

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– Alte Mensa Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3

8.45-9.15h	Registration and Coffee	
9.15-9.45h	Dean of Faculty: Prof. Dr. Andrea D. Bührmann, Biographical Section Germany, Organising Committee	Welcome
9.45-10.45	Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Ruhr University Bochum)	Keynote: Memory, Biography, Generations (tba)
10.45-11.15	Coffee Break	
11.15-13.00	Session 1: Biographies and Crisis	
	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
	Maija Krumina (University of Latvia)	Post-Exile as Crisis: Biographical Narratives of Return, Belonging, and Identity
	Lyudmila Nurse (Oxford XXI think tank)	Use of Cultural Artefacts in Biographical Study of Memory and Identities
13.00-13.45	Lunch Break	

13.45-15.15	Session 2: Crisis and Covid-19	
	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 Viktoria Vaitovich (Milan University)	Adapting Biographical Research in Crisis: Digital Methods and Online Engagement During COVID-19.
	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
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break II	
16.00-17.15	Session 3: Panel: Euroborderwalks	3 papers/ 4 persons
17.15-20.30	Special Session	
	Robert Miller, Lyudmila Nurse, Robin Humphrey et al.	Special Session 4: 30 th Anniversary RN03
	Dinner and “Birthday celebrations”	

**Friday, 24 October 2025 - parallel sessions (Adam-von-Trott Saal und Taberna/ Alte Mensa
Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3)**

9.00-10.00 [Special Session 5: Biographical Research in German-speaking countries: History + Future](#) Maria Pohn-Lauggas, André Epp, Martina Schiebel, Arne Worm, Ina Alber-Armenat et al.

10.05-11.35	Session 6a: Memory and Generations	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 6b: Solidarity and Society	Taberna
	Ana Gonçalves (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)	<i>In search of fragile matters: Memory traces and horizons of possibilities</i>	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)	<i>How a research grounded on life-accounts can empirically explore the relevance of the concept of generation as understood by Mannheim?</i>	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”
			Gianluca Gatta (University of Milan)	Crisis, Sociability, and Mnemonic Solidarity between Afghan and Somali Diasporas in Italy: Creative Biographical Perspectives
11.35-11.50	Coffee Break			
11.50-13.20	Session 7a: Varieties of Work	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 7b: Migration, Displacement and Memory I	Taberna

Ksawery Olczyk (University of Łódź)	Precarious work in the biographical experiences of young adults	Emilia Sieczka (University of Łódź)	The crisis and future of academic internationalization in humanities and social sciences. Self-images, precarity and motivations for mobility in biographies of Polish migrant early stage and postdoctoral Researchers.
Julia Edthofer (Universität für angewandte Kunst, Wien)	Women's Perspectives on the Intertwinement of Living and Working in peripheral Council Housing. An intergenerational Case Study in Vienna	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)	Sharing biographical experiences on social media – influencers and platform work	Anna Simola (UCLouvain)	Understanding Relational Connectedness in EU Migrants' Lives in Polycrisis Times: How is Memory Implicated?
Agata Krasowska (University of Wrocław)	Work and Mental Health Crisis: An Analysis of Biographical, Reproductive and Paid Work	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
13.20-14.30	Lunch Break +	Business Meeting RN03	

14.30-16.00	Session 8a: Crisis and Future	Adam-von-Trott-Saal	Session 8b: Migration, Displacement and Memory II	Taberna
	Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas	Icons of compassion - the phenomenon and its significance in turbulent times	Oksana Žabko, Ilze Koroleva, Hanna Palii (University of Latvia)	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	Liudmyla Skokova, Nataliia Kostenko (National Academy of Science of Ukraine)	Collective memory: peculiarities of civil discourse during the russian war against Ukraine
	Maria Carmina Sgambato (University of Foggia), Angelo Maria De Fortuna (University of Urbino)	Addressing uncertainty: a dialogical educational process for a possible future	Monica Massari (University of Milan)	Anatomy of a disaster. Memory practices and oblivion politics around a shipwreck in the Mediterranean
	Tonina Liriel Aurel (University of Vienna)	Children's Future Conceptions in the Context of Parental Mental Illness	Andrea Glauser (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna)	„The future is unclear, but I'm alive.“ Biographical narratives and perspectives of displaced artists
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break IV			
16.15-17.45	Session 9: Methodological Changes/Developments			
	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		
	Małgorzata Bogunia-Borowska (Jagiellonian University) Justyna Kopczyńska (University of Warsaw)	The phenomenon of aeternalization. Expansion of human biography in the digital world		
17.45-18.00	Closing remarks			Organising committee