

Memory, Crisis and Future

Midterm Conference ESA RN03 in association with the Institute for Sociology at the University of Göttingen

23-24 October 2025

Conference Venue: Alte Mensa Göttingen

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/ESARN03>



RN 03 “Biographical Perspectives on European Societies”



Thursday, 23 October 2025: Adam-von-Trott-Saal (1st floor)

Alte Mensa Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3, Göttingen

8.45-9.15h Registration and Coffee

*Andrea D. Bührmann*¹

Welcome and Introduction

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Göttingen

Baiba Bela

Chair of ESA RN03 “Biographical perspectives on European societies”

9.15-9.45h

Arne Worm and Ina Alber-Armenat

Local Organising Team and Representatives of the Section “Biographical Research” of the German Sociological Association (DGS) and Co-Chair of ESA RN03

9.45-10.45

Keynote Speaker: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Ruhr University Bochum)
Chair: Ina Alber-Armenat

Shame. On the power of an emotion in family memories and intergenerational processes among stigmatised groupings of Nazi victims

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

11.15-12.30

Session 1: Biographies and Crisis
Chair: André Epp

Martina Schiebel, Johanna Wahl (University of Oldenburg)

Protesting biographers in times of crisis

Katarzyna Waniek (University of Łódź)

Crisis: between individual experiences and discursively created reality

Lyudmila Nurse (Oxford XXI think tank)

Use of Cultural Artefacts in Biographical Study of Memory and Identities

12.30-13.45

Lunch Break

¹ *Italics = presenting online*

13.45-15.15	<p>Session 2: Crisis and Covid-19</p> <p>Chair: Johannes Becker</p> <p>Adam Mrozowicki (University of Wrocław)</p> <p>Jacek Burski (University of Wrocław)</p>	<p>Essential healthcare workers in Poland and the United States: biographical sociology of polycrisis</p> <p>Do We Need Another Type of Capital? The Role of Biographical Capital in Shaping Life Strategies of Polish and American Doctors</p>
	<p>Lidia Katia C. Manzo (Mercatorum University of Rome)</p> <p><i>Viktoryia Vaitovich (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)</i></p> <p>Sylvia Męcfal (University of Łódź), Beata Bielska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Adrianna Surmiak (University of Warsaw)</p>	<p>Adapting Biographical Research in Crisis: Digital Methods and Online Engagement During COVID-19</p> <p>How researchers narrate their work during different stages of the pandemic crisis – cases of qualitative researchers in Poland</p>
15.15-15.45	Coffee Break II	
15.45-17.00	<p>Special Session 3: Panel</p> <p>Chair: Tomasz Ferenc</p> <p>Speakers: <i>Maggie O'Neill</i> (University College Cork), <i>Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas</i> (University of Lodz), <i>Krešimir Žažar</i> (University of Zagreb), Aleksandra Sobańska (University of Lodz)</p>	<p>EuroBorderWalks. Walking Borders, Risk and Belonging: advances in ethno-mimetic research in the making and re-making of three European borders</p>
17.00-17.20	Birthday Cake	
17.20-18.50	<p>Special Session 4</p> <p>Chair: Micol Pizzolati and Lyudmila Nurse</p> <p>Speakers: Robert Miller, Robin Humphrey, Maggie O'Neill, Lyudmila Nurse, Baiba Bela et al.</p>	<p>30th Anniversary ESA RN03 "Biographical Perspectives on European Societies"</p>
19-20.15	Dinner buffet	

Friday, 24 October 2025

Adam-von-Trott Saal (1st floor) und Taberna (ground floor), Alte Mensa
Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3

9.00-10.00	Special Session 5: Panel (Adam-von-Trott-Saal)		Reconstructions of German speaking biographical research	
Chair: Arne Worm and Ina Alber-Armenat Speakers: Maria Pohn-Lauggas, André Epp, Martina Schiebel				
10.10-11.25	Session 6a: Memory and Generations Chair: Marta Eichsteller	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 6b: Solidarity and Society Chair: Lyudmila Nurse	Taberna
<i>Ana Gonçalves (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)</i>		In search of fragile matters: Memory traces and horizons of possibilities	Baiba Bela (University of Latvia)	Social Networks and Community Resilience: Personal Experiences in Strengthening Communities at the Local Level
<i>Gheorghe-Calin Goina (Babes-Bolyai University)</i>		How a research grounded on life-accounts can empirically explore the relevance of the concept of generation as understood by Mannheim?	Margherita Cusmano (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)	A Visual and Narrative Study of "Images of Society"
Benjamin Neumann (TU Dortmund University), Marliese Weißmann (Sociological Research Institute Göttingen)		The Challenges of Legacy in Wealthy Families: Memories, Wealth Transfer, Inter- and Intragenerational Relationships	Piotr Szenajch (University of Łódź)	Afro-Poles through the lens. Concerns with visual interviewing as part of biographical research
11.25-11.45	Coffee Break I			

