – **an artistic choreography commemorating the fall of National Socialism and Europe’s liberation on May 8, 1945**. This participatory Liberation Day remembrance is dedicated to the victims of the Nazis. We invite everyone to join in the dance and, together, remember the people who were persecuted under the NS regime.

OVERVIEW

MAY 7

3:00 p.m. **Tours** – see page 6 for details on tour meeting points

6:00 p.m. **Opening Evening** @ taz Kantine, Friedrichstraße 21, 10969 Berlin

MAY 8

Histoday @ frizzforum, Friedrichstraße 23, 10969 Berlin

9:00 a.m. Welcome Session

9:30–10:30 a.m. Workshop – Slot 1

10:45–11:45 a.m. Workshop – Slot 2

12:00–1:00 p.m. Workshop – Slot 3

1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00–3:00 p.m. Workshop – Slot 4

3:15–4:15 p.m. Workshop – Slot 5

4:30 p.m. Wrap-Up and Closing

5:00 p.m. Coffee Break

5:30 p.m. Liberation Dance Flash Mob @ Friedrichstraße near Besselpark



© Jiri Lubojacky



© Rudolf Harbart

CITY TOURS

WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?

Four city tours are offered as part of the program. They provide an opportunity to explore Berlin and engage with different aspects of the city's culture of remembrance. **All tours begin at 3:15 p.m., each at a different meeting point.** Participants are asked to make their own way to the respective meeting point.

TOUR 1 | Official Remembrance – the (Soon-to-Be) Five Memorials in Berlin's Tiergarten Area

The “memorial landscape” in Berlin's government district includes several memorials dedicated to groups persecuted and murdered by the Nazis: Jews, Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and Jehovah's Witnesses. The tour explores the shared historical basis of remembrance and, above all, the question of why and how we remember: the significance of these memorials within German remembrance policy, and the forms that remembrance takes.

Meeting point: Corner of Hannah-Arendt-Str. and Cora-Berliner-Str., 10117 Berlin
Guide: Heike Fahrún, civic educator and facilitator

TOUR 2 | Critical Tour of the Soviet Memorial in Berlin-Treptow

The tour begins with an introduction to Treptower Park and then explores the lives of Red Army soldiers between 1914 and 1949, including their experiences as veterans. It examines the architecture of the Soviet Memorial, the commemoration of soldiers' graves, and quotations from Stalin in their historical context. It also addresses the soldier statue, Soviet memory culture since the 1960s, the crypt and its imperial heroic narrative, and the role of women both in the Red Army and in the construction of the memorial.

Meeting point: Hotel Premier Inn, Theanolte-Bähnisch-Straße 2
Guide: Mirko Kruppa, MEMORIAL Deutschland e.V.

TOUR 3 | Traces of Ukraine in Berlin – How Has German-Ukrainian History Shaped this City?

This tour explores Ukrainian life in Berlin from the 19th century to the present. It highlights key figures and institutions, interwar exile organizations, the first Ukrainian diplomatic mission, and the connections between politics, culture, and society. In doing so, it traces historical networks and the development of the city's Ukrainian community over time. Around 90,000 people with Ukrainian roots are now believed to be living in Berlin, including more than 70,000 refugees. Many have created new spaces for gathering, support, and cultural exchange.

Meeting point: S-Bahn station Heidelberger Platz, in the middle of the platform

Guide: Oleksandra Bienert, CineMova Ukrainian Empowerment Network e.V.

TOUR 4 | Berlin and Colonialism

Berlin has a colonial past that long received little attention. This guided tour critically explores this history and highlights traces of the colonial legacy in the urban landscape. Along Wilhelmstraße in particular, connections to the colonial period are especially visible. Participants will gain insights into the historical context and its impact on the present.

The tour connects overlooked aspects of colonial history with contemporary perspectives, offering an opportunity to view the city's past from a decolonial standpoint and reflect on it critically.

Meeting point: Metro station Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße, exit Wilhelmstraße

Guide: Berlin Postkolonial

OPENING EVENING at the taz Kantine

EVZ Histoday begins on **May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** with an evening program. Doors open and registration begins at **5:30 p.m.**

The program starts with a welcome address, followed by a keynote by **Dr. Ljiljana Radonić**, who will explore the complexities of European memory politics in a time of competing narratives. The evening continues with an artistic contribution by **Bubales**, the first Jewish puppet theater in Berlin. Afterwards, we invite you to join us for an informal get-together with live music, where we will create space for conversation and connection.

