

# Memory Matters: Non-Human Agents in Memory Studies

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Workshop of the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies in Cooperation with the Leibniz ScienceCampus 'Europe and America in the Modern World'

## Workshop programme

**February 5, 2026**

Room 319 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)  
Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg

9-9:30 am **Arrival to the venue, registration, welcome**

9:30-11 am **Panel 1: Artistic Practices of Ecological Remembrance**

Thari Jungen (Linz) – *Wounded Landscapes, Wilderness Gardens: Plant Memory and the Commemoration of Displacement in Southeastern Poland*

Monika Gabriela Dorniak (Bremen, Gothenburg) – *Landscapes, Non-Human Agencies, and the Living Archives of Rural WWII Sites*

Carlos Reyes (London) – *Memories in Sea Salt and Coal: A Subversion of the Extractive Narrative*

Moderator: Elisa Mucciarelli (Regensburg)

11-11:30 am **Coffee break**

11:30-12:45 pm **Panel 2: Post-Soviet Environmental Memory Across Water, Earth, and Screen**

Tatiana Sitchinava (Tbilisi) – *The Unfinished Ground: Geological Strata as Vibrant Agents of Memory and Exclusion in Post-Soviet Georgia*

Moderator: Teona Ivashchenko (Regensburg)

12:45-2:15 pm **On-site lunch**

2:15-3:45 pm **Keynote**

Simon Probst (Vechta) – *Coral Memories. How Reefs Shape Cultural Imaginaries of Time in North America and Europe*

Moderator: Anni-Lotta Hamer (Regensburg)

3:45-4 pm **Coffee break**

4-5:30 pm

### Panel 3: Elemental Afterimages of Socialism in Comparative Literature

Adriana Rodríguez-Alfonso (Tübingen) – *Archaeologies of Marble and Concrete: Soviet Materialisms in Mircea Cărtărescu's and Ezequiel Vieta's Narratives*

Julianne Blaszczyk (Leipzig) – *Trenches, Rivers, and Memory on the Feminist Stage*

Ritam Dutta (Kolkata) – *Hydroelectric Dams, Displacements, and the Memory of Water in Post-Socialist Literature*

Moderator: Anni-Lotta Hamer (Regensburg)

7 pm

### Conference dinner at Restaurant Akademiesalon (Andreasstraße 28, 93059 Regensburg)

**February 6, 2026**

Room 319 (3rd floor)

Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg

9-10:15 am

### Panel 4: Material Testimonies in Slavic-Jewish Literature

Lucie Titscher (Leipzig) – *Treasure, Trauma, Testimony? Menachem Kaiser's Literary Exploration of the Silesian Underground in 'Plunder. A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure'*

Elizaveta Domnikova (Regensburg) – *Bearing Witness in Cloth and Soil: Non-Human Testimonies in Eli Shekhtman's Rings on the Soul*

Moderator: Olga Trufanova (Regensburg)

10:15-10:30 am

### Coffee break

10:30-12 pm

### Panel 5: Decoloniality and the Reconfiguration of Material Pasts

Alina Berg (Munich) – *Pounamu as Living Archive: Towards a Natural-Cultural Approach to Decolonial Museum Scholarship*

Aneta Strzemżalska (Warsaw) – *The Agency of Things in Armenia's Symbolic Transformation: Memory Geopolitics and Decolonialism*

Moderator: Tamar Qeburia (Regensburg)

12 pm

### Closing remarks