



**Workshop on
Comparing Oral
History Traditions
in Germany and
Poland**

Oral History, Collective Memory and the Culture of Remembrance in Poland and Germany

organized by **Lehrgebiet Public History** and
Institut für Geschichte und Biographie



17. – 18. September 2024



Campus der FernUniversität in Hagen

Gebäude 11, Raum D 1005



FernUniversität in Hagen

Oral History, Collective Memory and the Culture of Remembrance in Poland and Germany

In the summer of 2023, the FernUniversität's Department of Public History and Institute of History and Biography teamed up to hold a one-and-a-half-day workshop titled "A Non-ordinary Relationship: Oral History, Social Memory & Public History in Poland and Germany" during a joint excursion to the University of Warsaw.

The fruitful and productive discussions that started in the workshop will be continued at a follow-up event titled "Oral History, Collective Memory and the Culture of Remembrance in Poland and Germany" at the FernUniversität in Hagen in September 2024. Historians from Poland and Germany have been invited to discuss the similarities and differences between oral history research in the two countries with respect to selected topics and its connection to the

national culture of remembrance. The workshop will focus on the different traditions of oral history. In addition, participants will present research projects on forced labor and biographical migration research, which

will be supplemented by discussions about future opportunities for cooperation. The workshop will also address the future of oral history in academia and the German and Polish national culture of remembrance.



Tuesday 17/09

- 10:00 **Guided City Tour**
Fabian Fechner (Hagen)
- 12:30 **Lunch** (Cafeteria of FeU in Hagen)
- 14:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

Eva Ochs (Hagen) &
Janine Fubel (Hagen)
*Presentation History of the
workshop and program.*

Almut Leh (Hagen) &
Felix Ackermann (Hagen)
*Presentation IGB and Lehrgebiet
Public History.*
- 14:30 **Section I (part 1)**
Agnès Arp (Erfurt) &
Almut Leh (Hagen)
*Interpretation Workshop – Working
Together on an Oral History Source.*

- 16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:30 **Section I (part 2)**
Agnès Arp (Erfurt) &
Almut Leh (Hagen)
*Interpretation Workshop – Working
Together on an Oral History Source.*
- 17:30 **Snack**
- 18:30 **Roundtable Talk:
Comparing Oral History Traditions
in Germany and Poland.
Traditions and Approaches**
(Chair: Almut Leh, Hagen)

Alexander von Plato (Hagen)
Jakub Gałęziowski (Warsaw)
Linde Apel (Hamburg)
Izabela Skórzyńska (Poznań)
- 20:00 **Get Together**

Wednesday 18/09

- 9:00 **Section II:
Forced Labour**
(Chair: Eva Ochs, Hagen)

Pjotr Filipowski (Warsaw)
*Polish Forced Labourers During WWII
– History, Memory and ... Absence.*

Marta Pawlińska (Warsaw)
*Personal Experiences of Polish
Hausgehilfinnen – An Oral History
Perspective.*

Christoph Thonfeld (Dachau)
*Forced Labour Under Nazi Rule –
Ways of Dealing with an Unsettled
Past.*
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**

11:00 **Section III:
Migration and Transformation**
(Chair: Felix Ackermann, Hagen)

Cäcilia Wosnitzka (Wien)
Female Polish Exiles in the FRG: An Oral History of Political Asylum in (West) Germany before 1993. Oral History as Access to an (Experiential) History of Political Asylum in the FRG.

Janine Fubel (Hagen)
“Go West” – On Starting an Oral History Project about Transnational Experience and Remembrance of Transformation and Migration in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Angela Beljak (Hagen)
“Witnessing the Now” – Ethical aspects of interviewing Ukrainian refugees.

12:30 **Lunch** (Cafeteria of FeU in Hagen)

14:00 **Section IV:
Future of Oral History**
(Chair: Linde Apel, Hamburg)

Dennis Möbus (Hagen)
Mapping Biographical Interviews: Exploring Oral-History-Corpora with Topic Modeling.

Maria Buko (Konstanz)
Whom to talk to, what to share. Oral histories about WWII in contemporary museum practice in Poland.

Cord Pagenstecher (Berlin)
Oral History Interviews as Research Data. Archiving with the FAIR and CARE Principles.

Katarzyna Szarla (Warsaw)
Navigating Difficult Topics: Vulnerability and Agency in Oral History Research on the AIDS Crisis.

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Final Round**
(Chair: Janine Fubel, Hagen)

Introductory statements followed by discussion in the plenary

18:00 **Dinner** (optional)

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Kontakt

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