

The Far Right Today

Mediating Memories of Political Violence and Resistance Across Europe, Latin America and the Wider World, 1989 – 2019

Date: 12 & 13 December 2019

Venue UvA: REC M101 & Doelenzaal

Thursday 12 December
Roeterseiland Campus, room M101

14:30 Welcome

14:45-15:45 **Key Note** Prof. Dr. Carlos de la Torre "Global Populism: Histories, Trajectories, Problems, and Challenges."
(University of Florida)

15:45-16:15 Break

16:15-17:30 **Panel One** *Exploring Far Right and Populism in Europe and Latin America*

16:15-16:45 Prof. Dr. Sarah de Lange The Contemporary Extreme and Radical Right in Europe: Changing Historical and Geographical Orientations.
(UvA FMG)

16:45-17:15 Prof. Dr. Javier Corrales (Amherst College) Right-wing vs Left-wing Populism: What's the Difference and Does It Matter?

17:15-17:30 Discussion

17:30 Drinks

Friday, 13 December
University Library Doezenzaal

Registration open at 9:00

09:30-09:45	Welcome	
09:45-10:45	Key Note	Prof. Dr. Philip Cooke (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow) Is the Long Night Coming? The Memory of the Resistance in Contemporary Italy.
10:45-11:15	Break	
11:15-12:45	Panel Two	<i>Mediating Cultural Memories of Political Violence and Resistance</i>
11:15-11:45		Dr. Arij Ouweel (UvA Cedla) Grandpa's Heritage: Writing Graphic Novels in the Afterlife of Violence.
11:45-12:15		Dr. Maria Bonaria Urban (UvA FGw) <i>Il figlio del secolo</i> : Narrating Fascism, Performing Antifascism in the Contemporary Italian Novel."
12:15-12:45		Dr. Daniel Knegt (UvA FGw) The Farcical Fascist: Thierry Baudet and the French Intellectual Far-Right Tradition.
12:45-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-15:15	Key note	Dr. Andrea Mammone (Royal Holloway London) Salvini, Far-right Politics and Challenges to Democracy in Italy.
15:15-15:45	Break	
15:45-16:45	Panel Three	<i>Far Right and Populism Today: Legacies and Trajectories</i>
15:45-16:15		Prof. Dr. Kees Koonings (UvA CEDLA & University Utrecht) Legacies of Authoritarianism in Brazil: Bolsonaro's Right Wing Nationalism, Memory Politics, and Shadows of Military Power.
16:15-16:45		Dr. Pablo del Hierro (Maastricht University) From CEDADE to VOX. The Evolution of the Spanish Far Right after the Transition.
16:45-18:00	Round Table	with Michiel Baud, Philip Cooke, Javier Corrales, Pablo del Hierro, Daniel knegt, Carlos de la Torre, Sarah de Lange, Kees Koonings, Andrea Mammone, Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Arij Ouweel, Maria Bonaria Urban, and Frank van Vree.

The conference is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Amsterdam Centre for European Studies (ACES), the Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES) and the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA); and in association with the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

This event is organized by the coordinators of the research group *Mediating Memories of Fascism, Dictatorship and Violence* (MeMo) of the Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES), UvA. It was our purpose to address the topic from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, bringing together experts working in different research fields and UvA faculties, connecting memory, politics and culture, across the borders of continents and with a strong focus on (anti-)far right movements in Europe and Latin America. The conference will therefore involve participants of two UvA faculties (FGW and FMG), ACES affiliates and external speakers in order to create a new network on this topic within ACES. We will also look at the possibilities of setting up a research network, for example to participate in the current NWA (Nationale WetenschapsAgenda). The results of the conference may lead to a proposal for a special issue of a journal or an edited book. One key target of the conference is to transform this collaboration within ACES into an international and interdisciplinary research project for scholars working on the mediation of the memory of fascism, violence and dictatorship.

For further information, please contact:

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History & Cognitive Cultural Studies

Brief Description of the Conference

This conference brings together a group of specialists in the humanities and the social sciences on the “history-in-the-present” of current Far Right movements and parties, from populist to (neo)fascist, in several European and Latin American countries. One major theme is on the mediation of memories of fascism, violence and resistance in the contemporary world. Moving from the role played by Europe in shaping models of dictatorship and totalitarianism, the conference aims to explore how contemporary cultural artefacts and practices, institutionalised forms of memorialisation, and political practices concur in creating and mediating new images/narratives of fascism, political violence, and resistance in a global world where populism seems on the rise. One part of the presentations will be on the presence of the “old” Far Right in the “new” one. Another part will be on the cultural production investigating and debating this “old” in the “new.”

Rationale and Key Questions

The growth of Far Right Movements, the rise of populism, and the crisis of liberal democracy in contemporary societies all over the world—against the backdrop of the tragic European history of political violence and totalitarianism in the twentieth century—contribute to making the study of collective memories of fascism and public violence urgent as never before. Fascism is in fact repeatedly evoked in the effort of interpreting the current political development in several countries in Europe and far beyond the European borders. In addition, new rights movements refer



openly to (neo-)fascist ideology and politics whereas ‘strong’ dictatorial leaders are gaining a broad consensus in countries such as Italy, Spain, Hungary, Turkey, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Brazil. At the same time this resurgence of an antidemocratic stance/politics is contested by new forms of protests and resistance. This political and social process takes place within the context of the nation state and is shaped by organisations and agents which operate across national and continental borders. Mapping and comparing these contemporary narratives, experiences and practices in Europe and in the Wider World will help to reconstruct the genealogy of (anti-)far right movements in a transnational setting, shedding light on the role played by cultural memories of political violence and resistance in mobilizing people nowadays.

In a world in which reality is constantly mediated by textual or visual representations, an increasing number of individual and social agents are involved in the process of (re)constructing memories, each with their own agenda or goal. These agents compete in shaping collective memories and challenge hegemonic historical narratives, creating “counter-memories.” The conference will focus on the construction of textual or visual narratives as well as of political and cultural practices in which the historical experience of fascism, public violence, and resistance is reshaped or contested in order to promote a cultural and political engagement in the present.

Starting from this broad perspective, the conference seeks to address the following issues: In what way do Far Right Movements reshape the imagery of fascism in Europe, Latin America and beyond? In what way are the memories of fascism, violence and resistance mediated and kept alive in the globalised world? How does a community, a group, a political, social or cultural agent reconstruct them within its contemporary frame of reference? How does the European and American tradition of liberal democracy reinforce or contest the imagery of both contemporary Far Right and anti-right movements as well?