

## Workshop **Politics and Memory of Transitional Time**

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Date 4 May 2023

Location GD 311, Gräfin-Dönhoff-Gebäude, Europaplatz 1,  
15230 Frankfurt (Oder), European University of Viadrina

Organiser Gal Kirn (AvH visiting researcher at Kulturphilosophie,  
Philosophie der Kulturen, Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät,  
Europa-Universität Viadrina / Assistant Professor,  
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana)

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The revolving doors of the "end of history" and the long-standing horizon of postmodernism, with its primacy of space over time (Fredric Jameson), are gradually exhausting themselves in the ever-growing and multiple crises that characterise capitalist apocalyptic realism. While history and memory have long been entangled beyond national boundaries – and various critical studies and engaged artistic practises testify to a deeper interest in the "tradition of the oppressed" – at the same time, historical revisionism and especially the rise of neo-fascist tendencies have reached levels of official institutions, becoming a global force that can once again proclaim Walter Benjamin's dictum that not even the dead are safe. In this situation, calls to rupture with capitalist realism can be traced along very different strategies of resistance: either they evoke and mobilise resources from the utopian past or from the memory of enslaved ancestors; by challenging the notion of the future infected by growth and avant-garde thinking or by reclaiming the future in the present "warming condition" (Andreas Malm). Drawing on critical memory studies and materialist theories, this workshop will address some of the urgent demands and challenges arising from the relationship between memory and its post-socialist transitional and post-Cold War periods; theorise the relationship between memory and capital in both its primitive accumulation and (self-)valorization dimensions; and finally discuss repair, contingency, and counter-certainty as alternative temporalities.

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### Workshop program

14:00 Introductory words

**Gal Kirn (Ljubljana)**

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#### Session 1

14:15-15:45 Moderated by

**Katja Diefenbach (Frankfurt/Oder)**

**Gal Kirn (Ljubljana)**

“Primitive Accumulation and Resistance:  
For Critical Theory of Memory”

**Lea Kuhar (Berlin)**

“Unforgetting the Future:  
A Marxist Defence of Contingency”

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#### Session 2

16.15-17:45 Moderated by

**José Maria Durán Medrano (Berlin)**

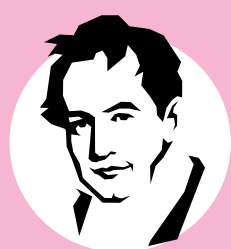
**Ksenia Robbe (Amsterdam)**

“Other Transitions: Remembering the  
1980-90s Crises and Reimagining Sociality  
in South African and Russian Literature”

**Özgün Eylül İşcen (Berlin)**

“Capitalist Ruins and Allied Struggles:  
Archive, Digitality, and Counter-Futuring”

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Alexander von  
**HUMBOLDT**  
STIFTUNG