

## Translating Atonement: Can Countries Learn from Each Other?

### Participants

**Aleida Assmann** studied English literature and Egyptology at the universities of Heidelberg und Tübingen. Since 1993 she has held the chair of English Literature and Theory at the University of Konstanz. She was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin in 1998/1999 and a visiting professor at Rice, Princeton, and Yale Universities. Her research topics include the history of reading, writing, and print media, and the theory of cultural memory. Selected Publications: *Memory in an Age of Globalisation* (ed. with Sebastian Conrad, Palgrave Macmillan 2010), *Memory and Political Change* (ed. with Linda Shortt, forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan 2011), *Arts of Memory* (forthcoming with Cambridge University Press 2011), *The Long Shadow of the Past* (forthcoming with Fordham 2012).

**Jürgen Aßmann** has served as a state prosecutor in the city of Hamburg, Germany, since 2002. After completing his legal studies in Germany and France, he worked in the violent crimes division of the Hamburg public prosecutor's office before being recruited as a legal advisor by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia in 2006, which is mandated to prosecute crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. He served in that position for two and a half years. Among other duties, he helped facilitate cooperation between Cambodian and international staff. In 2009 Jürgen Aßmann returned to his position in Hamburg, where he continues to work in the area of transitional justice, participating in conferences in that field and working as an advisor for the German International Development Agency (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*).

**Murat Belge** was born in Ankara in 1943. He studied English language and literature at Istanbul University, graduating in 1966 and continuing as an assistant at the same university, where he also received his Ph.D. He became a docent in 1980 and a professor in 1997. He left academia in 1982 after the formation of the Turkish Council of Higher Education, which supervises Turkish universities, and started teaching again at a foundation university in 1995. He is now the head of the Comparative Literature Department at Bilgi University. Murat Belge was one of the founders of the left-wing journals *Halkın Dostları* (Friends of the People, 1970) and *Birikim* (Accumulation, 1975). He wrote for the newspapers *Demokrat* and *Cumhuriyet*. In 1984 he became the head of the journal *Yeni Gündem* (New Agenda) and *İletişim* (Communication) publishing house. He has translated authors such as William Faulkner, James Joyce, Patrick White, and Charles Dickens into Turkish. He was arrested during the military coup of 12 March 1971. He is a member of the international board of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly.

**Hans Otto Bräutigam** was born in Völklingen on the Saar (Germany) in 1931. Having obtained a doctoral degree in law, he joined the West German diplomatic service in 1962, then the Chancellery in Bonn, and in 1982 became head of West Germany's Permanent Mission to the GDR in East Berlin, an experience he documented in his memoir, *Ständige Vertretung: Meine Jahre in Ost-Berlin* (Hamburg, 2009). Appointed German ambassador to the United Nations in New York in 1989, he returned to Germany the following year to become Minister for Legal, Federal, and European Affairs in the Brandenburg state government, a position he occupied until 1999. Hans Otto Bräutigam is a member of the Einstein Forum's Board of Trustees.

**Wendy Doniger** is Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, Department of South Asian Literature and Civilization, and Committee on Social Thought. Much of her work is focused on translating, interpreting, and comparing elements of Hinduism through modern contexts of gender, sexuality, and identity. Doniger is the author, translator, and editor of almost thirty books, published in part under the name of Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, among them *Siva: The Erotic Ascetic* (1973), *The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology* (1976), *Women, Androgynes, and Other Mythical Beasts* (1980), *Dreams, Illusion, and Other Realities* (1986), *Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India* (1999), *The Implied Spider: Politics and Theology in Myth* (1998), *The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade* (2000), and *Hinduism: An Alternative History* (2009). She has translated many Sanskrit texts, including the *Rig Veda*, *Laws of*

*Manu*, and *Kamasutra*. *The Woman Who Pretended To Be Who She Was* (2005) is about the mythology of self-imitation in ancient India, Shakespeare, medieval Celtic, German, and French romances, and Hollywood films. Her current works in progress include a novel, *Horses for Lovers*, *Dogs for Husbands*, and the *Norton Anthology of Hinduism*.

**Alexander Etkind** is Reader in Russian Literature and Cultural History at Cambridge University. Before coming to Cambridge in 2005, he taught at the European University at Saint Petersburg. He was also a resident fellow at Harvard, Princeton, and the *Wissenschaftskolleg* in Berlin. He is the author of *Eros of the Impossible: The History of Psychoanalysis in Russia* (1996) and the forthcoming *Internal Colonization: Russia's Imperial Experience* (September 2011). He also directs the European research project *Memory at War: Cultural Dynamics in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine* ([www.memoryatwar.org](http://www.memoryatwar.org)).

