

**MEMORY, IDENTITY AND HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES
IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL CULTURE**

The recent changes taking place in Europe and reactions to current crises (such as migration, democracy, geopolitics, economic and social order) have shown growing importance of culture, identity and memory for democratic politics, exceeding the bounds of any strategic culture theory. This raises the important question, whether the current crisis results in making the identity and values as well as their cultural and historical context
an independent explanatory variable of political behaviours and decisions in public and in politics.

The research project „Memory, Identity and Historical Experiences in the Context of Political Culture” bases on the comparative cross-national research analysis focused on the impact of cultural factors, including historical experiences and narratives and memory politics. The main part is the analysis of the impact exerted by cultural factors, with special emphasis on historical experiences and narratives, and on political decisions in international relations, as exemplified by three Central European countries: Poland, Germany and Hungary.

This project will be initiated with the two days long experts’ seminar at the Natolin European Centre. It will be attended by guests and representatives not only from Central Europe, but also from the other regions. The goals of the seminar are presentation of research analysis in the field in question, exchange of knowledge and experiences during the debates, and last but not least formulation of joint recommendations.

**PROGRAMME 15 – 16 December2017**

**Natolin European Centre**

Nowoursynowska 84

Manor, Paderewski Hall

**FRIDAY 15th December**

13.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 14.15

**Invitation**

Rafał Rogulski (European Network Remembrance and Solidarity)

Marek Cichocki (Natolin European Centre)

**I Session**

14.15 – 15.45

Ferenc Hörcher (Pázmány Péter Catholic University) “What is the problem with the post-1990 reconciliation in Europe?”

Jiri Georgiev (Charles University in Prague) “The Bohemian historical memory and the Czech identity in Europe”

15.45 – 16.00

Coffee break

**II Session**

16.00 – 18.00

Martin Schulze Wessel (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Georges Mink (College of Europe) “European Union, Europe and its Neighbours National History and Memory, Change of Scale”

Łukasz Kamiński (University of Wrocław) “How the different historical perspectives and fundamental disparity of memories boost the current crises?”

18.30 – 19.30

Dinner

**SATURDAY 16th December**

**I Session**

9.00 – 10.30

Michael Žantovský (Václav Havel Library Foundation) “The responsibility to remember: Memory as an attribute of being”

Mark Kramer (Harvard University) “Public Memory and the Difficulty of Overcoming the Communist Legacy: Poland and Russia in Comparative Perspective”

Frank Furedi (University of Kent) “Why the EU seeks to 'liberate' Europe from its history”

10.30 – 10.45

Coffee break

**II Session**

10.45 – 12.00

Marek Cichocki (Natolin European Centre) “Memory as an independent explanatory variable in times of crisis”

Kai-Olaf Lang (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)

Zoltán Balázs (Corvinus University of Budapest) “Shadows of the Past: Comparing German and Hungarian Historical Images in Reacting to Modern Political Challenges”

12.00 – 12.30

Lunch