



MEMORIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL SITE
HOUSE OF THE
WANNSEE CONFERENCE



HISTORY

MEMORY

ART

DIDACTICS

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

to the international project

Living Memorials

Innovative concepts for the House of the Wannsee Conference
(Berlin/Germany) and the Jewish Bielski Partisans (Novogrudok/Belarus)?

Personal Information¹

Name*:

City/Country*:

Profession:

Institution/Organisation:

Website:

E-Mail:

What is your personal/professional connection to the topic of history & memory in general or to the specific topic dealt with in our project?

¹ Only the fields marked with * are mandatory to be filled out. However, please bear in mind that the more personal/professional information you provide the more you will allow the participant of the local group who will get your contributions to develop a deeper connection to your ideas. This may greatly influence the way the participant will work with your ideas in the workshops. Moreover, only by providing an e-mail address you will allow the participant to get in contact with you in order to embark on a more personal exchange.

How/when to send your contributions

In the following, you will learn about different options how to leave your trace in our project. Feel absolutely free not to respond to all of the offers/questions but to selectively choose the ones which appeal to you.

The meeting of the local on-site group in Belarus will take place from 8 - 13 August 2021, the one in Berlin from 20 – 24 September 2021. In order to allow us to integrate your input into these meetings, please send this document (and potential annexes such as video-, audio- and graphic files) to rkroke.udk@berlin.com (Roman Kroke, Pedagogical and Artistic Coordinator)

- for the Belarus meeting: **the latest until 1 August 2021** and
- for the Berlin meeting: **the latest until 12 September 2021**.

In case you have larger files (video-, audio- or graphic files) we recommend you to use the free service of www.wetransfer.com.


TRACES #1: Words, sounds, photos etc.

Imagine that you would be with us

- in the midst of the Naliboki forest at the former camp site of the Jewish Bielski partisans or
- in the historical building of the Wannsee Conference where senior government officials of Nazi Germany and Schutzstaffel (SS) leaders met on 20 January 1942 to discuss the implementation of the "Final solution" to the Jewish question aiming at their deportation and murder in occupied Poland.

What trace would you like to leave in these places?

Words ?

A letter, a poem, ...? Write it down and send it to us! You can add it directly here  into the word-document.

Sounds ?

Perhaps you would rather like that these words will be heard in these places spoken out loud in your own voice? Then simply record them and send us the audio file! Or do the same with a piece of music. You may also send us the recording of any other sound with which you associate a story which you wish to share; about resistance, defiance or any other topic related to our project. Feel absolutely free to also experiment with metaphorical sounds recorded from your everyday living environment: What could, for instance, the sounds of cars passing by your house, birds singing in your garden, water

rushing out of your shower etc. symbolize with respect to the topic of history and memory?

From all the sounds sent to us we will create a **collective sound-patchwork** which we will play in the Naliboki forest/the historical house of the Wannsee Conference.

Photos ?

You have, for instance, a family photo which you would like to be placed in the crotches of the trees growing at the former Bielski camp site in the Naliboki forest? Or share a handwritten letter? Take a photo and send them to us as a .jpg attachment!

No matter what kind of trace you may choose, please always give us a short explanation why you wish to contribute in this particular way (the story behind your sound, photo etc.). Your contributions will be given to participants of the local on-site groups so you may also include concrete wishes/propositions/tasks of how you would like them to install your traces at the historic site.

TRACES #2: Your associations with the concept of a "Living Memorial"

We will integrate your feedback on the following questions into the discussions of our two on-site group meetings in Belarus and Berlin.

A. How to "read" the questions

1. Our project aims to work on the concept of a "living memorial" with respect to a specific

(a.) target group: **youth encounters**

(b.) context: **international**

(c.) location: **sites of National Socialist persecution.**

When answering the following questions please keep this particular focus in mind. However: You may also (only) have concrete experiences/thoughts not with respect to young (but rather adult) people, not to international (but rather national) encounters or not at sites of National Socialist persecution (but ones devoted to other historical topics). If you deem that these experiences may nevertheless enrich our discussions please share them. We would then, in a second step, reflect upon if/how they may be adapted in order to apply to the specific focus of our project.

2. While the term of a "living memorial" has been used in many different contexts in the past, there does not exist any common or universal definition. So when reflecting upon the following questions, please feel free like a pioneer exploring an unknown territory. Keep in mind that the two local on-site groups will explore these questions also with an artistic/metaphorical approach. Visionary, experimental thoughts are therefore absolutely welcome!

3. During the project we will collect input to the following questions from multiple sources. You may imagine it like an “open puzzle”. So, with respect to the way you respond to these questions, you may want to visualize your answers as “puzzle pieces” which will try to find connecting points with other puzzle pieces coming from different horizons. In order for your puzzle pieces to become as useful as possible for our exchange, you may therefore sometimes deem it more practical to answer in full sentences, fragments of sentences, single words or even integrate photos, sketches etc.

B. Questions

Please fill in your feedback directly below the questions!

Feel free to only answer to those questions which are resonating with you.

1. What do you associate with the term “living” memorial?

2. What other words than “living” could, for you, also describe such kind of memorial?

3. How would you call a memorial which represents the opposite of a “living” memorial? You are welcome to invent names!

4. Please think of memorials where you have been in the past. Try to describe as specifically as possible what elements of their pedagogical concept contributed to your experience at these sites to be at a “living” memorial”. On the other hand, pin down what elements at these sites rather hindered/counteracted such an experience.

5. According to your opinion and experience, how may ART contribute to an enriching experience at a memorial? What dangers do you see in using art at a memorial site? Please divide your answers into memorials (a.) integrating works of professional artists into their concept and (b.) offering its visitors to dive themselves into a creative process by developing an artistic works.

6. Many memorials have started (or are thinking about) integrating mobile phone applications (APP) as part of their pedagogic concept. In your opinion, what characteristics/functionalities should such an APP have in order to “make sense”? Do you see potential dangers of using an APP at a memorial? If yes, try to describe as concretely as possible what measures should be taken with respect of the design of such an APP/or its practical implementation at the site in order to avoid it.

7. Our last questions are devoted especially to the historical site of the former camp site of the Bielski partisans in the middle of the Naliboki forest. At the moment, it is still an untouched space, so the question of what concept of commemoration should be implemented there in the future is highly up-to-date: How would you like to have the Bielski partisans (for some of you your ancestors) commemorated in the Naliboki forest? Please describe how you imagine a future Memorial to the Bielski partisans? What elements of a “Living Memorial” could suit this particular place? What activities would you like to take part in, in order to keep the story of the Bielski partisans alive?

Thank you so much in advance for enriching this project with your personal/professional experience!

Please tell us if we may publish your input also on our online-platform www.livingmemorial.app (accessible starting 23 July 2021), either with your name or only anonymously. Simply delete the following option which does not suit you:

A. Permission to mention my name

B. Anonymously