

The Polish Institute in Vienna and the Mauthausen Memorial invite to the conference

# NEW MEMORIALS AT SITES OF STATE MASS CRIMES IN THE 20TH CENTURY

22 November, 2023  
2 pm until 7:30 pm

Polish Institute in Vienna  
Am Gestade 7, 1010 Wien

Please register at:  
[www.gusen-memorial.org](http://www.gusen-memorial.org)

or by email:  
[info.gusen@mauthausen-memorial.org](mailto:info.gusen@mauthausen-memorial.org)  
until 20th of November



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***NEW MEMORIALS AT SITES OF STATE MASS CRIMES IN THE 20TH CENTURY***

In 2021/22, the Republic of Austria purchased several plots of land on the site of the former Gusen I concentration camp and near the "Bergkristall" tunnel complex in St. Georgen an der Gusen, which was built with the slave labour of concentration camp prisoners. A participation process involving international, national, and regional interest groups was initiated to further develop these areas into a dignified memorial site. The result of this common process is a master plan with design and functional guidelines as the basis for future competitions.

The conference aims to present the master plan to a circle of experts and to discuss it in comparison with other (re)design processes of contemporary historical memorials in Europe. The first part of the conference will provide space to the presentation of individual (re)design processes. In the second part a round table among representatives of the institutions responsible for these processes will discuss objectives, strategies, experiences, and challenges for the design of contemporary history memorials in the 21st century.

Conference Language: English



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# Schedule and participants

- 14:00**     **Welcome and introduction**  
Monika Szmigiel-Turlej | Polish Institut; Barbara Glück | Mauthausen Memorial;  
Janusz Styczek | Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Austria
- 14:30**     **When Fascination Obscures Fate – Narratives of Technology vs. Forced Labour at the Bunker 'Valentin'**  
Markus Meyer | Denkort Bunker Valentin
- 15:00**     **Sobibór: Place, Memorial, Exhibition**  
Tomasz Kranz | The Majdanek State Museum
- 15:30**     **The Srebrenica Genocide Memorial**  
Emir Suljagić | Memorial Center Srebrenica
- 16:00**     **Coffee break**
- 16:20**     **Place of the Memory – Memory of the Place. Lety Memorial – The Story of Fight for Memory**  
Anna Míšková | Memorial Lety
- 16:50**     **Memory and Participation: Re-designing the Gusen Memorial**  
Robert Vorberg | Mauthausen Memorial; Clemens Kopetzky | art:phalanx;  
Heribert Wolfmayer | heri&salli
- 17:30**     **Coffee break**
- 17:45**     **Panel discussion: Challenges, Obstacles, and Chances in the Creation of New Memorial Sites**
- 18:45**     **Fade out and networking**

## Participants' CVs

### Marcus Meyer

studied history, sociology and political science in Berlin and Bremen and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg. Since 2009 he is research associate at the Centre for Political Education in Bremen as scientific director of Bunker Valentin Memorial. He is co-author of the conception of the Bunker Valentin Memorial (2009) and has various publications on bourgeois history, forced labour and theory of memorials on his behalf.

### Emir Suljagić

is a journalist, activist and since 2019 the Director of the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Hamburg. As a journalist Suljagić has published widely for The New York Times, the Boston Globe, AlJazeera, El Pais, Die Zeit, and Oslobođenje (Liberation) among others. He also was correspondent for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting reporting from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Suljagić teaches International Relations at the International University of Sarajevo. His memoir 'Postcards from the Grave' (2003) is the first account of a Srebrenica survivor to be published in English and was subsequently published in eight other languages.

### **Tomasz Kranz**

is director of the State Museum at Majdanek. He holds a Ph.D. in contemporary history and is a graduate of German Philology. Kranz is member of many expert boards, including the Council for Museums and National Memorials at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Qualification Committee for giving opinions on applications to the State Register of Museums, the Memorials and Museums Working Group at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as well as the chairman of the Council of the International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

He is author of over 250 works devoted to the history of Konzentrationslager Lublin (Majdanek), the Holocaust, memorial museums, extracurricular history education, and the Polish-German relations regarding the remembrance of World War II.

### **Anna Míšková**

is historian focusing on the holocaust of Roma and Sinti in the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno, Czech Republic. She was part of the committee for the architectural competition for new Memorial at Lety u Písku. She is part of the team responsible for the exhibition at the new memorial. She is also co-editor of Roma and Sinti survivor testimonies titled: '... they are painful memories' (2021). She is part of the delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), and since 2023, she is chair to the Committee on the Genocide of the Roma. In her research, she focuses on the so-called 'Gypsy' camps at Lety u Písku and Hodonín u Kunštátu, as well as on the oral history sources of this period.

## **Clemens Kopetzky**

studied social sciences and economics and is managing director of the communications agency art:phalanx. He is responsible for the conception and realization of numerous projects at the intersection of culture, architecture, and urbanity. His focus is on communication and programming as well as the development of urban space and utilization concepts.

## **Heribert Wolfmayr**

is, together with Josef Saller, managing director of the architecture studio heri&salli - founded in 2004 and based in Vienna. Awarded national and international prizes, heri&salli understand architecture, design, and urban development as a symbiosis of different disciplines. Sustainability, resilience, technology, and innovation are the basis of creative processes to create livable space for humanity. Ongoing teaching activities accompany their work.

### **Robert Vorberg**

studied history. He is curator of the Mauthausen Memorial. Vorberg is involved in various projects in the field of contemporary history and Austrian commemorative politics, he is co-curator of several exhibitions and member of the working group for the redesign of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial. As curator of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial, he coordinates the scientific program of the memorial. He also carries out exhibition and mediation projects in the field of public history. He is responsible for the overall project management of the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial.

### **Barbara Glück**

studied history and political science. She is director of the Mauthausen Memorial and in this function also responsible for the Gusen Memorial and other memorial sites within the former Mauthausen camp system. Her largest project to date was the fundamental redesign of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial with two permanent exhibitions. She was research fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC and is member of numerous expert boards for the development of Austrian museums. For her work, she received the Henrietta and Friedrich Torberg Medal. She is responsible for the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Concentration Camp Memorial.

## Monika Szmigiel-Turlej

is a Polish diplomat and civil servant. She has graduated from Scandinavian Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the National School of Public Administration in Warsaw. In 2000 Szmigiel-Turlej joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. At the Ministry, she worked in various departments: the Department of Promotion, the European Policy Department, and the Department of Public Diplomacy and Culture. From 2004 to 2010 Szmigiel-Turlej also worked in the political section at the Embassy of Poland in Sweden, located in Stockholm. Between 2014 and 2019 she was deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Poland in Vienna. Since 2022 she has been director of the Polish Institute Vienna. Representing Poland, she was involved in the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Concentration Camp Memorial.

## Christian Dürr

studied philosophy and history. He is curator at the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial and co-editor of the publication series 'Mauthausen Studien' and 'Mauthausen Erinnerungen'. He was a member of the working group for the redesign of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial and is curatorially responsible for the existing permanent exhibitions at the Mauthausen and Gusen Memorials. His research and publications focus on concentration camp history, memory studies, and Argentine military dictatorship. He was part of the organizing team of the participation process for the expansion of the Gusen Memorial.



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