

**Workshop »Trauma and Ethnographic Fieldwork«
(Programme)**

**29. 1. 2014 – 30. 1. 2024, Maestral 3, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska, Titov trg 5,
6000 Koper/Capodistria**

Monday, 29.1.2024

9:00 – 9:10: Katja Hrobat Virloget: Presentation of the project Ethnography of Silence(s)
(ARIS J6-50198)

9:15 – 10:45: Kathrin Pabst: Working with the Untold: Approaches, findings and reflections
after 200+ in-depth interviews in seven European countries (incl. ethics)

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45: Daniel Wutti: Cumulative, transgenerational and societal aspects of trauma

12:45 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 16:30: Nena Močnik: From narrative to embodied research practice

16:45 – 18:00 Discussion

19:00: Dinner

Tuesday, 30.1.2024

9:00 – 12:30: Nena Močnik: Workshop: Vicarious trauma among field-based researchers:
prevention and rehabilitation

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

12:30 – 14:30: Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30: Kathrin Pabst: Working with the Untold: How to prepare, and what to expect
when collecting and presenting personal narratives

Discussant: Daniel Wutti

15:30 – 15:45 Break

15:45 – 17:15 Closing discussion

LECTURERS:

Dr. **Nena Močnik** is Maria Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at GRITIM-UPF (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration). As a researcher, educator and community worker, she is interested in the topics of collective traumas, identity (gender) violence, and art-based sociotherapy. In her current participatory action research, she explores the rapidly expanding internet and digital realms to offer solutions in reproductive health-related knowledge and community support to refugee mothers in displacement. She is the author of two monographs (Trauma Transmission and Sexual Violence: Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Settings, 2021) and her first book "Sexuality after War Rape: From Narrative to Embodied Research" (Routledge 2017), awarded Bank of Montreal Award in Women's Studies (University of Ottawa, 2018).

Dr. **Kathrin Pabst** is a German ethnologist, researcher, author, and speaker, with broad experience in both practical and theoretical sides of working with challenging, sensitive, or taboo-related subjects. Her PhD in professional ethics focused on moral challenges museum employees might face when working with difficult topics involving external cooperation. She is a former Board member and Chair of ICOM Norway, co-founder and former Chair of ICOMs International Committee on Ethical Dilemmas, IC Ethics, and now a board member of ETHCOM, ICOMs Standing Committee for Ethics. More information and a list of publications can be found here: www.linkedin.com/in/kathrin-pabst/

Daniel Wutti, Mag. Mag. Dr. MSc, is a Professor at the Institute for Multilingualism and Transcultural Education at the University of Teacher Education in Carinthia, Austria, and psychodrama-psychotherapist. PhD in social psychology. He is author of publications concerning Trauma and Language in bilingual and multicultural Carinthia and transgenerational traumatisations amongst Slovenes in Carinthia. His recent science focus is on dialogical remembering in the Region Alps-Adriatic. Main areas of work and research: Multilingualism and trauma, inter- and transculturality, social heterogeneity, majority and minority relations.

LECTURES, 29.1.2024:

Kathrin Pabst: Working with the Untold: Approaches, findings and reflections after 200+ in-depth interviews in seven European countries (incl. ethics):

In this lecture, I will present approaches, findings and reflections after having conducted several projects about the long-term consequences of war and forced migration with three generations of (former) migrants in seven European countries. All case studies were related to historical processes, which have long been part of collective silence(s), and individual and collective memory affected and formed here one another. The silence was first challenged, when professionals working at cultural heritage museums started asking individuals about what they remembered and/or how the silence had affected their life, family relations and the surrounding communities. Here, emotions and feelings were of particular interest. Quotes from personal narratives from the informants as well as reflections of the involved professionals will be used to present overall findings. These findings include best-practices when it comes to reaching out and collaborating with vulnerable informants and taking care of the professionals involved in the process. As ethical reflections are crucial at all steps of the way, they will be a natural part of the presentation.

