

## International Conference

# Narrating Catastrophes: References to the (European) Holocaust and their Function

27th-29th May 2026

## Wednesday, 27th May

**14:30**

Arrival and Registration

**15:00**

**Karsten Krüger, Vicepresident for Academic  
Infrastructure (JLU Gießen)**

Opening Words from the University Executive  
Board

**Verena Dolle (JLU Gießen)**

Narrating Catastrophes: References to the  
(European) Holocaust and their Function

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

**16:15-18:15**

**Panel I: The Holocaust and Travelling Memories**

Moderation: Vadim Oswalt

**Astrid Erll (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)**

Travels in Time: New Perspectives (Video)

**Anika Ina Binsch (JLU Gießen)**

From Trauma to Metaphor: Memory,  
Interpretation, and Misuse of the Term  
“Holocaust” in German-Language Public Discourse,  
1980s–Present

**Nicole Immig (JLU Gießen)**

“Greek Holocaust Villages”: Discourses on German  
Occupation in Greece in World War II

## Thursday, 28th May

**9:15-11:15**

**Panel II: Detecting and Overcoming (?) Silences I**

Moderation: Hanna Nohe

**Lisa Peschel (University of York)**

Testimony on Theatre in the Theresienstadt Ghetto  
for Survivors’ Reintegration in 1960s  
Czechoslovakia

**Stefan Peters (JLU Gießen/CAPAZ)**

Discussing Silences in Latin American Memory  
Studies

**Emily M. Baker (University College London)**

Centering the Holocaust, Decentering Identity in  
Latin American Literature (online)

11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

**11:30-13:30**

**Panel III: Detecting and Overcoming (?) Silences II**

Moderation: Verena Dolle

**Saúl Sosnowski (University of Maryland)**

Memorias a la sombra: la cárcel del olvido

**Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger (JLU Gießen, assoc.)**

The Fear of Loss: Conversations between Son and  
Father in New York

**Sabine Schlickers (Universität Bremen)**

Collaboration, Betrayal, Forbidden Relationships:  
References to the Holocaust in Latin American  
Literature

13:30-15:00 Lunch Break

**15:00-17:30**

**Panel IV: (Entangled) Narratives on the Holocaust and the Armed Conflict in Colombia**

Moderation: Saúl Sosnowski

**Pablo Montoya (Universidad de Antioquía)**

¿Cómo narrar desaparición forzada en *La sombra de Orión*? (online)

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

**Lorena Cardona González (Universidad de Caldas)**

De una guerra a otra: Memorias cruzadas de la Shoah y la violencia nacional en la novelística colombiana

**Jacobo Celnik (Bogotá)**

*El pintor de Auschwitz*: Secretos y descubrimientos de una familia fragmentada por el Holocausto

**Friday, 29th May**

**9:15-12:45**

**Panel V: Post-Slavery Narratives**

Moderation: Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger

**Márcio Seligmann-Silva (Universidade Estadual de Campinas São Paulo)**

Artefactos culturales como actos contra-coloniales

**Jan Alber (JLU Gießen)**

How Aboriginal Novels Move beyond the Catastrophe of the Australian Assimilation Programme: The Case of Kim Scott's *Benang*

**Filipe Antunes Madeira da Silva (Universidad de los Andes)**

“The Victorious Descendants of the Holocaust”: Narrating the Past and the Rubber Crimes

11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

**Hugo Hernán Ramírez (Universidad de los Andes)**

El lugar del Holocausto en *La ceiba de la memoria* de Roberto Burgos Cantor

**Paul Scheidt (Philipps-Universität Marburg)**

Learning from which Catastrophes? A Transnational Analysis of Learning from Collective Traumata

**12:45**

**Verena Dolle (JLU Gießen)**

Closing Words

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

**19:00**

**Round Table “The Holocaust Legacy in Present Times: Challenges for Veracity and Truth?”**

**(A. Binsch, P. Scheidt, S. Sosnowski, V. Dolle)**

Margarete-Bieber-Saal  
Ludwigstraße 34, 35390 Gießen

**Responsible for the Workshop**

Prof. Dr. Verena Dolle  
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This conference brings together international experts from Europe, Latin America, and the United States and is devoted to the question of how catastrophes of great magnitude, here understood as man-made disasters, are narrated in the literature of the 20th and 21st centuries, and how the European Holocaust, as a “travelling memory” (Erl), has been received and transformed within specific communities of memory, and how it has been functionalized as a “universal trope” and “powerful prism” (Huysen).

The conference is funded by the DFG as part of the research project “Entangled Memories and their Dynamics: ‘h/Holocaust’ in Colombian Literature from 1985 until 2022” (Project no. 543780449).