

Uncertain paths

Escape, expulsion and genocide in the First World War

36th Symposium of the „Niederösterreichisches Institut für Landeskunde“ together with the „Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung“ and in collaboration with the „Zentrum für Migrationsforschung“, Amstetten, 4th to 6th of July 2016

On the eastern and southeastern fronts of the First World War, people were evacuated, deported, expelled, deprived of their livelihood to an unprecedented extent, or even systematically killed.

The symposium is dedicated to this phenomenon, the consequences of which can still be seen today. The different threats for the population as well as the political and administrative reaction patterns of the states in question will be addressed and compared.

Using Lower Austria as an example, the effects of the mass movements of the war will be evaluated from the perspective of the hinterland. The camps harboured up to 250,000 inmates, composed of prisoners of war, deported, evacuated or refugees.

A „World Cafe“, moderated by researchers and open to all participants, will be a third focus of the event.

Presenters and topics (working titles, April 2016)

The presentations will be in German or English and will be translated live.

Monday	
1000–10:30	<i>Opening</i> Address of welcome and introduction : Elisabeth Loinig, Christoph H. Benedikter Greetings: Mayoress of Amstetten, Ambassador of Armenia, Provincial Counsellor of Lower Austria
1030–1115	<i>Keynote speech</i> Peter Gatrell (University of Manchester): The phenomenon refugee/flight/expulsion in the First World War and the refugee situation in Russia during this time. <i>Flight, expulsion, genocide in Anatolia and its peripheral areas</i>
1145–1230	Hayk Demoyan (Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Yerevan/director) The genocide against the Armenians
1230–1315	Mehmet Perinçek (University Istanbul and Institute for Research on Atatürk and the Turkish Revolution): The Russian foreign and war policy as contributing factor of the genocides in Anatolia
1300–1415	Lunch break
1415–1500	Vahap Polat (Istanbul, Salzburg) :Anatolia: the extermination of the Christian minorities. Between suppression of uprising and genocide - facts and current discours
1500–1545	Naures Atto (University of Cambridge): The destruction of the Syrian Christians/Assyrians/Aramaeans
1545-1615	Coffee break
1615–1700	Christoph H. Benedikter (Ludwig Boltzmann Institut for Research on the Consequences of War, Graz – Wien - Raabs): The ethnopolitical situation in the southern Caucasus 1914-21. The conflict about Nagorny-Karabach as long-term consequence of the First World War

1700–1745	Martin Bitschnau (Society for Threatened Peoples, Wien): Der Traum vom Imperium - Geschichtspolitik in der heutigen Türkei (Armenien, Kreta, Zypern, Bulgarien als türkische Territorien etc.) The imperial dream - politics around history in modern Turkey (Armenia, Crete, Zyperus, Bulgaria as Turkish territories, etc.)
1900–	Reception
Tuesday	
<i>Escape and expulsion at the eastern fronts of the European theatre of war</i>	
0900–0945	Maciej Górny (German Historic Institute Warsaw): Galicia, the consequences of the war for the Polish and Ruthenian populations - escape, expulsion, evacuation, destruction of livelihood, etc.
0945–1030	Svjatoslav Pacholkiv (Institute for Jewish History of Austria, St. Pölten): Galicia, the situation of the Jewish population and the escape movement to the centre of the monarchy
1030–1100	Coffee break
<i>The hinterland as target of people movements, caused by various events of the war</i>	
1100–1145	Elisabeth Loinig (Lower Austrian Institute for Regional Studies/director, St. Pölten): Lower Austria - country of camps (evacuees, deported, confined, POWs)
1145–1230	Martina Hermann (Austrian Cultural Forum Bern/director): Camp Gmünd - deported and evacuated Ruthenians
1230–1315	Thomas Buchner (City Archives Amstetten): POW camp in the larger Amstetten area
1315–1430	Lunch break
<i>Workshop „World Cafe“</i>	
1430–1730	Networking between researchers and audience Open round table discussions around the topics of the symposium Organisation: Rita Garstenauer (Center for Migration Research/director) and Elisabeth Loinig (Lower Austrian Institute for Regional Studies/director)
1900	Reception for the contributors
Wednesday	
<i>Escape and expulsion at the southeastern fronts of the European theatre of war</i>	
0900–0945	Danilo Šarenac (Institute for Contemporary History Belgrade): Serbia - a whole country turns into a war zone
0945–1030	Bernhard Bachinger (Ludwig Boltzmann Institut for Research on the Consequences of War, Graz – Wien - Raabs): The Bulgarian occupation regime in Serbia and in present-day Macedonia
1030–1100	Coffee break
1100–1145	Willibald Rosner (Lower Austrian Archives/director, St. Pölten): Evacuation, escape, deportation - the situation of the Italian speaking population in the Habsburg monarchy
1145–1230	Petra Svoljšak (Slovenian Academy of Sciences, Ljubljana): Isonzo-Hinterland - consequences of the war for the Slovenian civilian population
<i>Epilog</i>	
1230–1315	Therese Garstenauer (Center for social Innovation, Wien): Movement/return of previous officials, functionaries, officers of the Habsburg monarchy to Austria after 1918
1315–1415	Lunch break
14:15–1700	Excursion