

EINLADUNG

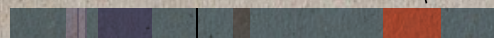
SIMON WIESENTHAL LECTURE

NANCI ADLER

THE FUTURE OF THE STALINIST PAST


Donnerstag, 21. November 2019, 18.30 Uhr
Dachfoyer des Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchivs
1010 Wien, Minoritenplatz 1


WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (VWI)




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GEFÖRDERT VON:  Bundeskanzleramt

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What are the prospects for reconciliation when the state denies, ignores, or co-opts a history of repression? Thirty years after the end of a dictatorship that claimed millions of victims, aside from symbolic reparations, the post-Soviet government(s) have implemented little of the institutionalised transitional justice mechanisms to reckon with this past. There has been a persistent, politically-driven effort to manage national and public memory by repressing, controlling, or even co-opting the memory of repression. Now, as under Khrushchev and Gorbachev, the government sanctions the immortalisation of victims, but draws a thick line when it comes to the discussion of the perpetrators. Not one henchman has been tried, nor one truth commission instigated, victim compensation is limited, as is archival access, the record in history textbooks is a political narrative, and researchers of Stalinism are once again harassed on spurious charges. It was not until 2015 that the state sanctioned the plan for an official monument to the victims of Stalinism. Most of them did not live to see it erected. This lecture will focus on some of the causes and consequences of post-Soviet Russia's ambivalent attitude toward its Stalinist past, and reflect on how to move beyond current impasses.

Nanci Adler is Professor of Memory, History, and Transitional Justice at the University of Amsterdam and Programme Director at the Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies (NIOD). She has authored and/or edited, among others, *Keeping Faith with the Party. Communist Believers Return from the Gulag* (2012), *The Gulag Survivor. Beyond the Soviet System* (2002), *Victims of Soviet Terror. The Story of the Memorial Movement* (1993), and *Understanding the Age of Transitional Justice. Crimes, Courts, Commissions, and Chronicling* (2018). Her research focuses on transitional justice and the legacy of communism.

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