11.45-13.15	Session 7a: Varieties of Work Chair: Oksana Žabko	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 7b: Migration, Displacement and Memory I Chair: Baiba Bela	Taberna
	Ksawery Olczyk (University of Łódź)	Precarious work in the biographical experiences of young adults	Gianluca Gatta (University of Milan)	Crisis, Sociability, and Mnemonic Solidarity between Afghan and Somali Diasporas in Italy: Creative Biographical Perspectives
	<i>Julia Edthofer (Universität für angewandte Kunst, Wien)</i>	Women’s Perspectives on the Intertwinement of Living and Working in peripheral Council Housing. An intergenerational Case Study in Vienna	Kamil Łuczaj (University of Łódź)	Experiencing Academic Migration, Remembering Technology: How Does Technological Advancement Shape the Biographies of Expatriate Professors?
	Aleksandra Drązczyk (University of Łódź)	Sharing biographical experiences on social media – influencers and platform work	Maija Krumina (University of Latvia)	Post-Exile as Crisis: Biographical Narratives of Return, Belonging, and Identity
	Agata Krasowska (University of Wrocław)	Work and Mental Health Crisis: An Analysis of Biographical, Reproductive and Paid Work	Benita Kawalla (University of Kiel)	Between mitigating the critical present and praying for a better future - Acts of citizenship of Jordanian mother's in mixed-status families
13.15-14.30	Lunch Break	+	Business Meeting RN03 (Adam-von-Trott-Saal)	

14.30-16.00	<p>Session 8a: Crisis and Future Chair: Katarzyna Waniek</p> <p>Adam-von-Trott-Saal</p>	<p>Session 8b: Migration, Displacement and Memory II Chair: Maggie O'Neill and Kamil Łuczaj</p> <p>Taberna</p>
	<p><i>Tonina Liriel Aurel (University of Vienna)</i></p> <p>Children's Future Conceptions in the Context of Parental Mental Illness</p>	<p>Oksana Žabko, Ilze Koroleva, Hanna Pali (University of Latvia)</p> <p>Dealing with the interrupted life: civic engagement as crisis coping strategy for displaced Ukrainians</p>
	<p><i>Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas (University of Łódź)</i></p> <p>Icons of compassion - the phenomenon and its significance in turbulent times</p>	<p>Liudmyla Skokova, Nataliia Kostenko (National Academy of Science of Ukraine)</p> <p>Collective memory: peculiarities of civil discourse during the russian war against Ukraine</p>
	<p>Marta Eichsteller (University College Dublin)</p> <p>From Narratives to Freedoms: Reimagining Sen's Capabilities through Biographical Narratives</p>	<p><i>Monica Massari (University of Milan)</i></p> <p>Anatomy of a disaster. Memory practices and oblivion politics around a shipwreck in the Mediterranean</p>
	<p><i>Maria Carmina Sgambato (University of Foggia), Angelo Maria De Fortuna (University of Urbino)</i></p> <p>Addressing uncertainty: a dialogical educational process for a possible future</p>	<p>Andrea Glauser (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna)</p> <p>„The future is unclear, but I'm alive.“ Biographical narratives and perspectives of displaced artists</p>
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break II	
16.15-17.30	<p>Session 9: Methodological Changes/Developments (Adam-von-Trott-Saal) Chair: Arne Worm</p>	
	Jacek Kubera (University of Poznań)	Memoir-Writing Competitions: The Birth of the Method, Its Developments and Methodological Challenges
	<i>Micol Pizzolati (University of Bergamo)</i>	Engaging Collectively in Biographical Insights: Students Embodiment in Memory Work Workshops
	<i>Małgorzata Bogunia-Borowska (Jagiellonian University)</i> <i>Justyna Kopczyńska (University of Warsaw)</i>	The phenomenon of aeternalization. Expansion of human biography in the digital world
17.30-17.45	<p>Organising Committee Chair: Ina Alber-Armenat and Baiba Bela</p>	Closing remarks