

# 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”**



*Wednesday 22 October in the evening: self-paid voluntary welcome dinner*

**Thursday, 23 October 2025: Adam-von-Trott-Saal– Alte Mensa Tagungszentrum, Wilhelmsplatz 3**

**8.45-9.15h Registration and Coffee**

<b>9.15-9.45h</b>	Dean of Faculty: Prof. Dr. Andrea D. Bührmann, Biographical Section Germany, Organising Committee	<b>Welcome</b>
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<b>9.45-10.45</b>	Maria Pohn-Lauggas	<b>Keynote: Memory, Biography, Generations (tba)</b>
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<b>10.45-11.15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
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<b>11.15-13.00</b>	<b>Session 1: Biographies and Crisis</b>
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Ines Gottschalk (Ruhr University Bochum)	<b>Biographical Research in the Context of Crisis-Laden Memories as Practices of Witnessing and Recognition: Metatheoretical reflections on possibilities, Requirements, and Limits</b>
Martina Schiebel, Johanna Wahl (University of Oldenburg)	<b>Protesting biographers in times of crisis</b>

Katarzyna Waniek (University of Łódź)	<b>Crisis: between individual experiences and discursively created reality</b>
Maija Krumina (University of Latvia)	<b>Post-Exile as Crisis: Biographical Narratives of Return, Belonging, and Identity</b>

Lyudmila Nurse (Oxford XXI think tank)	<b>Use of Cultural Artefacts in Biographical Study of Memory and Identities</b>
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<b>13.00-13.45</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
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<b>13.45-15.15</b>	<b>Session 2: Crisis and Covid</b>	
	Adam Mrozowski (University of Wrocław)	<b>Essential healthcare workers in Poland and the United States: biographical sociology of polycrisis</b>
	Jacek Burski (University of Wrocław)	<b>Do We Need Another Type of Capital? The Role of Biographical Capital in Shaping Life Strategies of Polish and American Doctors</b>
	Lidia Katia C. Manzo <i>Viktoria Vaitovich</i> <sup>1</sup> (Milan University)	<b>Adapting Biographical Research in Crisis: Digital Methods and Online Engagement During COVID-19.</b>
	Sylwia Męcfal (University of Łódź), Beata Bielska (University of Toruń), Adrianna Surmiak (University of Warsaw)	<b>How researchers narrate their work during different stages of the pandemic crisis – cases of qualitative researchers in Poland</b>
<b>15.30-16.00</b>	<b>Coffee Break II</b>	
<b>16.00-17.15</b>	<b>Session 3: Panel: Euroborderwalks</b>	3 papers/ 4 persons
<b>17.15-20.30</b>	<b>Special Session</b>	
	Robert Miller, Lyudmila Nurse, Kaja Kaźmierska, Robin Humphrey et al.	<b>Special Session 4: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RN03</b>
		Dinner and “Birthday celebrations”

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<sup>1</sup> online confirmed already in italics

**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<sup>2</sup>, André Epp, Martina Schiebel, Arne Worm, Ina Alber-Armenat et al.

<b>10.05-11.35</b>	<a href="#">Session 6a: Memory and Generations</a>	<a href="#">Adam-von-Trott-Saal</a>	<a href="#">Session 6b: Solidarity and Society</a>	<a href="#">Taberna</a>
	Kaja Kaźmierska (University of Łódź)	<b>How lives are remembered and stories are composed in a generational change perspective</b>	Natalia Grimm, Andrea Hense, Ina Kaufhold (Sociological Research Institute Göttingen)	<b>How biographical experiences and crises shape ideas of social cohesion</b>
	<i>Gheorghe-Calin Goina (Babes-Bolyai University)</i>	<b><i>How a research grounded on life-accounts can empirically explore the relevance of the concept of generation as understood by Mannheim?</i></b>	Baiba Bela (University of Latvia)	<b>Social Networks and Community Resilience: Personal Experiences in Strengthening Communities at the Local Level</b>
	Benjamin Neumann (TU Dortmund University), Marliese Weißmann (Sociological Research Institute Göttingen)	<b>The Challenges of Legacy in Wealthy Families: Memories, Wealth Transfer, Inter- and Intragenerational Relationships</b>	Margherita Cusmano (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)	<b>A Visual and Narrative Study of “Images of Society”</b>
	<i>Ana Gonçalves (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)</i>	<b><i>In search of fragile matters: Memory traces and horizons of possibilities</i></b>	Gianluca Gatta (University of Milan)	<b>Crisis, Sociability, and Mnemonic Solidarity between Afghan and Somali Diasporas in Italy: Creative Biographical Perspectives</b>
<b>11.35-11.50</b>	<a href="#">Coffee Break</a>			