There, you will also have the opportunity to take part in a mini tutorial offering an interactive introduction to the **Liberation Dance**.



Shlomit Tripp, Bubales



Time | Program

5:30–6:00 p.m. Arrival and registration

6:00 p.m. Opening and welcome address by **Dr. Andrea Despot** (Chief Executive Officer, EVZ Foundation)

Keynote by **Dr. Ljiljana Radonić** (Institute of Culture Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences):

European Memory Politics: Democratic and Authoritarian Interventions in the Era of Victim Competition

Memory politics always uses the past to serve present-day identity needs, but while democratic societies tend to stay closer to historical research, authoritarian regimes freely distort or invent history – as seen in Russia’s “de-nazification” narrative, or memory laws under PiS and Fidesz. A key pattern in European memorial museums is victim competition, where “our” victims are portrayed with empathy and individuality, while „their“ victims – often from marginalized or other groups – are reduced to numbers, anonymous masses, or humiliating images.



© Raum 11/Amélie Losier

Andrea Despot



© Stefan Csaky

Ljiljana Radonić

Performance by **Bubales**, Berlin’s first Jewish puppet theater, led by **Shlomit Tripp**

8:00 p.m.

Get-together with live music
Optional: mini tutorial on the Liberation Dance

LIBERATION DANCE

Among the victims of the National Socialist regime were swing dancers and jazz musicians who were persecuted because of their passion for jazz and swing. Jazz was banned as “degenerate music” due to the regime’s racist and antisemitic ideology. Young people whose nonconformist style and behavior set them apart were often subjected to persecution and punishment.

Against this backdrop, the **Liberation Dance** was developed as part of this project to memorialize the injustices of Nazism and honor its victims.

Remembrance can take many forms. The **Liberation Dance** was chosen as one such form because dance symbolizes unity, mutual support, and freedom. The choreography invites participation: in holding hands and building bridges, people come together and stand against the rise of right-wing extremism.

For jazz musicians and swing dancers during the Nazi era, music and dance were rare sources of hope in a time of uncertainty and persecution. Young swing dancers, for example, sang and played jazz songs while performing forced labor in concentration camps. One of these songs was “**Jeepers Creepers**” by **Louis Armstrong**, to which the **Liberation Dance** was choreographed.

The **Liberation Dance** was created in **August 2024** in **Bremen** as a collaboration by dancers from **Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, and Turkey**. The choreography was then introduced to local swing communities and taught there. The aim was to create a transnational space of remembrance and to perform the dance as a flash mob simultaneously in various locations across Europe. This year, on **May 8**, people will once again dance in cities such as **Hamburg, Prague, and Aachen**.

The **80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe and the liberation from National Socialism** has now passed. However, remembering the victims of the Nazi regime remains a central responsibility for our society. The **Liberation Dance** is intended as an artistic form of remembrance that will continue to accompany this commemoration in the future. It will therefore be performed again on the **81st anniversary of the end of World War II in Berlin** and other cities.

The **Liberation Dance** is a solo jazz choreography that continues to be taught and can be learned by new participants.

A tutorial video by **Eléna (Swing Man Tau e.V.)**, who codeveloped the choreography, is available on YouTube. This version is aimed specifically at swing dancers and includes the **1920s Charleston, Lindy Charleston, and Jump Charleston:**



On **May 8 at 5:30 p.m.**, we will dance a simpler variation of the **1920s Charleston** at **Besselpark in Berlin** that is also suitable for people with no dance experience.

See also the tutorial video on our Instagram page:



PREVENT – RESIST – CHALLENGE:

Strategies against the Distortion of History

Hosts: Anja Kräutler and Lotta Storm

ROOM 2.3

In this space, we will discuss how we can work effectively together to counteract the reinterpretation and manipulation of history. We will focus primarily on the following questions: How can educators and activists support each other across borders, even during times of crisis, war, or rising authoritarianism? How is historical knowledge shaped in democracies and how can we protect the plurality of perspectives and voices? How can we use social media effectively, even though algorithms and platform logics often contribute to the spread of historical revisionism? We also want to foster a dialogue about the impact of current conflicts and wars on civic education and remembrance.

