



**The Topos of “Victim” in the Politics of Historical
Memory, National Memory
(including Memory Politics) of Central and Eastern
European and Balkan Countries**

Institute for European Studies, Faculty of International
and Political Studies, Jagiellonian University

Reymonta Street 4, Kraków

June 24, 2026 | 10:00–18:00

10:00–10:10 | **Opening & Welcome Speech** (Room 407)

Chairs: Prof. Kinga Anna Gajda & Prof. Tadeusz Kopyś

LEGAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF VICTIMHOOD (Room 407)

10:10–11:55

Chair: Tadeusz Kopyś

- Viacheslav Tuliakov (National University “Odesa Law Academy”, Ukraine) – Victims’ Autonomy Beyond Victim Impact Statements in Wartime Ukraine
- Marianna Muravyeva (University of Helsinki, Finland) – Instrumentalizing Victimhood: Historical Trauma, Memory Politics, and Authoritarian Legitimation in Contemporary Russia
- Mirosław Michał Sadowski (University of Strathclyde, UK) – Legalising the Official Narrative of Victimhood. Central and Eastern European Constitutional Preambles Reexamined
- Jindřich Kaláb (Metropolitan University Prague, Czechia) – National Traumas and Victimhood in the Development of V4 Populism
- Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs (Jagiellonian University, Poland) – The Cult of Victims and Polarization of Societies
- Brendan Humphreys (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland) – Can There Be Vicarious Perpetrators?

11:55–12:10 | Coffee Break

MEMORY POLITICS AND COMPETING NARRATIVES (Room 407)

12:10–14:00

Chair: Kinga Anna Gajda

- Oldřich Tůma (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia) – The Commemoration of Victims as Part of the Czech Memory of WW2
- Łucja Piekarska (Jagiellonian University, Poland) – The Ulma Family: Martyrdom of “the People” and the Quest for Recognition
- Rasa Čepaitienė (Lithuanian Institute of History, Lithuania) – Rethinking Victimhood: Changing Paradigms in Lithuanian Memory Culture
- Biljana Volchevska (Tilburg University, Netherlands) – From the Archive of Resistance to the Economy of Victimhood: Antifascist Memory and the Rise of the Right in Post-Yugoslav Countries
- Gal Kirn (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) – From Resistance to Post-Socialist Memory Transformations
- Miklós Mitrovits (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland) – (Re)shaping Memory Politics in Hungary under Fidesz
- Haris Dajc (University of Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy, Serbia) – Historical Revisionism and the Instrumentalization of Religion in Serbia and Montenegro in the 21st Century
- Klejd Këlliçi, PhD (University of Tirana, Albania) – Between Victims and Perpetrators: Memory and Moral Ambiguity in Post-Communist Albania

14:00–14:40 | Lunch Break
(Catering Rooms: 302 & 329)

WAR, TRAUMA AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY (Room 407)

14:40–16:00

Chair: Krzysztof Koźbiat

- Markéta Devátá (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia) – Monuments to the Red Army in the Czechoslovak Territories Liberated by the U.S. Army. Local Memory of Soviet Prisoners of War vs. the Public Image of Soviet Liberators
- Johanna Amaya-Panche & Mate Subašić (Liverpool John Moores University, UK) – International Organisations’ Networks and Peacebuilding in Bosnia
- Agnieszka Gawlas-Zajączkowska (Jagiellonian University, Poland) – The Holocaust in the Politics of Competing Narratives of Victimhood in Contemporary Poland
- Przemysław Łukasik (UKEN Kraków, Poland) – The Russian–Ukrainian War as a Crisis Situation: Comparative Perspectives from Georgia, Poland, and Italy

16:00–16:15 | Coffee Break

MEMORY, TRAUMA AND REPRESENTATION (Room 407)

16:15–17:50

Chair: Tadeusz Kopyś

- Mykhaylo Shepitko (Ukraine) – Memory about Victims of War vs. Propaganda. Ukrainian Case

- Renata Zawistowska – German Strategy for the Destruction of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941
- Milena Olej, Paulina Penkala, Gabriela Śliwa (Jagiellonian University, Poland) – Traumaland: Psychological Foundations of Contemporary Polish Identity
- Thalie Nguyen – Historical Revisionism in Education in Republika Srpska
- Andranik Hovhannisyan – National Trauma and State Policy Regarding the Armenian Genocide in Armenia
- Rita Hornok & Filip Byrtus – Framing Victimisation During Election Campaigns in Czechia and Hungary
- Paweł Neumann-Karpiński – Places of Memory, Trianon Monuments, and the History of the Jagiellonian Royal House
- Kinga Anna Gajda (Jagiellonian University) – Narratives of Victimhood in Museum Spaces: The Case of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan
- Tadeusz Kopyś (Jagiellonian University) – Victimhood, Memory Politics and the Transformation of Historical Narratives in Central and Eastern Europe
- Krzysztof Koźbiat (Jagiellonian University) – Victimhood and Identity Politics in Post-Conflict Societies of the Balkans

17:50–18:00 | **Closing Remarks** (Room 407)

Chairs: Prof. Kinga Anna Gajda & Prof. Tadeusz Kopyś

18:30 | Conference Dinner

The conference is financed by the Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative of the Faculty of International and Political Studies, Jagiellonian University.