

Memory, Crisis and Future

Midterm Conference ESA RN03 in association with the Institute for Sociology at the University of Göttingen

23-24 October 2025

Conference Venue: Alte Mensa Göttingen

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/ESARN03>



RN 03 "Biographical Perspectives on European Societies"



Thursday, 23 October 2025: Adam-von-Trott-Saal (1st floor)

Alte Mensa Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3, Göttingen

8.45-9.15h Registration and Coffee

	Baiba Bela	Welcome and Introduction Chair of ESA RN03 "Biographical perspectives on European societies"
9.15-9.45h	<i>Andrea D. Bührmann</i> ¹	Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Göttingen
	Arne Worm and Ina Alber-Armenat	Local Organising Team and Representatives of the Section "Biographical Research" of the German Sociological Association (DGS) and Co-Chair of ESA RN03
9.45-10.45	Keynote Speaker: Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Ruhr University Bochum) Chair: Ina Alber-Armenat	Shame. On the power of an emotion in family memories and intergenerational processes among stigmatised groupings of Nazi victims
10.45-11.15	Coffee Break	
11.15-12.45	Session 1: Biographies and Crisis Chair: André Epp	
	Ines Gottschalk (Ruhr University Bochum)	Biographical Research in the Context of Crisis-Laden Memories as Practices of Witnessing and Recognition: Metatheoretical reflections on possibilities, Requirements, and Limits
	Martina Schiebel, Johanna Wahl (University of Oldenburg)	Protesting biographers in times of crisis
	Katarzyna Waniek (University of Łódź)	Crisis: between individual experiences and discursively created reality
	Lyudmila Nurse (Oxford XXI think tank)	Use of Cultural Artefacts in Biographical Study of Memory and Identities
12.45-13.45	Lunch Break	

¹ *Italics = presenting online*

13.45-15.15	Session 2: Crisis and Covid-19	
	Chair: Johannes Becker	
	Adam Mrozowicki (University of Wrocław)	Essential healthcare workers in Poland and the United States: biographical sociology of polycrisis
	Jacek Burski (University of Wrocław)	Do We Need Another Type of Capital? The Role of Biographical Capital in Shaping Life Strategies of Polish and American Doctors
	Lidia Katia C. Manzo (Mercatorum University of Rome)	Adapting Biographical Research in Crisis: Digital Methods and Online Engagement During COVID-19
	<i>Viktoryia Vaitovich (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)</i>	
	Sylvia Męcfal (University of Łódź), Beata Bielska (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Adrianna Surmiak (University of Warsaw)	How researchers narrate their work during different stages of the pandemic crisis – cases of qualitative researchers in Poland
15.30-15.50	Coffee Break II	
15.50-17.05	Special Session 3: Panel	
	Chair: Maggie O'Neill and Tomasz Ferenc	
	Speakers: Maggie O'Neill (University College Cork), <i>Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas (University of Lodz)</i> , <i>Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb)</i> , Aleksandra Sobańska (University of Lodz)	EuroBorderWalks. Walking Borders, Risk and Belonging: advances in ethno-mimetic research in the making and re-making of three European borders
17.05-17.20	Birthday Cake	
17.20-18.50	Special Session 4	
	Chair: Micol Pizzolati and Lyudmila Nurse	
	Speakers: Robert Miller, Robin Humphrey, Maggie O'Neill, Lyudmila Nurse, Baiba Bela et al.	30th Anniversary ESA RN03 “Biographical Perspectives on European Societies”
19-20.15	Dinner buffet	

Friday, 24 October 2025

Adam-von-Trott Saal (1st floor) und Taberna (ground floor), Alte Mensa
Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3

Special Session 5: Panel

9.00-10.00

Chair: Arne Worm and Ina Alber-Armenat
Speakers: Maria Pohn-Lauggas, André Epp,
Martina Schiebel

Reconstructions of German speaking biographical research

10.10-
11.25

Session 6a: Memory and Generations

Chair: Marta
Eichsteller

Adam-von-Trott-Saal

Session 6b: Solidarity and Society

Taberna

Chair:
Lyudmila
Nurse

*Ana Gonçalves
(Instituto
Universitário de
Lisboa)*

**In search of fragile
matters: Memory traces
and horizons of
possibilities**

Natalia
Grimm,
Andrea Hense,
Ina Kaufhold
(Sociological
Research
Institute
Göttingen)