9:30–10:30

Memory in Times of War – Weaponized Memory

Short Presentations and Discussion

Speakers: Igor Mitchnik and Paul Stricker (Austausch e.V., Germany) and Attila Antal (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)

The team from Austausch e.V. introduces a practical guide created by experts from Poland, Ukraine, and Germany in an international exchange. Together, they developed new approaches to historical education on Nazi crimes and the Holocaust – specifically addressing how to adapt educational work to new circumstances and challenges due to war, displacement, and political shifts.

Attila Antal examines how the Hungarian government has used memory politics as a weapon, and he seeks to initiate joint reflection and dialogue on how democratic activists, both in Hungary and internationally, could use education on history to weaken authoritarian regimes.

10:45–11:45

History, Not Myths – Historical Distortion in the Age of Social Media

Short Presentation and Discussion

Speaker: Jakob Schergaut (University of Jena, Germany)

Historical revisionism – the politically motivated distortion of history, especially the Nazi era – has moved from far-right fringe publications to social media, where distortions now reach millions. Jakob Schergaut presents the project “Geschichte statt Mythen” (History, Not Myths), explains common narratives, codes, and strategies – and examines what policymakers, academics, and civil society can do in response.

12:00–13:00

Speaking Out Effectively: Strengthening Digital Historical and Political Education

Short Presentation and Discussion

Speaker: Luisa Schmidt (Das NETTZ – Networking initiative against online hate, Germany)

In a cooperation project and co-creative workshop process with ten experts from history education and the fight against online hate, Das NETTZ and the EVZ Foundation explored specific strategies and guidelines for strengthening history education efforts on social media to combat historical revisionism. Luisa Schmidt will present initial findings and proposals for a guide and solicit feedback on them.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–16:15

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Civic Education on National Socialism

Workshop

Speakers: Johanna Voß and Ahmad Dakhnous (Gesellschaft im Wandel gGmbH, Germany)

At memorial sites, Nazi documentation centers, and places of remembrance, the question of what the phrase “Never Again” means today – also as related to the situation in Palestine and Israel – has been raised with increasing frequency, particularly since October 7, 2023. Germany’s support of Israel is closely tied to its historical responsibility for the Shoah. However, educators in the field of history and politics are often overwhelmed by this kind of connection to the present. The speakers therefore aim to create a space in which to discuss a nuanced, critical, and diversity-sensitive approach to engaging with contemporary issues.

MEMORY POLITICS OR CONTESTED MEMORY

Hosts: Johanna Blender, Levke Nissen, and Aga Pustola

ROOM 2.1

In this space, lecturers and participants explore memory politics. Memory politics, also known as history politics, can serve to build citizenship in a democratic way or, to the contrary, lead to manipulation. Who is remembered, why, and by whom? How do we combat the impact of nationalism on memory politics? Whose stories are forgotten, repressed, or instrumentalized for political purposes? Is there a “competition for remembrance”? We want to examine these processes in various contexts and discuss both opportunities and threats, as well as practical strategies for action.

9:30–10:30

From the Ground Up: Contested Memories in Practice

Panel/Short Presentations

Speakers: Inga Luther (OWEN – Mobile Akademie für Geschlechterdemokratie und Friedensförderung e.V., Germany), Viktoria Zvolski (Salon International e.V., Germany), and Tereza Štěpková and Michal Schuster (Antikomplex, Czech Republic)

Public debates on colonialism and Nazism are often shaped by academic or mainstream perspectives. In these times of hybrid warfare and strongly authoritarian politics, diversity is being called into question at unprecedented levels in the public discourse on memory and history. But who is given a platform, and who is the subject of discussion? Who is remembered, and who remains invisible? What are possible strategies, tools, and practices to ensure that memory work reflects multiple perspectives? This panel addresses these questions, looking at research, education, memories in families, and activism.

10:45–11:45

Struggles in Memory Politics: Who Creates the Memory of Nazi Persecution?

Workshop

Speaker: Anne Frank Zentrum, Germany

Who creates the memory of Nazi history – and who is left out? This workshop will explore struggles over memory politics through projects created in and around prisons.



