

5th Vienna-Jerusalem Graduate School 2026

Who Owns the Past?

Vernacular Memory, State Memory, and the Politics of Ownership

August 31–September 3, 2026 – Vienna, Austria

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, Alte Burse (ground floor)

Monday, August 31

Day Chair: Ljiljana Radonić

10:00-10:30	Opening remarks Ljiljana Radonić (Austrian Academy of Sciences) Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Oded Steinberg (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) + brief introduction round
10:30-12:30	Lea von der Hude (Austrian Academy of Sciences): The Rebirth of our Nation": Maternal Imaginaries of Innocence and the Memory of Austria's Nazi Past Moran Pearl (Bar Ilan University/Graz University): Imagining Jewish Presence through Absence: The Nameless Library in Vienna and Book Memorials in Jerusalem Markéta Bajgerová Verly (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Globalization of Forgetting? Politics of Oblivion and Domestic State Violence in Transnational Comparative Perspective
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Marie Lang (University of Vienna): "This is not the place to keep a guestbook" – A sociological discourse analysis of the visitor books at the Mauthausen Memorial Yahav Tavasi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Platformed Witnessing: Testimonial Practices on TikTok in the Aftermath of the October 7 Nova Music Festival Attack
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	Éva Kovács (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute): Rejected and Forgotten: The Grabler Lake in the History of Roma Genocide
17:00-17:30	Conclusion
18:00	Dinner

Tuesday, September 1

Day Chair:	Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann
10:00-12:30	Tour Roma genocide memorial sites in Vienna – with Gerhard Baumgartner (meeting point: Barankapark-Mahnmal/Belgradplatz)
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Émelie Zoë Bosselmann (University of Gießen): Negotiating the Migration Past: Greek Migration Memory between Community Archives and Institutional Remembrance
	Amichai Tittman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Who Owns the Past? The all Knowing Historian vs. The Current Events Scope. The Case of the Dolchstoßlegende
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	Oded Steinberg (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): The 'Forgotten' Hamidian Massacres: Rethinking the Periodization for the 'Age of Extremes'?
17:00-17:30	Conclusion

Wednesday, September 2

Day Chair:	Oded Steinberg
10:00-11:00	Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Synthetic Vernacular Memory: AI-Generated Holocaust Imagery and the Latent Socio-Historical Unconscious
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Amy Mullenex (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Tracing Crisis in Ukraine: War, Border, Digital Media, and Migration in Southeastern Europe
	Tamar Vekslar (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): The Shaping of the Memory of the Holocaust in Commercial Israeli Cinema
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break: Inigo (Bäckerstraße 18)
14:30-15:30	Ingo Zechner (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History): Mapping Audiovisual Memory: Vienna Time Machine
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Andreas Pashchenko-Weißberg (University of Vienna): Virtual Reality of the Shoah? Empirical approaches to the relationship between virtual reality experiences, Shoah education and combating antisemitism
	J. Samson Wollenberger Schevitz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): The Performance of Memory: From Disembodied Authority to Performed Memory — Holocaust Representation in the Age of Short-Form Video
17:30-17:45	Conclusion

Thursday, September 3

Day Chair: Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann

10:00-10:15	Opening
10:00-11:15	Ljiljana Radonić (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Holocaust Inversion and the War on Memory
11:15-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	Niklas Herrberg (Austrian Academy of Sciences): Everyday Antisemitism in Vienna: Manifestations, Negotiations, and Their Relation to Memory Culture Tina Adcock (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Owning the Past? German Memory Culture, Israel, and the Negotiation of Antisemitism in Political Youth and Student Organisations (1989–2025)
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-17:00	Tour Meeting point: Lueger monument Antisemitism and Perpetrators: 1. Lueger monument; 2. Vienna Chamber of Labor's (Arbeiterkammer) exhibition on Nazi Perpetrators at the former site of Eichmann's <i>Zentralstelle für jüdische Auswanderung</i> ; 3. Deportation Memorial at Aspangbahnhof (meeting with the artist Brigitte Prinzgau)
17:00-17:45	Conclusion

Organization Team

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In memoriam Heidemarie Uhl, the initiator of the Vienna Jerusalem Graduate School.