

//M.A.COURSE: "War Crimes, Genocide and Memories / The Roots of Evil: I Want to Understand" 2004

//PLACE: Dubrovnik, Inter University Centre & Art Radionica Lazareti **//TIME:** May 9-16, 2004 **//COURSE AUTHOR:** Janja Bec-Neumann, Sociologist Ph.D. **//COURSE DIRECTORS:** Janja Bec-Neumann, Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, Sarajevo, Zdravko Grebo, University of Sarajevo, Dan Bar-On, David Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Gema Martin Munoz, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Isabelle Delpla, University of Montpellier, Peter Riedesser, University of Hamburg, Jan Phillip Reemtsma, Institut fur Sozialforschung, Hamburg **//ORGANIZERS:** Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies/Sarajevo & Art Radionica Lazareti/Dubrovnik **//STUDENTS:** 52 / 16 countries **//LECTURERS:** 24 / 9 countries **//LANGUAGE:** English **//WORKING HOURS:** 40 **//FINANCED BY:** Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, CIPS, Sarajevo & Art Radionica Lazareti, ARL, Dubrovnik & Heinrich Boell Foundation, regional office Sarajevo & International Commission on Missing Persons, ICMP, office Sarajevo & Friedrich Naumann Foundation, office Zagreb & University of Hamburg & UNHCR/ACNUR, La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados, Comite Espanol, Madrid & Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport in Croatia, Zagreb & HESP Program, Open Society Institute, NYC / Budapest **//BUDGET:** 26.380,64 Euro **//EXHIBITIONS:** 2 **//MOVIES:** 2 **//DOCUMENTARY:** 2 **//VOLUNTEERS:** Course directors, course author & Art Radionica Lazareti staff **//TEAM:** CIPS, Sarajevo / Janja Bec-Neumann, Mia Sidran, Nejra-Nuna Cengic, Kumjana Novakova, Maida Omanovic & ARL, Dubrovnik / Slaven Tolj, Srdjana Cvijetic, Vesna Mitrovic **//WEB:** //www.iuc.hr, //www.cps.edu.ba, //www.helsinki.org.yu, //motlc.wiesenthal.com/resources/books/shatteringsoul **//CONTACT:** janja@panet.co.yu, janjabec@hotmail.com, +381 63 663514, +387 61 526507, +381 13 520553, +385 20 426056



2004 report

War Crimes, Genocide and Memories / The Roots of Evil; I want to Understand", MA course as a part of Inter University Centre programme 2004 is the first MA course in all region with subject war crimes, genocide and memories, in region which is in transition after wars, war crimes and genocide 1991-1999. We have one old question; is it right time to open this so painful and risky question? I need to believe as a course author and someone who belongs to two cultures with genocide experiences, Serbian and German, that it is right time. To try to work through pain, to free ourselves from backyard psychology and internalized aggression of oppressors we have been having for centuries. One difficult task, but more difficult is to do nothing.

This year, we have had 52 students; ERMA students, European Master in Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe, EU project, Universities of Bologna and Sarajevo, were the biggest group, 34 students from South East Europe; BH, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, Bulgaria, Albania, Kosova, Croatia and from EU countries; Austria, Holland, Greece, Great Britain, Spain. We have had plus 18 students who were not ERMA students, from USA, Austria, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro (first time in our course).

Asta Zinbo gives a lecture, how ICMP helps us to listen voices of 25.-30.000 missing in the region of former Yugoslavia after the wars 1991-1999



We have had 20 lectures and 24 lecturers from BH, Italy, USA, Spain, Holland / Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. Our basic concept was to have lecturers with excellent theoretical background plus respectable field work and experience, like ICC analyst educated in Spain and USA, with long experience in BH genocide and war crimes in ICCY, or ACNUR expert with excellent education in Spain and Oxford plus one and half year field work in Cambodia, or our graduated ERMA students with excellent MA remarks plus field work in Croatia with refugees, or war brain-drain student from BH who works Ph.D. in Germany about war brain-drain as a form of eliticide, etc. With our excellent graduated ERMA students and Ph.D. war brain-drain students from region who work now Ph.D. in USA, Italy and Germany, and students from the region who stayed and have some important projects in the region, we try to overcome generation gap in IUC, to prepare new, young, brave, talented, motivated, smart students to be course lecturers and very soon course directors. The third group lecturers were direct victims of genocide and war crimes in BH. They do not have excellent theoretical background regarding our subject, but they have unfortunately experience of the most violent form of human rights violation, genocide. They are voices of victims now more and more silenced and forgotten in the region, from different reasons.