12:00–13:00

Unfinished Histories: Exploring Power and Exclusion in Remembrance

Workshop

Speaker: Ingrid Borárosová (Bratislava Policy Institute, Slovakia)

An interactive forum theater workshop about how decisions on remembrance are made and whose voices are included or excluded in the process.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–15:00

Youth, Remembrance, Identity: Questions on Memory and Youth Work in Ukraine during the War

Workshop

Speakers: Anna Lenchovska and Anna Sidelnikova (NGO Kyiv Educational Center “Tolerspace”, Ukraine) with Anna Popovych (Project Participant and Student at Chernivtsy National University, Ukraine)

Since Russia’s ongoing war of aggression, interest in family history has grown among young people in Ukraine. Who is interested in WWII history in modern Ukraine? How can Ukrainian youth come to terms with the past while the future is uncertain? In this workshop, participants explore how young people in Ukraine today engage with family and local histories while navigating actual experiences of war and their search for identity.

15:15–16:15

“Escape Continuity” – Fostering Discontinuity in Antiziganism

Workshop

Speakers: Lukas Engelmeier and Josefine Biallas (Lower Saxony Memorials Foundation, Germany)

Taking antiziganism as an example of continuities from National Socialism, the workshop invites participants to reflect on their own notions of continuity and discover a work-in-progress method reflecting the discontinuity of the history of the persecution of Sinti and Roma up to present-day antiziganism.



THE VISIBLE AND THE MARGINALIZED: Whom Do We Remember, and What For?

Hosts: Judith Blum and Katharina Schwarz
ROOM 2.2

What becomes part of collective remembrance is never neutral. In this thematic space, experts, practitioners, and participants are invited to ask which stories, places, and experiences of injustice become visible – and which remain unspoken or marginalized. With a focus on “What do we remember?” we consider how narratives about the Holocaust, the occupation, and the resistance are selected, framed, and passed on across generations and borders. At the same time, the question “Who remembers?” directs our attention to the actors who shape memory. Taken together, these questions open a space to reflect on power, empathy, and responsibility in remembrance today.

9:30–10:30

Pyrgoi, 1944 – Shifting Memories of Occupation and Collaboration in Greece

Conversation

Speakers: Luise Fakler (public historian, Germany) and Aristoteles Chaitidis (writer and artist, Germany/Greece)

While the German occupation of Greece during WWII is little known in Germany, it remains a central and contested issue in the Greek collective memory. This discussion will explore how Greek perspectives on collaboration, resistance, and Germany as the perpetrator have shifted with political contexts. Excerpts from two documentaries will be presented: one with survivor testimonies from the early 1980s, and another in which survivor Efstathios Chaitidis reflects on his experiences decades later, after moving to Germany. The speakers, a German public historian and a Greek descendant of a survivor, combine their perspectives.

10:45–11:45

The Holocaust in 60 Seconds? Remembering the Holocaust Today

Short Presentations and Discussion

Speakers: Gina Wiedemann (Arolsen Archives, Germany), Marie Zachger (Stiftung Hamburger Gedenkstätten und Lernorte, Germany), and Sandra Polovková (Post Bellum, Slovakia)

The speakers will discuss Holocaust remembrance in the digital age and present best practices concerning the dilemma of keeping a young audience engaged while honoring the memory of survivors and victims respectfully.

12:00–13:00

The Complexity of Commemoration – Aspects of Holocaust Education and a Systemic Approach to Remembrance

Workshop

Speakers: Guy Band (civic educator and historian, Germany/Israel) and Heike Fahrún (civic educator and facilitator, Germany)

This workshop explores how current events can be integrated into Holocaust education. Drawing on Saul Friedländer’s concept of a “systemic” approach, it addresses both victim remembrance and perpetrator perspectives to highlight historical complexity. It also asks how remembrance can inform responses to present-day human rights issues and how emotional and rational engagement can be combined. Through open discussion, participants are invited to exchange perspectives and engage with diverse cultures of remembrance.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–15:00

Unheard, Untold, Unseen. Queer People under National Socialism

Short Presentation and Discussion

Speakers: Joscha Eckler and Lena Besenhard (stuhlkreis_revolve – Collective for emancipatory education and process facilitation, Germany)

This session presents a project by Lambda Bund, a queer youth association, in which queer youth explored the history of their own community during the Nazi regime. At memorial sites, in archives, and on a city tour, they searched for traces of queer history and engaged with the question of how to do research, and how to preserve one’s own history as well as other marginalized histories. Using interactive and creative educational methods, they investigated the personal and political significance of remembrance and discussed what can be learned today from the survival strategies of the past.

