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Cultures et sociétés d'Europe orientale, balkanique et médiane

International Conference

**Migration, Memory, Trauma:
Social and Cultural Tensions in a Multidisciplinary Perspective
June 12–13, 2025**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Migration, Memory, Trauma: Social and Cultural Tensions in a Multidisciplinary Perspective

Travel is an integral part of human life: driven by economic circumstances, geopolitical tensions, or climate change, sometimes motivated by the desire for development or curiosity about the world. Regardless of the reasons for the movement of individuals or entire social groups, they are a testament to an era and the human condition, which is rooted in a specific and distinctive political, historical, sociological, or cultural moment. The aim of the international conference *Migration, Memory, Trauma: Social and Cultural Tensions in a Multidisciplinary Perspective* is to focus on the meanings carried by human journeys, to trace the development of migration and the accompanying issues that appear in literature, art, and media, as well as in artistic, social, and political discourses. The primary tensions associated with migration relate to issues of identity and memory (or forgetting), nostalgia and longing, hope and disappointment. The experience of migration often reveals the traumatic dimensions of human existence, both individually and collectively.

The organizers aim to present a wide range of research perspectives within a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach. We are interested in fields such as history, anthropology, cultural studies, media studies, and social sciences. We are looking for new methodologies and disciplines, idiosyncratic approaches to issues of migration, memory, and trauma, as presented in memory studies and trauma studies, hauntology, psychology and

sociology of nostalgia, crisis studies, and Holocaust studies, as well as the consideration of migration as a socio-cultural force. Our goal is for the conference to serve as a platform for dialogue on the global dimensions of migration, memory, and trauma among young researchers.

To reflect the multi- and interdisciplinary approach to the topic of migration, memory, and trauma, we have identified four main research panels:

1. **Media Panel** - A panel focusing on the contemporary media landscape and the creation of images of migration, memory, and trauma, or collective (social) and individual awareness about these phenomena. This includes studies of migration, memory, and trauma as topics in mass and popular culture (e.g., in films, literature, music, games, etc.), the discourse of migration in global information and social media, media archives of memory, media as carriers of memory, lost media, documentary practices, and narratives of commemoration present in media, media in traumatic and crisis situations, and data migration.
2. **Historical-Sociological Panel** - This panel focuses on interdisciplinary research on migration memory and the associated experience from historical, historiographical, archival, and social perspectives. Topics include re-migration, the formation of diasporas, reinterpretation of migration experiences in historical and contemporary collective consciousness, and the experiences of female migration, particularly concerning changes in social roles and emancipation. The panel will also examine how the memory and heritage of migration are preserved and transmitted within the socio-cultural context, as well as the contemporary reception of émigré heritage. Key issues include the role of cultural memory in literature and education, and the adaptive, integrative, and marginalizing mechanisms shaping migrant communities in new environments. Methodological challenges in migration research will also be discussed, such as the use of archival sources, diaries, and digital tools like stylometry in the analysis of memory and identity.
3. **Anthropological-Cultural Panel** - This panel is dedicated to the study of migration, memory, and trauma from an archaeological, anthropological, ethnographic, and historical perspective. Topics include studies of social tensions in ancient societies and their impact on the present day. This panel will cover environmental archaeology, physical anthropology, and ethnoarchaeology: the migration of peoples, the impact of stressors, their traces in human remains, the historical study of trauma, the Holocaust and its effects on contemporary people and groups, generational trauma and its influence on modern society, the preservation of cultural heritage, natural disasters and their influence on present-day life, and past armed conflicts and their impact on current cultural and social life.
4. **Aesthetic Panel** – This panel is dedicated to the analysis of audiovisual arts (e.g., iconography, sculpture, performing arts, architecture, music) addressing migration issues (e.g., refugee, economic), trauma, and memory. We are interested in the language of trauma, meaning the transformation of the phenomenon of trauma into

the language of creative expression, as well as the aesthetic dimensions of building, reclaiming, and expressing memory. Migration, memory, and trauma as tools and themes of artistic expression, the impact of trauma and memory on the creator, the work, and the recipient, (auto)biographical narratives, trauma/migration/memory as motifs in art, the migration of art and artists, and the associated issues.

The examples provided do not cover the full scope of the conference's thematic range. The organizers remain open to suggestions from participants.

Abstracts (maximum 200 words, in either Polish or English), along with affiliation, a short biography, information about which thematic panel the participant is applying to, and a declaration of the format of participation (in-person/online), should be submitted by April 13, 2025, to the email address mptkonferencja@gmail.com.

The expected length of the presentation is 20 minutes. Speakers will be informed about their acceptance to the conference by the end of April 2025.

The conference will be hybrid, held via the Zoom platform. Presentations can be delivered in either Polish or English.

The conference fee is 300 PLN (which includes refreshments, a formal dinner, and promotional materials), but does not cover travel and accommodation costs. If needed, the conference secretaries will assist in finding accommodation. There is also the possibility of post-conference publication of papers.

Conference organizer: Faculty of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Conference secretaries: Sandra Paczkowska, Justyna Urbańczyk
Email addresses: skpaczkowska@gmail.com, justine.urbanczyk@icloud.com
Contact phone numbers: +48 571876690, +33 695650975

Scientific Committee:

Prof. Dr. Dariusz Brzostek
Prof. Dr. Adam Grzeźliński
Prof. Dr. Stanisław Roszak
Dr. Hab. Adam Kola, Prof. UMK
Dr. Hab. Rafał Moczkođan, Prof. UMK (Conference supervisor)

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