

Memory Matters: Non-Human Agents in Memory Studies

7th 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 (3rd floor)
Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg

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| 9-9:30 am | Arrival to the venue, registration, welcome |
| 9:30-11 am | Panel 1: Artistic Practices of Ecological Remembrance
Thari Jungen (Linz) – <i>Wounded Landscapes, Wilderness Gardens: Plant Memory and the Commemoration of Displacement in Southeastern Poland</i>
Monika Gabriela Dorniak (Bremen, Gothenburg) – <i>Landscapes, Non-Human Agencies, and the Living Archives of Rural WWII Sites</i>
Carlos Reyes (London) – <i>Memories in Sea Salt and Coal: A Subversion of the Extractive Narrative</i>
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) – <i>The Unfinished Ground: Geological Strata as Vibrant Agents of Memory and Exclusion in Post-Soviet Georgia</i>
Moderator: Teona Ivashchenko (Regensburg) |
| 12:45-2:15 pm | On-site lunch |
| 2:15-3:45 pm | Keynote
Simon Probst (Vechta) – <i>Coral Memories. How Reefs Shape Cultural Imaginaries of Time in North America and Europe</i>
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*

Julianna Błaszczuk (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