15:15–16:15

Finding Romi – Resistance through Intergenerational Education

Workshop

Speaker: Nitzan Menagem (Hashomer Hatzair, Germany)

This workshop presents Finding Romi, an intergenerational historical education project on Jewish resistance in the 1930s based on biographies from Hashomer Hatzair Germany. It highlights minority-led remembrance combining historical research, youth work, and community learning, and explores how intergenerational encounters can challenge dominant narratives and strengthen democratic engagement.

HISTORY IN PRACTICE:

Innovative Approaches to Historical Learning

Hosts: Malte Krümrey and Andreas Neidhart

ROOM 3.3

Diverse contributions and approaches focusing on “learning history” are brought together and discussed in this space. We aim to explore innovative digital and analog methods and projects that deal with historical learning in different contexts. Discussions evolve around the question of how initiatives can foster learning about the past while simultaneously involving young people and other target groups in this process in a meaningful way and taking their perspectives, needs, and interests into account. In addition, sessions in this cluster include the topics of how the German Democratic Republic dealt with the National Socialist past and how, right up to the present day, companies and corporations handle responsibilities arising from their actions during the Nazi era.

9:30–10:30

Public History in the Corporate World?

Discussion

Speaker: Annemarie Hühne-Ramm (Hans and Berthold Finkelstein Foundation, Germany)

This session will address the opportunities, challenges, and limitations of public history in a corporate context. The focus will be on how public historians navigate their role as mediators between research, archives, communications, and the public, as well as the tensions that arise between these areas. Taking concrete examples from the speaker’s work at Bayer and the Finkelstein Foundation, the discussion will explore how source-based and ethically reflective historical communication can create transparency, promote an honest examination of the Nazi past, and strengthen democratic engagement.

10:45–11:45

Antisemitism in the GDR: Blind Spots in Postwar Memory?

Workshop

Speakers: Katharina Hochmuth and Lydia Thieme (Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany)

How did the German Democratic Republic address the Nazi legacy, and what role did antisemitism play? This workshop will explore the “anti-fascist founding myth” of the GDR, the marginalization of Jewish perspectives, and state anti-Zionism. By analyzing historical sources and contrasting East and West German memory cultures, participants will gain insight into persistent patterns and their impact today.

12:00–13:00

Light of the Fireflies: Participatory Virtual Walks as Digital Remembrance Practice

Workshop

Speakers: Branka Pavlovic and Nikola Polić (Free Zone Film Festival, Serbia)

How can digital tools support participatory remembrance? This hands-on workshop introduces virtual walks developed with historians, artists, and secondary school students in Berlin and Belgrade. Participants explore selected historical stations via smartphones and discuss co-creation, youth participation, and the potential and limitations of digital remembrance formats.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–15:00

Engaging Youth in Historical Learning – Participatory Approaches in Dialogue

Panel

Speakers: Shania Timpe and Magdalena Chmiel (EuroClio – European Association of History Educators)

In this session, two innovative, participatory approaches to remembrance education that empower students to actively shape history are brought into dialogue with one another. Shania Timpe’s analysis of students’ questions to Holocaust survivor Batsheva Dagan reveals which topics truly interest young people. It additionally sheds light on the development and posing of questions as a pedagogical method. Magdalena Chmiel’s contribution shows how local student-led projects can promote individual learning – here, turning research on the biographies of victims of National Socialism into creative public formats such as podcasts, graphic novels, and memory walks.

15:15–16:15

People with Learning Disabilities as Guides at the Memorial to the Victims of Euthanasia Murders in Brandenburg an der Havel: Ideas – Implementation – Prospects

Workshop

Speakers: Christian Marx and Kerstin Latzke (Gedenkstätte für die Opfer der Euthanasie-Morde, Germany)

Since 2017, adults with learning disabilities have worked at the memorial to the victims of “euthanasia” murders in the city of Brandenburg an der Havel. They lead workshops and guided tours in simple German on the Nazi “euthanasia” crimes. These inclusive programs make the site accessible to all and show that people with learning disabilities are an active part of Germany’s culture of remembrance.

This workshop will be conducted in German.

ENTANGLED PASTS – DIFFERENT MEMORIES?

Hosts: Lara Nagel, Nadine Metzner, and Mascha Wilke

ROOM 3.1

In the turmoil of evolving international crises and wars, the European past(s) and memories are often used as tropes, points of reference, and analogies through which to interpret the present. At the same time, the entangled National Socialist and Socialist histories remain contested. How can we shift our perspective from parallel or even competing histories to an integrated memory?