**Mischa Gabowitsch** was born in Moscow in 1977. He studied at Oxford University, the *Ecole normale supérieure* (Paris) and the *Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales* in Paris, where he defended his dissertation on late 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian nationalism and its opponents in 2007. He was the first Albert Einstein Fellow at the Einstein Forum and, from 2007 to 2010, a Cotsen Post-Doctoral Fellow and Lecturer in Sociology at Princeton University's Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts. He has edited the journals *Neprikosnovenny zapas: Debates on Politics and Culture* (Moscow) and *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research* (Saint Petersburg). In addition to publishing numerous articles and translations, he edited a collection of articles (in Russian) entitled *The Memory of the War 60 Years Later: Russia, Germany, Europe* (Moscow 2005).

**Konstanty Gebert** was born in Warsaw in 1953. International reporter and columnist at *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Poland's biggest daily, democratic opposition activist in the seventies, and underground journalist (pen name: Dawid Warszawski) in the eighties. He has covered the Polish Round Table negotiations in 1989, the wars in Bosnia, the Middle East, and the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda for his newspaper, and is a frequent contributor to other Polish and international media. Among other initiatives, Konstanty Gebert co-founded the Polish Council of Christians and Jews and the Media Development Loan Fund, an international financial organization which supports free media worldwide. He is also the founder of the Polish Jewish intellectual monthly *Midrasz*, and a board member of the Taube Centre for Jewish Cultural Renewal. Among his ten books, in Polish, are works on Poland's round table negotiations of 1989, the Yugoslav wars, and Israeli history, as well as commentaries on the Torah and a panorama of the European 20<sup>th</sup> century. He has taught at, among other institutions, the University of California (Santa Cruz and Berkeley), Grinnell College, and Hebrew University. His essays have appeared in two dozen collective works in Poland, Japan, the U.S., U.K., Italy, France, and Belgium.

**Gerd Hankel** is a legal scholar and guest fellow at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research (with funding from the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture). He studied at the Universities of Granada (Spain), Mainz, and Bremen, and holds degrees in Romance languages and literature and in law. From 2000 to the end of 2001 he was on the team of researchers from various disciplines that created the Institute's exhibition *Crimes of the German Wehrmacht: Dimensions of a War of Annihilation 1941–1944*. Gerd Hankel's current research focuses on dealing with the legal aspects of the genocide and the reconciliation process in Rwanda and on the status of victims and perpetrators in cases tried before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

**Sune Haugbølle** is assistant professor in Arabic at Copenhagen University. He holds a D.Phil. in modern Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Oxford (2006). His research focuses on culture, media, and society in the Arab Middle East. He has published a number of articles and books, including *War and Memory in Lebanon* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

**Fatima Kastner** was born in Tanger, Morocco, and studied philosophy and social sciences at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the Collège International de Philosophie, Paris. She is a senior research fellow at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and

a lecturer at the University of Hamburg. She co-edited *Niklas Luhmann: Law as a Social System* (London 2004), and has published, among other topics, on the global spread of truth and reconciliation commissions.

**Stephen Marshall** is assistant professor in the Department of American Studies and the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Trained in political theory and Government at Harvard University, Stephen Marshall's interests include African American political thought, politics of the black diaspora, critical race theory, democratic theory, and the politics of literature. He is the author of *The City on the Hill From Below: The Crisis of Prophetic Black Politics* (2011), a study of the political theory of David Walker, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, and Toni Morrison. His current project is an examination of the ongoing legacies of mastery within post-slavery liberal democracies.

**Jacqueline Nießer** is a doctoral candidate in Southeast and East European History at the University of Regensburg. Her academic interest is in discourses on memory culture, with specific reference to the interplay between external patterns and locally entrenched paradigms of dealing with the past. Jacqueline Nießer studied at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, and in Wrocław, Poland. After graduating, she worked for several years as program coordinator for an NGO aiming at fostering dialogue between Western and Southeast Europe. She also directed the Institute for Applied History in Frankfurt (Oder), which organizes cultural projects and conducts research on European remembrance, and has published articles about "applied history," the Institute's specific approach to civic activism along the German-Polish border.

**Anson Rabinbach** is Professor of History at Princeton University. He is co-editor and co-founder of *New German Critique*. Among his publications are *Begriffe aus dem Kalten Krieg: Totalitarismus, Antifaschismus, Genozid* (Jena Center 20<sup>th</sup> Century History; Wallstein Verlag, 2009); *Nazi Germany and the Humanities* (edited with Wolfgang Bialas; Oxford, 2007); *In the Shadow of Catastrophe: German Intellectuals Between Apocalypse and Enlightenment* (University of California Press, 1997); *The Human Motor: Energy, Fatigue, and the Origins of Modernity* (Basic Books, 1990). *The Third Reich Sourcebook* (with Sander Gilman) is currently in press at The University of California Press.

