

UNIVERSITÉ DE TOURS, ICD

Representing Violence: (Meta)Narratives - Memories - Commitments

PhD University, 18th - 23rd May 2026



**18th - 20th May: “salle de conférence
du 5e étage de la BU Lettres”**

**21st - 22nd May: “salle des actes”,
Campus of Letters, Arts and
Humanities**



Monday, 18th May 2026, conference room of the University Library of Letters:
PhD conference 'Representing violence'

9.30 – 10.00: Registration and coffee

10.00 – 10.30: Inaugural speech

10.30 – 12.15: Session 1 | Defying Violence: Cultural Resilience and Anti-War Discourse

Chair: Cécile Chapon

Violetta Symkanych (National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”, Cultural Studies) “Catastrophism and Resilience: Ukrainian Experience during the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion”

Gabriel Kos (Bielefeld University, Literature and Arts), “Are the New *Liedermacher* Rapping? – The German Rap of 2010 that Turned Anti-Rap and Anti-Violence”

Anastasiia Serikova (Bielefeld University, Museum Studies), “Representing Ongoing War in the Museum: What Kind of Heritage?”

12.15 – 13.45: Lunch break

13.45 – 15.30: Session 2 | Long-Lasting Legacy of Violence: Experiencing Violence and Its After-Effects

Chair: Liudmyla Harmash

Anna Giulia Ceron (University of Jaén, Comparative Literature), “Mothers and Children: When Violence Sews Eternal Love”

Halyna Ostroverkhova (National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”, Cultural Studies), “Women's Voices of War: Representation of Women's Experience of Living in War and Its Consequences in Ukrainian Literature 2022-2025”

Eliisa Puudersell-Tolk (University of Tartu, Comparative Literature), “Carrying the Regime's Violence: Shame in Post-Totalitarian/Authoritarian East-Central Europe”

15.30 – 15.45: Coffee break

15.45 – 17.30: Session 3 | Decentring Histories and Testimonies of Violence

Chair: Roxana Ilasca

Ole Bunte (Bielefeld University, History), “The Wars Arose against Wroclaw” - Narrations of War in 15th Century East Central European Historiography”

Josué García Veiga (Bielefeld University, History), “Representing Non-Human Enemies: Bayer's Agrochemical War Narratives in Cold War Latin America”

Bitjong Bi Bitjong (University of Montréal, Literary Studies), “Between Testimony and Artistic Form: The Pitfalls of Depicting Violence in the Work of Jean Hatzfeld”

20.00: [Irish Compagny](#) | Conference social dinner

Tuesday, 19th May 2026, conference room of the University Library of Letters:
PhD conference ‘Representing violence’

9.15 – 9.30: Welcome coffee

9.30 – 11.45: Session 4 | Unmasking Inequality as Violence

Chair: Emmanuelle Séjourné

Marianne Adam (University of Tours / Centre Marc Bloch, Germain Studies / Sociology), “Local Lads’ and the Police (Lyon – Hamburg): A Comparison of Policing Approaches to Visible Crime and the Diversity of Invisible Forms of Violence”

Anne Aumont (Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Museum Studies), “Can a Place that Claims to Be Neutral and Non-Violent Remain Impervious to Societal Violence? A Case Study of Museums Designed to Be Inclusive for People with Alzheimer’s Disease”

Ichrak Ben Hammouda (Sorbonne Nouvelle University / University of Manouba, French Literature), “Gender-Constructed Violence and Trauma in Modern and Contemporary Musical Narratives”

Dany Ruiz Martínez (University of Jaén, Sociology / History), “The Violence We Don’t See: Gender and Inequality in Sport”

11.45 – 13.00: Lunch break

13.00 – 14.45: Session 5 | The Power of Images: Visualising Violence

Chair: Antonio Carrillo

Kryštof Kočtář (Masaryk University, Film Studies), “The Duration of the Film Was Determined by the Time from Arrival to Gassing’: Affectivity and Dual Violence in Martin Ježek’s *Heidegger in Auschwitz* (2016)”

Sofia Buttarelli (University of Tours, Film Studies), “Counter-Histories of the Syrian Uprising and War (2011–2024): Preserving, Circulating, and Reusing ‘Amateur’ Images”

Elise Goutagny (University of Strasbourg, Visual Arts), “Gathering Stories of Sexual Violence on Instagram: Graphic Perspectives on a Contemporary Feminist Practice”