Regarding sentence that words alone cannot say everything and our interdisciplinary approach based on high complexity and high sensitivity of our subject we have had two photo exhibition during our course; "The Voices of the Missing", done by Haris Memija, Sarajevo/BH, audio visual project about families of missing persons in BH, organized by International Commission on Missing Persons, Office in Sarajevo and Art Radionica Lazareti, Dubrovnik, on May 10-18, 2004 in Ethnographic Museum Rupe, Dubrovnik. "Srebrenica, July 11, 1995" done by Tarik Samarah, Sarajevo / BH, organized by Heinrich Boell Foundation, Regional Office Sarajevo / BH, and Art Radionica Lazareti in Lazareti, Dubrovnik, on May 14, 2004 and in IUC in our classroom during course. We have seen two movies, "Pianist" by Roman Polanski (Holocaust) and "Ararat" by Atom Egoyan (Armenian genocide, 1915), two documentaries; "The Boy who Rushed" by Biljana Cacic, Zagreb / Croatia, about young woman who try to find her brother missing during liberation war in Croatia 1991, and "The Old Fairground" by Natasa Teofilovic, Pancevo /Vojvodina, about "Staro Sajmiste" / old fairground in Belgrade, where during the WWII, since August 12th 1941 till July 1944, was nazi concentration camp under SS command in collaboration with Serbian regime where 9.000 Jews from Belgrade's Jewish community of 11.000 were executed. In camp were executed Jews, partisans, prisoners from Greece and Albania, as well Italian prisoners after the capitulation of Italy 1943. People killed, total, 40.000 till 48.000, different sources, people gone through the camp, different sources, 90.000, over 100.000. Now forgotten place in Belgrade, no memories. Three books were presented as well; Karl Jaspers, "The Question of German Guilt" / Die Schuldfrage, (1946), Janja Bec, "The Shattering of the Soul" / Pucanje duse, (1997) and Enrico Deagio, "La Banalita del Bene ; Storia di Giorgio Perlasca" / Banality of Goodness; Story about Giorgio Perlasca (2002), and one essay by Dan Bar-On, "Reconciliation Revisited", 2002.



Our course, since 2003 is the first MA course in all region with subject war crimes, genocide and memories, based on radical hope that now we will manage to work through pain. Because all this region for centuries did not have ability to face up with own crimes and sufferings, did not work through own pains, maybe now has chance to start to work through pains, it needs a few generations, but now we can start with this process of facing up with past and with hard work and invested energy we have maybe chance to free ourselves from "backyard psychology and internalized aggression of oppressors we have been having for centuries", (Dan Bar-On) as a part of periphery of Ottoman, Austrian, Nazi, Communist and now EU empires. This course is in this basic frame. The second basic pillar is, to free us in mind from old dichotomy, to explain and to change; we want to understand the roots of evil, not to explain and not to change; under title this year was; " the roots of evil, I want to understand", based on famous authors in our field Ervin Staub (The Roots of Evil) and Hannah Arendt (I want to understand). Our third pillar is relationship between stability and facing up with the past. In the name of stability is happening one three dimensional process; first is process forgetting in the public sphere, but not in the individual, family and private sphere which is potentially very powerful moral and emotional bomb; second process is to relativize (it is war, all wars are the same, all sides have done it, etc.) and the third process is to normalize (yes, we have done it, but they have done Holocaust, Indians, gulag, first nation, etc.) We discovered during our course some more important questions; elitism of pain, "I do not want to listen about Karl Jaspers, he is nor relevant for us in BH" (ERMA student) "Academy has nothing to say, The Hague Tribunal (ICCY) has nothing to do, for one mother who lost her child" (ERMA student) "You (Janja Bec) you can teach us about Guatemala genocide, but I do not want to listen you telling us about war in BH" (ERMA student). "You all have no right to teach this subject here in air-conditioned room in this famous tourist place in time when people in Sudan suffer from hunger" (ERMA student). It is interesting that all ERMA students with these attitudes are from BH.

