Remembrance and Generation Z: The Cooperation between the University of Regensburg and the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum

Holocaust remembrance and education on Nazi Germany has been a vital part of school and university curricula in Germany as well in the United States. For the post-war generations site visits and testimonies of survivors were key to transmit personal stories instead of textbook history to create personal connections and memorable experiences. The new generation of students however, Generation Z, born roughly between 1997 and 2012, will most likely not have the privilege of meeting survivors and hearing stories firsthand.

This creates new and different challenges. How do we create meaningful connections that go beyond a site tour, a video recording or a lecture? How do we connect the past with the students’ lives, families and communities? Furthermore, in Germany, there are now several generations of young people with migration backgrounds who lack any family connection with this chapter of German history.

At this live online conference - in part broadcast from Flossenbürg - we will become acquainted with innovative and experimental approaches at the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum in cooperation with the University of Regensburg and how they envision and realize the future of memory. We will learn about this unique collaboration’s potential to shape both the role of memorial sites and the responsibilities of universities.

Then, we will gain insights from students who created videos based on their experiences with and projects on the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum.

Lastly, we will enter into a panel discussion on “Remembrance and Generation Z: Opportunities and Challenges at the Memorial and Beyond” based on practical examples and experiences with workshops, art projects and educational opportunities. This panel will be open for discussion and contributions.

Funded by: German Campus Weeks, German Embassy in the US

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021

10:00 - 10:40 a.m. MST / 19:00 - 19:40 CET
Futures of Memory: The Cooperation between the University of Regensburg and the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum

Introduction: Dr. Christiane Reves, Arizona State University, and Dr. Birgit Hebel-Maudt, University of Regensburg
Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel, President, University of Regensburg
Prof. Dr. Jörg Skriebeleit, Director, Memorial Flossenbürg; Co-Director Zentrum Erinnerungskultur, University of Regensburg

10:40 - 11:00 a.m. MST / 19:40 - 20:00 CET
Student Experiences: Videos

Rye Blitt, MA Candidate, European American Studies
Katy Davis, MA Candidate, European American Studies
Carina Ehreperger, PhD Candidate, Romance Studies
Tamara Heger, PhD Candidate American Studies

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MST / 20:00 - 21:00 CET
Remembrance and Generation Z: Opportunities and Challenges at the Memorial and Beyond

Introduction: Dr. Christiane Reves, Arizona State University
Dennis Forster, Education Department, Project ReMember, Memorial Flossenbürg
Johannes Laufer, Education Department, Memorial Flossenbürg
Dr. Andreas Zittlau, Roehnbeck University, Scholarship and Art

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MST / 20:30 - 21:00 CET
Panel Discussion - Chair: Dr. Volker Benkert, ASU