Daniel Wutti: Cumulative, transgenerational and societal aspects of trauma

Due to intrapsychological protective mechanisms, trauma can be stored in an inexpressible, physical way. In other cases, it can be overwhelming not just traumatised individuals, but also their social environment. Social circumstances have great effects on the integration or perpetuation of trauma and silence.

Austria's southern region Kärnten/Koroška/Carinthia, on the border with Slovenia, seems a suitable place to explore and describe connections between trauma and individual silence and the silence of a suppressed group. Here, the National Socialists' reign of terror left the Slovene-speaking population with individual and collective traumas. Dominant hegemonic social structures striving for homogenisation even after the Nazi era led to perpetuation of extreme psychological stress in part until today – enforced by mechanisms of sequential, cumulative traumatisation and handed down over several generations with mechanism of transgenerational transmission.

This presentation approaches psychotrauma theoretically, with a focus on social-psychological perspectives: individual trauma symptoms, the collectivisation of trauma, transgenerational traumatisation, trauma and group identity, trauma and memory culture, secondary traumatisation, societal and individual psychological defence against severe traumatic experiences. I also approach the theoretical complex of trauma and silence from a humanistic psychological perspective. Practical aspects are added from scientific research and psychotherapeutic experience with Carinthian Slovene victims of (transgenerational) traumatisation in Klagenfurt/Celovec, Carinthia's capital. In a last section of the presentation, examples of breaking the silence, e.g. with art, theatre and literature are added in the discourse.

Nena Močnik: From narrative to embodied research practice

This lecture demonstrates how the shift from narrative-based research to embodied research practices provides a platform for individuals who have experienced severe trauma to engage in a meaningful dialogue with researchers. This approach helps prevent re-traumatization and enables research participants to reflect on themes such as rehabilitation, social reintegration, and forgiveness beyond clinical understanding of trauma. Historically, similar research endeavors have often struggled to adequately capture the depth of trauma expressed by research participants through verbal testimonies alone. Therefore, this study delves into the potential of moving away from verbal communication and towards the realm of the body. The presentation of narratives is facilitated through various dramatic techniques and bodily expressions, utilizing movement, voice, and visual representations.

WORKSHOP, 30.1.2024

Nena Močnik: Vicarious trauma among field-based researchers: prevention and rehabilitation

Drawing from concrete examples from research on the long-term transmission of trauma, and community resilience with survivors of war rape, the facilitator will provide a framework for understanding the impact of emotionally demanding research work in traumatized settings to researchers. In the first part of the workshop, participants will learn about managing boundaries, conscious and unconscious risk-taking, recognizing emotional fatigue and vicarious trauma, as well as how to effectively prepare for field research. In the second part, we will review strategies for self-care, resilience practices, constructive and transformative responses to vicarious trauma, and the support systems available, emphasizing best practices. This is a hands-on workshop where participants are invited to reflect on their own research practice.

Kathrin Pabst: Working with the Untold: How to prepare, and what to expect when collecting and presenting personal narratives

The workshop will be a natural extension of the lecture, presenting step-by-step what we found is most important to have in mind when working with the Untold, understood as “a sphere of memories of former happenings that are linked to emotions which prevent individuals from sharing their experiences with others who affect or are affected by the same sphere.” How do you identify and approach silence(s), and when do you have to “back off”? What do you have to have in mind in all contact with potential informants – and later on readers, visitors, colleagues or the general public? Examples from different projects will be used as illustrations, and hands-on case studies will be presented and discussed together. Both practical and theoretical ethical aspects will be highlighted, and they include an overview of what to have in mind when working with a large variety of voices on a sensitive topic – as professional and fellow human being.

*The workshop is organized by Katja Hrobat Virloget, Nina Vodopivec and Saša Poljak Istenič in the frame of the research project **Ethnography of Silence(s)** (ARIS J6-50198).*