

**Breaching the Walls. We do need Education!** is one of the projects that won the call for proposals of the “*European Remembrance 2019*” initiative in the framework of the “Europe for Citizens 2014–2020 Programme”.

It is promoted by the Fondazione Gramsci Emilia-Romagna in Bologna as a leading institution together with five partners: Bielefeld University, the Institute of Contemporary History in Prague, the Municipality of Tirana, the Association Past/Not Past in Paris and the History Meeting House in Warsaw. It officially started in September 2019 and will conclude in February 2021.

The project does not have an eminently academic slant. Rather, on the basis of the guidelines that inspire a programme such as that of Europe for Citizens, it aims at developing a reflection on the history and memory of the Fall of the Berlin Wall as well on the events that characterized 1989 with a peculiar focus on the active involvement and participation of European citizens themselves.

The idea is to reflect critically on the historical significance and political impact of the Fall of the Wall. This event, and the processes it unfolded, have generated in Western Europe and in the countries of the former Soviet bloc a pivotal echo. We intend to reflect on the legacy of that experience in light of the subsequent developments in European politics and the integration process.

The project investigates the gap between promises, hopes and expectations in 1989 and today’s reality in Central and Eastern Europe. Our current socio-political reality testifies to the spread of extremely critical feelings towards the realization of the European project and its institutions, representatives, and very reasons for being.

The aim is therefore to collect private and “public” memories of the events of 1989 and to share these testimonies with a selected “audience”, in particular high school students, who were not yet born in 1989.

**Christina Morina** works on modern German history and specializes in politics and cultures of memory. Since 2019 she is Professor of contemporary history at Bielefeld University.

**Josette Baer Hill** is Professor at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Zurich. She works on the history of political thought in Central and Eastern Europe, in particular on the history of Czechoslovakia.

**Ekaterina Pavlenko** is researcher and staff member of the International Historical Educational and Human Rights Society «Memorial» in Moscow. She is particularly interested in the field of public history and is recently working on various projects dedicated to the Perestroika period.

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 **UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD**  
Faculty of History  
and Philosophy and Theology



# BREACHING THE WALLS

**WE DO NEED EDUCATION!**

Friday  
13 December 2019

Bielefeld University  
X-Building



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

## PROGRAMME

Friday, 13 December 2019

9.00 – 10.30 Arrival and get-together  
Room X-A2-105 (Coffee and cookies provided)  
(Raum Sarfert)

### Session I

#### Breaching the Walls. We do need Education!

10.30 – 12.30 Peter Kramper (Bielefeld)  
Room X-B2-103 Welcome Address on behalf of the Faculty  
of History, Philosophy and Theology

Marica Tolomelli (Bologna)  
Welcome Address on behalf of Fondazione Gramsci

Teresa Malice (Bologna)  
Presentation of the Project “Breaching the Walls”

12.30 – 14.30 Lunch at UniVarza

### Session II

#### Breaching the Walls.

#### Remembering 1989 in Central and Eastern Europe

15.00 – 18.00 Frank Grüner (Bielefeld)  
Room X-E0-002 Introduction

Christina Morina (Bielefeld)  
Beyond the Spell of “1989”: History, Memory  
and Politics in Contemporary Germany

Josette Baer Hill (Zurich)  
The Dustbin of History?  
40 years of Socialism in Czechoslovakia

Ekaterina Pavlenko (Moscow)  
Remembering 1989 in Russia  
(Based on Projects by International Historical  
Educational and Human Rights Society «Memorial»)

19.00 Dinner in the city



### PARTNERS

#### Fondazione Gramsci Emilia-Romagna

Fondazione Gramsci Emilia-Romagna is an institute for the conservation and filing of national documentation concerning the labour movement and the left political parties, acknowledged as a private cultural institution of national importance by the Italian Ministry of Culture. It has an agreement with the University of Bologna concerning its documentary heritage and its role in education, training and research. It promotes research groups, history laboratories in secondary schools, public meetings open to civil society, the exchange and dissemination of knowledge related to contemporary history, global issues, postcolonial studies and political theory. Through the public library service, the promotion of public activities, relations with other cultural institutions, at the local and national levels, Fondazione Gramsci is an active and open institution that contributes to the cultural and social improvement of all citizens.

#### Institute of Contemporary History, Prague, Czech Republic

The Institute of Contemporary History is an integral part of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Its function is to undertake primary research on post-1938 Czech and Czechoslovak history in the international context. Part of the institute’s purpose is to organize international conferences, seminars, and workshops. Its scholars serve on commissions and academic councils of many universities, academies and other institutions. Likewise, when called upon, the institute cooperates with organs of state and regional administrative bodies. In terms of its role with the universities, the most extensive cooperation is with the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Oral History – Contemporary History and Department of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts (all Charles University in Prague), with each of which the institute has embarked on long-term joint projects.

#### Bielefeld University, Germany

Bielefeld University combines classical academic tradition with innovative research and teaching. The University has succeeded in maintaining and developing essential elements of this reform concept despite a considerable increase in student numbers. Bielefeld University has attained an outstanding position

among national and international academic institutions on the strength of its research achievements and unique courses of study. The Department of History is a renowned institution in Germany and around the world. Furthermore the faculties of History and Sociology look back on a long-standing experience in transnational and interdisciplinary research, which at last became particularly apparent in the establishment of the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS) and different master-programmes.

#### Municipality of Tirana

Tirana is the centre of political and administrative life of Albania where almost all state institutions, such as the Presidency, the Prime Ministry, the Albanian Parliament, diplomatic representations and headquarters of political institutions of Europe reside. Tirana is the largest education centre in the country, with a university corps that includes all branches of education, but also with a large number of private universities. The Municipality of Tirana – Art and Culture Directorate has as a priority to support educational projects for the community such as environmental protection, including local, national and international events that involve the civil society; support and stimulate new creation in all fields of art and culture research.

#### The History Meeting House – Warsaw

Founded in 2006, the History Meeting House focuses on the history of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th century. The latter is presented through exhibitions, discussions, meeting cycles, screenings of films, workshops, and conferences. In addition to that, the HMH acts as a publishing house with a wide selection of books concerning the history of the twentieth century. The Audiovisual Library collects eyewitness testimonies, digitises photographs, documents, and films. It cooperates with renowned Polish and foreign institutions devoted to studies in contemporary history. It presents history using diverse and modern tools of communications, regularly collaborating with young artists. It focuses on important events from the history of the twentieth century, including social history, fascinating biographies, and unique life stories of ordinary people in their everyday life. It tries to make history popular by using primary sources and relate it to individuals.

#### Past/Not Past – Paris

Past/Not Past offers research, curatorial and heritage promotion services, both tangible and intangible, from the 19th and the 20th century. Its specialty is to rehabilitate characters, events, cultural and artistic currents that have fallen into oblivion. They place particular emphasis on cosmopolitan destinies rooted in European history. They lead exhibition projects, publications, audiovisual productions, oral history projects, symposia, study days, from design to all operational aspects of dissemination.