As focal points for this discussion, this space brings together a variety of case studies and best practices in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. It additionally highlights research into and methodologies around the current transformations of the discourse on memory.

9:30–10:30

Sediments of History: Discussing the Spatial Dimensions of Memory and History Politics

Short Presentations

Speakers: Mantautas Šulskus (Sienos Grupe, Lithuania) and Anna Yanenko (National Preserve “Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra,” Ukraine)

This session will juxtapose the forgotten Jewish wartime resistance in Lithuania with the contemporary military presence of the German Bundeswehr in similar, sometimes overlapping areas. In the Ukrainian context, the issue of the weaponization of urban architecture by authoritarian regimes will be discussed.

10:45–11:45

Toward Shared Remembrance? Unfinished Pasts in Times of War

Short Presentations

Speakers: Adina Marincea (“Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania) and Svitlana Telukha (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute,” Ukraine)

The presentations in this session will discuss the implications that oral testimony in wartime has for the accuracy of historians’ work, as well as the issue of competing memories in post-Soviet countries.

12:00–13:00

The Transgenerational Legacy of War and the Holocaust

Workshop

Speaker: Peter Pogany-Wnendt (PAKH – Study Group on Intergenerational Consequences of the Holocaust, Germany)

After the end of the Holocaust, the victims were scarcely able to emotionally process the suffering and trauma they had endured. This workshop aims to convey basic aspects of *emotional legacies* – the repressed pain, grief, fear, and desire for retribution that is passed on to the following generations.

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–15:00

Remembering Jewish Resistance: Ringelblum Archive and Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Short Presentations

Speakers: Alexander Kliymuk (Pilecki Institute, Germany) and Bartosz Borys (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Poland)

This session brings together two approaches to remembrance of and education on the Warsaw Ghetto which similarly challenge narratives and engage diverse audiences. It explores the Ringelblum Archive as a powerful example of Jewish resistance through documentation. In parallel, the annual “Daffodils” campaign is presented as a model for translating remembrance into inclusive, values-oriented educational practice.

15:15–16:15

Voices against Forgetting: Co-Creating Democratic Memory Through Oral History

Workshop

Speakers: Marina Bantiou and Ioanna Vellidou (University of Patras, Greece)

This workshop explores how Holocaust remembrance can remain democratic and inclusive in times of rising antisemitism and historical revisionism. Working with fragments of survivor testimonies, participants reconstruct hidden life stories and transform them into micro-exhibits, digital narratives, or concepts for monuments. By introducing different methodological approaches, the workshop offers practical tools for creating and curating reflective, dialogical, and resilient forms of remembrance.



DIGITAL MEMORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION: AI, Gamification, and Ethics

Hosts: Sophie Ziegler and Tessa Demleitner
ROOM 3.2

This space brings together workshops and presentations on game design, generative AI, holographic testimonies, digital memorial platforms, and social media revisionism. It investigates how digital tools shape remembrance practices and asks who holds narrative authority in algorithmically mediated memory cultures.

At its core lies an ethical question: how can digital innovation foster critical reflection, media literacy, and democratic resilience without trivializing historical violence?

9:30–10:30

Can We Play History? Exploring the Ethical Limits of Game Design in Holocaust Narratives

Workshop

Speaker: Dr. Rafael Leal (Catalyst, Institute for Creative Arts and Technology GmbH, Germany)

This workshop explores ethical game design in Holocaust education. Using the role-playing game “Rosenstrasse” and the audio game project “Hindenburg,” participants will analyze the limits of ludic representation in contexts where “winning” is neither possible nor appropriate. They will practice designing worlds and mechanics that foster empathy rather than entertainment, transforming passive engagement with history into active, critical remembrance.

10:45–11:45

What Do You Meme? How to Decrypt Historical Revisionism on Social Media

Workshop

Speakers: Richard Siegert and Jana Elsner (civic educators, Germany)

“Funny” images and videos, cryptic numbers and letters, retro-futuristic aesthetics – historical revisionism in memes and other forms of audiovisual social media content is often difficult to recognize at first glance. Participants in this interactive workshop will analyze selected current examples of historical revisionism and the discursive strategies that underlie them.



12:00–13:00

Can I Trust This Hologram? Digital Survivor Testimonies, Media Literacy, and the ZWEITZEUGEN Approach

Workshop

Speakers: Lena Vogel and Ariane Olek (ZWEITZEUGEN e.V., Germany)

Since June 2025, ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. has been working with interactive holograms of Holocaust survivors. In the exhibition “HOLO-VOICES,” young learners can ask questions directly. But, do they understand how the answers are generated – or how they might be influenced by AI?