**How biographical experiences
and crises shape ideas of social
cohesion**

*Gheorghe-Calin
Goina (Babes-
Bolyai University)*

**How a research
grounded on life-
accounts can empirically
explore the relevance of
the concept of
generation as
understood by
Mannheim?**

Baiba Bela
(University of
Latvia)

**Social Networks and
Community Resilience:
Personal Experiences in
Strengthening Communities at
the Local Level**

Benjamin
Neumann (TU
Dortmund
University),
Marliese
Weißmann
(Sociological
Research Institute
Göttingen)

**The Challenges of Legacy
in Wealthy Families:
Memories, Wealth
Transfer, Inter- and
Intragenerational
Relationships**

Margherita
Cusmano (Max
Planck
Institute for
the Study of
Religious and
Ethnic
Diversity)

**A Visual and Narrative Study of
“Images of Society”**

11.25-
11.45

Coffee Break I

11.45-13.15	Session 7a: Varieties of Work Chair: Oksana Žabko	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 7b: Migration, Displacement and Memory I Chair: Baiba Bela	Taberna
	Ksawery Olczyk (University of Łódź)		Gianluca Gatta (University of Milan)	Crisis, Sociability, and Mnemonic Solidarity between Afghan and Somali Diasporas in Italy: Creative Biographical Perspectives
	<i>Julia Edthofer (Universität für angewandte Kunst, Wien)</i>		Kamil Łuczaj (University of Łódź)	Experiencing Academic Migration, Remembering Technology: How Does Technological Advancement Shape the Biographies of Expatriate Professors?
	Aleksandra Drączyk (University of Łódź)		Maija Krumina (University of Latvia)	Post-Exile as Crisis: Biographical Narratives of Return, Belonging, and Identity
	Agata Krasowska (University of Wrocław)		Benita Kawalla (University of Kiel)	Between mitigating the critical present and praying for a better future - Acts of citizenship of Jordanian mother's in mixed-status families
13.15-14.30	Lunch Break	+	Business Meeting RN03	

14.30-16.00	Session 8a: Crisis and Future Chair: Katarzyna Waniek	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 8b: Migration, Displacement and Memory II Chair: Maggie O'Neill and Kamil Łuczaj	Taberna
	<i>Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas (University of Łódź)</i>	Icons of compassion - the phenomenon and its significance in turbulent times	<i>Oksana Žabko, Ilze Koroleva, Hanna Palii (University of Latvia)</i>	Dealing with the interrupted life: civic engagement as crisis coping strategy for displaced Ukrainians
	Marta Eichsteller (University College Dublin)	From Narratives to Freedoms: Reimagining Sen's Capabilities through Biographical Narratives	<i>Liudmyla Skokova, Nataliia Kostenko (National Academy of Science of Ukraine)</i>	Collective memory: peculiarities of civil discourse during the Russian war against Ukraine
	<i>Maria Carmina Sgambato (University of Foggia), Angelo Maria De Fortuna (University of Urbino)</i>	Addressing uncertainty: a dialogical educational process for a possible future	<i>Monica Massari (University of Milan)</i>	Anatomy of a disaster. Memory practices and oblivion politics around a shipwreck in the Mediterranean
	<i>Tonina Liriel Aurel (University of Vienna)</i>	Children's Future Conceptions in the Context of Parental Mental Illness	<i>Andrea Glauser (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna)</i>	„The future is unclear, but I'm alive.“ Biographical narratives and perspectives of displaced artists
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break II			
16.15-17.45	Session 9: Methodological Changes/Developments Chair: Arne Worm			
	Jacek Kubera (University of Poznań)	Memoir-Writing Competitions: The Birth of the Method, Its Developments and Methodological Challenges		
	Micol Pizzolati (University of Bergamo)	Engaging Collectively in Biographical Insights: Students Embodiment in Memory Work Workshops		
	Piotr Szenajch (University of Łódź)	Afro-Poles through the lens. Concerns with visual interviewing as part of biographical research		
	<i>Małgorzata Bogunia-Borowska (Jagiellonian University)</i> <i>Justyna Kopczyńska (University of Warsaw)</i>	The phenomenon of aeternalization. Expansion of human biography in the digital world		
17.45-18.00	Organising Committee Chair: Ina Alber-Armenat and Baiba Bela	Closing remarks		