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<sup>2</sup> only until 13h on 24 October

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)	<b>Precarious work in the biographical experiences of young adults</b>	Emilia Sieczka (University of Łódź)	<b>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.</b>
	Julia Edthofer (Universität für angewandte Kunst, Wien)	<b>Women's Perspectives on the Intertwinement of Living and Working in peripheral Council Housing. An intergenerational Case Study in Vienna</b>	Kamil Łuczaj (University of Łódź)	<b>Experiencing Academic Migration, Remembering Technology: How Does Technological Advancement Shape the Biographies of Expatriate Professors?</b>
	Aleksandra Drączyk (University of Łódź)	<b>Sharing biographical experiences on social media – influencers and platform work</b>	Anna Simola (UCLouvain)	<b>Understanding Relational Connectedness in EU Migrants' Lives in Polycrisis Times: How is Memory Implicated?</b>
	Agata Krasowska (University of Wrocław)	<b>Work and Mental Health Crisis: An Analysis of Biographical, Reproductive and Paid Work</b>	Benita Kawalla (University of Kiel)	<b>Between mitigating the critical present and praying for a better future - Acts of citizenship of Jordanian mother's in mixed-status families</b>
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	<b>Icons of compassion - the phenomenon and its significance in turbulent times</b>	Oksana Žabko, Ilze Koroleva, Hanna Palii (University of Latvia)	<b>Dealing with the interrupted life: civic engagement as crisis coping strategy for displaced Ukrainians</b>
	Marta Eichsteller (University College Dublin)	<b>From Narratives to Freedoms: Reimagining Sen's Capabilities through Biographical Narratives</b>	Liudmyla Skokova, Nataliia Kostenko (National Academy of Science of Ukraine)	<b>Collective memory: peculiarities of civil discourse during the russian war against Ukraine</b>
	Maria Carmina Sgambato (University of Foggia), Angelo Maria De Fortuna (University of Urbino)	<b>Addressing uncertainty: a dialogical educational process for a possible future</b>	Monica Massari (University of Milan)	<b>Anatomy of a disaster. Memory practices and oblivion politics around a shipwreck in the Mediterranean</b>
	Tonina Liriel Aurel (University of Vienna)	<b>Children's Future Conceptions in the Context of Parental Mental Illness</b>	Andrea Glauser (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna)	<b>„The future is unclear, but I'm alive.“ Biographical narratives and perspectives of displaced artists</b>
16.00-16.15	Coffee Break IV			
16.15-17.45	Session 9: Methodological Changes/Developments			
	Jacek Kubera (University of Poznań)	<b>Memoir-Writing Competitions: The Birth of the Method, Its Developments and Methodological Challenges</b>		
	Micol Pizzolati (University of Bergamo)	<b>Biographies of Loneliness and Connection Within and Beyond the University: How Students' Narratives Take Shape in Digital Storytelling Workshops</b>		
	Piotr Szenajch (University of Łódź)	<b>Afro-Poles through the lens. Concerns with visual interviewing as part of biographical research</b>		
	Małgorzata Bogunia-Borowska (Jagiellonian University) Justyna Kopczyńska (University of Warsaw)	<b>The phenomenon of aeternalization. Expansion of human biography in the digital world</b>		
17.45-18.00	Closing remarks	Organising committee		