This workshop explores how to foster media literacy as an essential skill for digital remembrance. How can learners critically evaluate the benefits and harms of technologically mediated memory?

LUNCH BREAK

14:00–15:00

Rethinking Holocaust Remembrance: Innovation, Ethics, and Education

Short Presentations and Q&A

Speakers: Lucas Haasis (GameLab, University of Oldenburg, Germany), Martin Gordon (Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, Germany), and Cathrin Steiner (Fluxguide Ausstellungssysteme, Austria)

This session brings together three innovative approaches to digital Holocaust remembrance and education. It explores the use of games in history classrooms to foster critical thinking and democratic engagement, examines the ethical boundaries of generative AI and virtual reality in shaping authentic forms of memorialization, and presents digital tools that enable memorial sites to share narratives via mobile and online platforms. Together, the contributions highlight how emerging technologies can support inclusive, reflective, and emotionally engaging remembrance while addressing challenges of representation, authenticity, and responsible digital practice.

15:15–16:15

From Monuments to Debates

Workshop

Speaker: Eva Yakubovska (Vitsche e.V., Germany)

What do Soviet memorials in the urban landscape mean today as a visible legacy of World War II? Eva Yakubovska’s online initiative “Vote on the Future of Soviet Memorials in Berlin” combines historical context, map views, expert contributions, and an interactive poll. Users can explore different perspectives, compare positions on three Berlin memorials, and contribute their own views to the debate.

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Hosts: Sonja Begalke and Fabian Leithäuser

PLENUM

Art is a central space for social negotiation in a democracy. Memory is a living process in which what is told and whose voices count are constantly being renegotiated. At Histoday, too, we aim to highlight artistic approaches. Art makes history tangible by creating emotional connections and fostering empathy. At the same time, it opens up spaces for interpretation and discussion: it challenges existing narratives, brings marginalized perspectives to light, and keeps memory in motion.

10:45–11:45

The Future of Memory – Creative, Critical, Collective

Films with Q&A

Artists/speakers: Anna Faroqhi and Haim Peretz (Germany)

Two short documentaries explore commemorative culture and participatory remembrance. “Remembrance” (Germany 2022, 18 min) follows young people as they design a memorial addition to honor victims of Nazi persecution. “Small Monuments” (Germany 2025, 18 min) shows confirmands in Bad Saarow caring for Stolpersteine (memorial “stumbling stones”) and uncovering the lives they commemorate.
German with English subtitles

12:00–13:00

Liberation Dance: Historical Education through Dance and Music

Workshop

Speakers: Natalie Reinsch and Philipp Mangels (Bremen Alliance for German-Czech Cooperation, Germany)

In this presentation of the project “Persecuted swing dancers and jazz musicians in northwest Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland,” Natalie Reinsch and Philipp Mangels take the Nazi-era “swing youth” as an example of how dance and music can be used to shape historical education. They seek to bring jazz guitarist Coco Schumann’s quote, “Those who swing don’t march,” to life through music. Participants will learn how they involved swing dance communities from three countries to create a transnational space of remembrance.



14:30–15:00

The Fractured Shtetl World: a Case Study in Dialogue, Empathy, and Understanding across Difference

Film with Q&A

Artist/speaker: Shoshana Simons (Germany/Lithuania)

National Socialism's destruction of the Jewish shtetl world did not produce a single, unified memory, but rather an eruption of diverse, often dissonant narratives among its descendants. This makes this history a rich context for understanding how historical narratives emerge and how specificities and commonalities can be simultaneously acknowledged. This offering is multidisciplinary, combining Jewish history, film, and interview-based research stretching from the 18th to the 21st century.

15:15–16:15

TENDENCY DISTORTION

Film with Q&A, 40 min, German with English subtitles

Artist/speaker: Lenna Ditte Nissen (Germany/Denmark)

The film follows the inclusive performative group “Grafenschreck,” whose members now live or work in Grafeneck – the place where Nazi “euthanasia” began. Photos of the boy Bernhard, who was murdered there, abandoned rooms, landscape shots, and a 3D reconstruction of the crime scene bear witness to the fragile present. A narrator’s voice confronts her own family’s lineage of perpetrators and the distortions of perception triggered by the confrontation with violence.