**István Rév** is Professor of History and Political Science at the Central European University, Budapest, where he is also the Academic Director of the Open Society Archive. He has been a visiting faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley, on several occasions. Since the early 1980s, Rév has published widely on the political, cultural, and architectural history of Hungary and other Eastern bloc countries. He is the author of *Retroactive Justice* (Stanford University Press, 2005). He edited the special issue of *Representations* on "Monumental Histories" (1991).

**Sveta Roberman** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, and at the Jewish Studies program at UC Davis. Her research focuses on the Russian-Jewish diasporas in Israel and Germany, evolving out of her dissertation on post-Soviet Russian-Jewish immigrants in Germany. She is the author of *Memory in Migration: WWII Red Army Soldiers in Israel* (2005, in Hebrew) and a number of articles on the topic, including "Fighting to Belong: Soviet WWII Veterans in Israel." (*Ethos*, 2007).

**Franziska Seraphim** is Associate Professor of History at Boston College, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on modern and contemporary Japanese history, historical memory, and comparative history. She holds a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. Apart from articles on memory and war crimes trials in English and German academic journals, her main publication is *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan, 1945–2005* (Harvard, 2006). She has held research fellowships from the Japan Foundation and Social Science Research Council among others. Her current work is a social history of Allied war crimes trials in Japan and Germany between the years 1948 and 1958.

**David Shulman** is Professor of Indian Studies and Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, where he has been teaching since 1977, after obtaining a Ph.D. in Tamil Literature from the University of London. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Wisconsin, Johns Hopkins, the University of Pennsylvania, and the

University of Chicago. He is an elected member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and from 1992 to 1998 directed the Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. He has been a Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow, among many other distinctions, and most recently was awarded the Emet Prize. He has published over thirty books as author or editor, including works on numerous aspects of Indian culture and comparative studies in culture and religion. David Shulman is also a peace activist and a member of a joint Israeli-Palestinian grassroots movement for non-violence called *Coexistence*. His book *Dark Hope: Working for Peace in Israel and Palestine* was published in 2007 by the University of Chicago Press.

**Claudia Weber** studied political science, history, and Slavic languages and literatures at Leipzig University, Athens University (Ohio), Kliment Ochridski University in Sofia, and at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow. Her PhD dissertation (Leipzig 2003) is on Balkan history and nationalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. She has taught East European history at Leipzig University and the University of Basel, and is currently a member of the research unit on the history and theory of violence at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. She is the author of *Auf der Suche nach der Nation. Erinnerungskultur in Bulgarien 1878-1944* (Lit-Verlag 2006) and has published a number of articles on war memory in the Balkans as well as on violence and Stalinism. Claudia Weber is currently writing a book on ideology and the communication of the Katyń Forest Massacre and Stalinist terror in Europe during the Cold War.

**Kirsten Weld** is the Florence Levy Kay Fellow in Latin American History at Brandeis University. She received her Ph.D. in Latin American History from Yale University in 2010, where her doctoral dissertation, *Reading the Politics of History in Guatemala's National Police Archives*, was awarded the University-wide John Addison Porter Prize for the best work of scholarship in any field and the Stephen Vella Prize for combining historical scholarship with a commitment to social justice. Her book manuscript, forthcoming from Duke University Press, is tentatively titled *Terror's Paper Trail: Reckoning With the Archives of Dictatorship*. She writes and lectures about the Latin American Cold War, the politics of archives and historical memory, and the contributions of social movements to the production of historical narratives and counter-narratives. Her new projects include a comparison of how Guatemala and a unified Germany have dealt with their respective secret police archives, and a study of Cold War-era Central American political exiles and their involvement in the North American labor movement. She lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

**Christiane Wienand** is a Research Fellow at University College London in the collaborative research project *Reverberations of War: Communities of Experience and Identification in Germany and Europe since 1945*. In her postdoctoral project she explores transnational reconciliation activities and activists in Europe and Israel after 1945. She is currently preparing her Ph.D. thesis, titled *Performing Memory. Returned Germany Prisoners of War in Divided and Reunited Germany*, for publication. Christiane Wienand was educated at Konstanz University and at the UCL Centre for European Studies, where she read History, Political Sciences, and Economics (Konstanz), and European Society (UCL). Her research interests cover German history in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the history of European integration after 1945, and memory cultures in Germany and Europe.