Methodologically our course was in one very flexible frame based on two methods; one by Dan Bar-On, well know method TRT, to reflect and trust, based on his decades long work with second and third generation of Holocaust survivors and Nazi perpetrators children. Second is method by Janja Bec, listen and talk, based on my ten years work with first generation after wars in this region. Together this method has name "listen / talk / reflect / trust". We have used words (lectures), photos (exhibitions), voices, music, stories (movies), story telling (victims stories) and five our students family trans generational a few minutes presentations with one of seven couples of words : hands-tears, bread-roses, winter-house, woman-man, photo-forget, guiltiness-justice, forgiveness-hatred. (Janja Bec's method based on Dan Bar-On work)



This course is difficult and painful, so our student's reaction was extreme; acceptance (majority) and rejection (minority). Official students representatives, two of them, from Turkey and Albania, publicly said at the end of our course when all students have got IUC certificates, that this course is difficult and painful but extremely useful and necessary in this region where it all has happened.

This year course was well presented in media in Croatia (HRT/ Croat Radio and TV, Radio Dubrovnik) BETA / News Agency, Belgrade, Deutsche Welle, Free Europe, RBB / Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg. I have no information about media in BH.

As a course author and one of course directors I find this course as a difficult, risky, painful but necessary, important for next a few generations of people in this region, not only for highly selected MA students in human rights and democracy, it means for minimum next hundred years. This year work has shown how deep and painful is trauma and how much has to be done to start to work through these pains which generations before us did not manage to do. Regarding this believe, for next year our course will take place in IUC for two weeks, on May 16-28, 2005 during the year of commemoration and memories on the 60 years of the end of WWII and 10 years of Srebrenica genocide.

I would like to thank you for your courage to support our risky project and I hope we will work together again, even some my students say that I have no right to teach genocide, and that she is ready to listen and talk with me when my new research will be finished about Guatemala genocide, but not about genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina (<http://motlc.wiesenthal.com/resources/books/shatteringsoul>). Sorry, I think totally opposite, it is not question if I have right to teach genocide, my duty is to teach genocide, and my Serbian mother and my" problematic, unclear, mixed national background from Vojvodina" (ERMA student) is not problem. My mother's father, Stevan Lukic, peasant from Neradin, Srem, Vojvodina, who was winegrower like all in his family for a centuries, was killed in concentration camp Staro Sajmiste / Old Fairground in Belgrade, on October 1943, and I did not know about it, it was silenced fact in our family, till I have seen documentary done by Natasa Teofilovic, young girl I never met before, fourth generation after.

Bezazlen / harmless in my language means to know everything and in spite of it all, not to give up, to believe in goodness. Bezazlen / harmless means as well, "bez zla / without evil". The roots of evil. I want to understand.

Janja Bec Neumann,
Pancevo / Vojvodina, July 14th, 2004
Dubrovnik, November 14th, 2004

How to teach genocide and war crimes? The roots of evil; we want to understand



STUDENTS:

Aida Kozar, Serbia and Montenegro; **Ajla Merdanovic**, ERMA*, BiH; **Albana Hana**, ERMA, Albania; **Alma Hasanovic**, ERMA, BiH; **Andi Hila**, ERMA, Albania; **Andreja Dugandzic**, ERMA, BiH; **Angela Wiesser**, Austria; **Antonija Horvat**, ERMA, Croatia; **Anya Hart**, ERMA, Great Britain; **Blerina Duli**, ERMA, Albania; **Damir Imamovic**, BiH; **Detelin Ivanov**, ERMA, Bulgaria; **Dinko Gruhonjic**, Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro; **Edin Hajdarpasic**, USA & BiH; **Elia Varela**, ERMA, Spain; **Emir Vajzovic**, ERMA, BiH; **Gorana Mlinarevic**, ERMA, BiH; **Gordana Velickovska**, ERMA, Macedonia; **Irena Mitro**, ERMA, Albania; **Irham Ceco**, ERMA, BiH; **Ivana Simic**, ERMA, BiH; **Ivan Barbalic**, BiH; **Kamelia Dimitrova**, ERMA, Bulgaria; **Katerina Vasileska**, Macedonia; **Kumjana Novakova**, Macedonia; **Lajla Zaimovic**, ERMA, BiH; **Lia Karamidou**, ERMA, Greece; **Marta Kljajic**, ERMA, Croatia; **Miradije Hodza**, ERMA, Serbia and Montenegro; **Morgiana Brading**, ERMA, BiH; **Murat Yucer**, ERMA, Turkey; **Naida Mehmedbegovic**, BiH & Germany; **Natasa Govedarica**, BiH; **Natasa Teofilovic**, Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro; **Nermina Memic**, ERMA, BiH; **Nexhmi Rexhepi**, ERMA, Kosovo; **Nora Bakalli**, ERMA, Kosovo; **Petya Bozkova**, ERMA, Bulgaria; **Robin Vasko Simons**, ERMA, Holland; **Roland Schmidt**, ERMA, Austria; **Sanel Huskic**, ERMA, BiH; **Sarah Monfort**, USA; **Senadin Musabegovic**, BiH & Italy; **Sergej Sekulovic**, ERMA, Serbia and Montenegro; **Sergio Pains**, Italy; **Slavisa Rakovic****, Serbia and Montenegro; **Snezana Kresoja**, Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro; **Sophie Yucer**, ERMA, Turkey; **Tarik Ceric**, BiH; **Valon Murati**, ERMA, Kosovo; **Vanja Ibrahimbegovic**, ERMA, BiH; **Vedran Horvat**, Croatia; **Violeta Buric-Milosevic**, BiH

