

IYM 2018: Workshop descriptions

Workshops in the first week:

An Introduction to the History of National Socialism (Basic workshop)

This workshop is specifically designed for those of you who would like to receive a broad introduction into the topic of national socialism. The workshop also serves as a good foundation for the in-depth workshops offered in the second week of the IYM. We will be addressing the Nazis' rise to power in 1933 as well as the conceptualization of a national socialist society, the so-called "Volksgemeinschaft." Subsequently we will confront the radicalisation of national socialist policy and the consequent occupation of large parts of Europe as well as the Holocaust. In order to delve into the aforementioned topics we will be taking a closer look at developments in the city of Dachau in 1933 and working with materials from the Dachau concentration camp memorial site. Furthermore, participants of the workshop will have the opportunity to talk with two-eye witnesses; Ernst Grube and Anastasija Gulei.

Psychology of power

Participants in this workshop will tackle the question of how the perception of power and authority can influence an individual's decision. If an authority figure gives an order which is then executed by a subordinate, who should assume responsibility? How does perception of power and authority affect the dynamics of that situation?

To understand the basis for these questions and to answer them, we will dive into the field of psychology with some of its classical experiments. We will discuss these experiments, the motivation for conducting them and what we can learn from them. We will also debate whether the knowledge gained by these experiments can at all help us understand how Nazi atrocities could have happened.

Sinti & Roma

Our workshop deals with Sinti and Roma communities as victims of German National Socialism. We aim to highlight their history of persecution and the contemporary discrimination they face throughout Europe. Our workshop aims to question century old misconceptions and stereotypes about Roma and Sinti that continue to follow them. A diverse mix of methods will be utilized, as well as discussions and eyewitness and expert talks. A cornerstone of our workshop will be the lack of acknowledgement and reparations Roma and Sinti victims of national socialism were afforded, for decades after the war and to our current day and age. Lastly, we are honored to have Ms. Eva Franz join us for an eyewitness talk as well as Ms. Uta Horstmann for a talk about her history of fighting for the Roma and Sinti victims of national socialism to be granted reparations and acknowledgement for the crimes committed against them by national socialist Germany.

Resistance movements during World War II

The aim of the workshop is to discuss various kinds of the resistance movements during the Second World War. We will find out how the resistance movements developed in different countries and what kind of methods they used to fight against regimes. During the visit to the Dachau concentration camp memorial site, we will learn more about the role of the KZ System in destroying resistance movements as well as the significance of resistance in the camps. We will also discover the points that led to different uprisings and critically discuss them. The invited eyewitness Leszek Żukowski, member of the underground Polish Home Army will share with us his memories of the participation in the resistance movement in occupied Poland.

Medicine and National Socialism

In the workshop Medicine and National Socialism we will discuss some of the medicine aspects that took place under the nazi rule between 1933 and 1945. We will also have a look at some factors from the years before that inevitably shaped the environment for the things to come. We will explore the way how the perpetrators and victims acted and their decisions. We will mainly focus on the topics of euthanasia, medical experiments and consequences on medicine of today.

Antisemitism and Jewish prisoners

That Nazi-Germany persecuted and killed millions of Jews in whole Europe is one of the most known facts about National-socialism. But even if a lot of people know the fact and the number of people there is not that much knowledge when it comes to the details of the Shoah on the one hand and Anti-Semitism on the other hand. Aim of our Workshop is to talk about the persecution of Jews by the Nazis during the second world war, the theoretical elements of Anti-Semitism, which we don't want to understand as a kind of anti-jewish racism, and the perspective of survivors of the holocaust.

Workshops in the second week:

Science under National Socialism

For his leading role in the U.S. space program the engineer Wernher von Braun is often called the “Father of Rocket Science” while his crucial role in the development of rocket science in National Socialist Germany is only rarely mentioned. In our workshop we not only want to take a closer look at his career as a leading Nazi scientist, but also discuss the question what separates science from pseudoscience and if National Socialist science can be viewed as pseudoscience. Werner von Braun and his role in the development of the V-2 will serve as an example for the question what role scientists played in National Socialist Germany. If you'd like to learn more about these topics but also debate the role of science and scientists in today's society you are invited to take part in our workshop.

The culture of remembrance/memory culture

What does the “cultural memory” mean? How does the “collective memory” work? And what kind of historical facts do different societies remember and what are they trying to forget? During the upcoming workshop regarding the culture of remembrance, we will be answering these questions. The aim of the workshop is to discuss commemoration and its different forms concerning the history of the Dachau concentration camp memorial site, remembrance culture in Germany and other European countries from 1945 until today. We will also show how politics affects commemoration and what parts of the NS-history are not represented in today's remembrance culture. The modern way of commemoration on Social Media and the role of museums as the commemorating institutions going to be discussed as well.

Memories of survivors/Testimonies

Why do you think that listening to an eye-witness is more important than studying a history book or at the IYM enjoying some time at a river?

The eye-witnesses are one of the essential parts of the IYM and one reason for young people all over the world to spend time in Dachau. In our workshop we want to discuss why testimonies of eye-witnesses play such an important role for our history, for both listeners and eye-witnesses. We will talk about the specific functions and characteristics to gain a better understanding of their way of telling a story. And in addition it will be really interesting to get to know personal stories of the war and the holocaust.

Persecution of sexual minorities

In our workshop we want to talk about the persecution of sexual minorities during National Socialism. We want to focus especially on the persecution of homosexual men and the history of §175. By talking about the §175 we also want to bring up the subject of continuities of homo- and transphobia from the time before until the time after national-socialism. One important point will be also our talk to the archivist of the concentration camp memorial site, who published a lot on the topic of commemoration of persecuted homosexuals in the memorial site.

Role of the Church in National Socialism

We're going to look at the two main churches in Germany during National Socialism: the protestant church and the catholic church. We want to learn what role they played in national socialism, how they reacted to the regime, if they worked for it or against it. Whether or how they stayed true to their religious guidelines. If you want to learn about this and want to have vivid discussions on the topic, join our workshop!

Forgiving the Unforgivable

Forgiving is an everyday process we all go through from time to time. Sometimes we experience it to be more challenging; sometimes we simply 'forget' what happened.

Forgiving what happened during the Nazi period seems to be a rather difficult task to do - if 'forgiveness of the unforgivable' should be considered desirable at all. Nevertheless, the question whether the Holocaust can (and should!) be forgiven was raised numerous times, since it not only concerns victims and perpetrators in the narrow sense, but rather refers to the general international debate on a 'fresh start' after the war.

Quite some decades later we find it interesting to question the conditions, necessities and possibilities to forgive the (probably) unforgivable. Therefore, we will deal with personal, philosophical and political approaches to forgiveness and try to come up with answers to questions like 'How can forgiveness be understood?', 'Who's to forgive and who's to be forgiven?', 'What does it mean to institutionalize forgiveness?' and 'How does forgiveness relate to the discourse of remembrance?'.

In this workshop we will be talking to a survivor, reading and discussing survivors' testimonies, taking a closer look on different perspectives on (institutionalized) forgiveness and try to understand under which social and political circumstances 'forgiveness' might be possible -- if it is.

We invite everyone who is interested in getting to understand different and new, maybe personally unfamiliar, standpoints and in engaging in discussions on these demanding questions.