On display all day in the Plenary Room:

EXHIBITION: Research (Recherchen) – an Artistic Reflection on Silence, Absence, and Family Memory

Artist: Joanna Kischka (Germany)

Research (Recherchen) is an artistic photographic project based on black-and-white images taken in the apartment of the artist’s grandfather shortly after his death in 2012. Twelve years later, Kischka learned that her grandfather had been imprisoned by the Nazi regime. The work reflects on how trauma persists through spaces, objects, and what remains unspoken, and how private silence connects to collective remembrance.

EXHIBITION: Memory Bridges: Transnational Exhibition on Roma Memory, Resilience, and Youth Voices

Artist: Tetiana Storozhko (NGO Tenet, Ukraine)

Memory Bridges is a documentary art exhibition that connects the memory of the Roma genocide with the resilience of young people during the war in Ukraine. This transnational project challenges the perception of victimhood, instead emphasizing strength and agency. The participants explore how art serves as a bridge between generations, empowering the young to reshape historical memory to protect democracy.

LEARNING SPACE

Discover the Digital Learning Space – an experimental hub for historical activities! Here you can explore, experiment, and discover a selection of innovative remembrance and educational formats thematically connected to HISTODAY.

Digital Learning Space

Our call for contributions brought in over 150 workshop ideas for this HISTODAY. Not all of them could be included in the on-site HISTODAY program, so we invite you to come to the Digital Learning Space to explore further projects, share your own initiatives, and connect with others.

What does the Digital Learning Space offer?

- ▶ A selection of innovative remembrance projects to explore
- ▶ A community where you can exchange ideas and share what you learn – even after the event
- ▶ Exclusive material and bonus content

Get involved, explore what's new, and help shape this space with your perspective!

**EVZ Academy – online platform:
available digitally and flexibly**

Register for free and get involved!





CODE OF CONDUCT

The EVZ Foundation aims to offer all participants a space for diversity, where people with different experiences, identities, and backgrounds come together.

We are committed to creating an environment in which everyone feels welcome.

We expect all participants to support this by following these principles:

Solidarity and responsibility: Everyone is responsible for helping to create a respectful and safe environment for all.

Recognition of individual experiences: We respect different identities and perspectives and are sensitive to the feelings of others.

Open and appreciative culture of discussion: We exchange opinions respectfully and value different perspectives as an enrichment.

Zero tolerance for discrimination: Any form of discrimination or transgressive behavior will not be tolerated.

Gender is not visible: We acknowledge that there are more than two genders and ask for people's self-identified pronouns.

Language shapes reality: We use gender-inclusive and nondiscriminatory language.

Seeking consent, respecting boundaries: We ensure that all actions are based on explicit consent and we respect other people's boundaries.

Awareness of one's own privileges and positions of power: We are aware of our social privileges and positions of power.

Mindfulness in our behavior: We strive for nonviolent behavior and are attentive to the safety needs of others.

Avoiding disruption of the event: We refrain from disruptive behavior and help to create a positive event experience.

Content of workshop sessions: The content presented in these sessions is the responsibility of the respective speakers. The information shared reflects their individual views and perspectives.



AWARENESS TEAM

To support our Code of Conduct, this event is accompanied by the **Compassion Crew**.

If you witness or experience discrimination and/or transgressive behavior, or if you feel uncomfortable for any other reason, the **Compassion Crew awareness team** is available to you at any time.

You can contact the Compassion Crew directly via messenger or phone at **+49 1525 89 20 353**, and you can recognize them by their **purple lanyards**.

ACCESSIBILITY

The **frizzforum** can be reached by various forms of public transportation. There is no parking directly in front of the building, but you may pull up to the entrance and stop briefly. Parking is available nearby. The sidewalk from **Friedrichstraße** to the entrance is paved with large, smooth stone slabs and is easy to navigate. The **frizzforum** and all relevant event rooms are wheelchair accessible. Accessible restrooms are available on floors **1–4**.

PHOTO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

A photographer and camera crew will accompany EVZ Histoday. If you do not want to be photographed or filmed, please let us know this when you register.





Foundation



Remembrance
Responsibility
Future

Contact for the event:
+49 170 363 37 03

EVZ Team

EVZ Foundation staff can be identified by their round badges with the EVZ logo. Staff members wearing these badges will be happy to help if you have any questions.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!



*Good to have
you here!*