* ERMA, European Regional Master in Human Rights and Democracy in South East Europe, Bologna & Sarajevo Universities

** Croat Police on the border to Croatia did not let him to enter into Croatia because he did not have 150 EURO per diem for seven days. He had official papers that he is regular student in IUC.

Since 1972 more than 1000 courses, more than 55.000 students have been attending IUC courses



Xabier Aguirre, presents ICTY indictment for war crimes and genocide; formal and interpersonal justice



LECTURERS & LECTURES

- Ana Garcia Rodicio, Spain, "Reconciliation in Cambodia"
- Asta Zinbo, USA & BiH, "Voices of the Missing"
- Dusan Mijic, Vojvodina / SCG, "Economic Freedom and Genocide"
- Janja Bec Neumann, Vojvodina & Germany, "The Roots of Evil: I Want to Understand"
- Sonja Biserko, Serbia and Montenegro, "Nationalism as War Politics: The Question of Serbian Identity"
- Xabier Aguirre, Spain & ICC / The Hague, "Genocide, Memory and International Justice"
- Zdenek Kavan, Great Britain, "History, Memory, Justice"

FORMER ERMA STUDENTS:

- Aida Kozar, Serbia and Montenegro, "Reconciliation Revisited", Dan Bar-On
- Katerina Vasilevska, Macedonia, "The Shattering of the Soul", Janja Bec
- Lejsa Hecimovic, BiH, "The Image of the "Others" - Instrumentalization of the Prejudices and Stereotypes during Conflicts"
- Sergio Painsi, Italy, "Banality of Goodness: Pretending to be the Spanish Consul: Georgio Perlasca saving Hungarian Jews"
- Tarik Ceric, BiH, "The Question of German Guilt", Karl Jaspers
- Vedran Horvat, Croatia, "Return of Refugees and Reconciliation in Croatia"

"This book made me better", Tarik Ceric gives the lecture about "The Question of German Guilt" by Karl Jaspers



Listen / talk / reflect / trust, 52 students / 16 countries; to work through pain



Ph.D. STUDENTS FROM THE REGION / WAR BRAIN-DRAIN

Edin Hajdarasic, USA & BiH, "War Crimes and Cultural Heritage"
Naida Mehmedbegovic, Germany & BiH, "War Brain-Drain as a Form of Eliticide"
Senadin Musabegovic, Italy & BiH, "Internal War"

STUDENT'S PROJECT IN THE REGION

Damir Imamovic, BiH, Project: "Inter Nos: What does the War means for Us?"
Ivan Barbalic, BiH, "Ab / Use of Memories"
Nataša Teofilović, Vojvodina / SCG, "The Old Fairground", Documentary about Concentration Camp in Belgrade during WW II

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Haris Memija, BiH, Exhibition "Voices of the Missing", Ethnographical Museum Rupe, Dubrovnik
Tarik Samarah, BiH, Exhibition "Srebrenica, July 11th, 1995", IUC and Art Radionica Lazareti

WAR CRIMES AND GENOCIDE DIRECT VICTIMS

Kada Hotic, BiH, "Voices of the Missing"
Munevera Avdic, BiH, "Voices of the Missing"
Smilja Mitrovic, BiH, "Voices of the Missing"

IUC, "Srebrenica 11 July 1995", photo exhibition, Tarik Samarah / Sarajevo; Banality of evil, banality of indifference. Hate speech, hate silence.