14.45 – 16.30: Session 6 | Forging Identities and Overcoming Barriers of Violence

Chair: Emmanuelle Séjourné

Aleksandra Mzyk (Sapienza University / University of Silesia, American Literature), “Becoming the Monster – Agonistic Memory and Violence in Nghi Vo’s *Siren Queen* (2022)”

Pedro Scofano De Almeida (Örebro University, Media and Communication Studies), “Nation-Building and Official Newsreels in Brazil: Forging a Modern Nation and the Authoritarian Paradox During the New State Dictatorship (1937-1945)”

Gehad Mohammed Abdelmaksoud (Bologna University / Ain Shams University, Italian Literature), “Mapping Violence: Historical Memory and Metanarrative Fragmentation in Claudio Magris’ *Danubio*”

17.00 – 19.00: Guided tour ‘Another history: discovering the city through its street art’

The city of Tours contains some real gems of street art. Various artists have worked in the city, whether on private commissions or independent projects. Some works are visible to all, whilst others are more discreet. By embracing a marginalised art form, these artists often wanted to make visible the violence of exclusion. This tour offers the chance to discover different forms of socially engaged contemporary art.

Wednesday, 20th May, conference room of the University Library of Letters:
Methodological workshops

9.30 – 12.30: Masterclass of Kaya de Wolff (Free University Berlin, Institute for Media and Communications) | “Collective Memory and Silencing of Colonial Violence in the Press”

This master class explores the complex intersections of collective memory and colonial violence in journalism. This is a timely phenomenon that demands close attention to understand the ambivalent role journalism plays as a powerful agent of memory. While the press was once complicit in legitimizing European imperialism, journalism is increasingly studied as a contested site where colonial violence is remembered or silenced. As this course will demonstrate, using case studies from different contexts, reporting during imperial times has set the frame for the remediation of colonial violence in European press coverage today. Although a growing body of studies exists, significant research gaps remain. This necessitates the development of new critical theoretical and methodological approaches.

12.30 –14.00: Lunch break

14.00 – 17.00: Masterclass of Samuel O'Donoghue (Lancaster University, Spanish Studies) | “The Figure of the Perpetrator in Historical Fiction on the Spanish Civil War”

Historical fiction published during the Spanish memory boom of the last three decades has been concerned above all with victims of violence. The defeated side in the Spanish Civil War was silenced and stigmatized during the years of Franco’s dictatorship, and the memory politics of the transition to democracy continued

to militate against public recognition of Republican victimhood. When Spaniards began to revisit the legacy of the civil war and dictatorship through literature and film in the early 2000s, the figure of the Republican victim exerted aesthetic appeal and moral legitimacy. A perhaps unavoidable corollary of the cultural preoccupation with victims of historical violence has been a relative lack of interest in perpetrators. But it seems that Spanish historical fiction is beginning to remedy that neglect. As it tracks the globalized memory culture that first gave impetus to the boom of the early 2000s, historical fiction in Spain has begun to attend to the figure of the perpetrator. In this masterclass we will take stock of Spain's memory culture over the last three decades, with a focus on the largely invisible figure of the Nationalist perpetrator of violence. We will examine extracts from some of Spain's most influential works of historical fiction with the aim of answering the following questions: Why does the victim's perspective seem more inviting for artists and readers than that of the perpetrator? Are there any disadvantages to the privileging of victims' perspectives? Why might it be important to empathize with perpetrators, and how might literary fiction give us the tools to do so?

18.00 – 19.00: Boat trip on the Loire

This boat trip on the Loire, departing from the old main port of Tours, allows to step aboard traditional wooden boats, specially adapted to the Loire's waterways, for a guided discovery cruise led by a passionate skipper in order to discover Touraine's historical and cultural landscape, as well as the flora and fauna of this riverine area, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Thursday, 21st May, Hall of Ceremonies, Campus of Letters, Arts and Humanities: **Methodological workshops**

9.00 – 12.15: Masterclass of Selma Josso (University of Tours, Law)

This masterclass aims to outline what academic legal research on the violence of neoliberal discourse might entail. The texts presented to the PhD students – and on which they will be required to work – are Recommendations from the Council of the European Union drawn up as part of the European Semester relating to the European fiscal framework, which was itself established in the wake of the subprime and sovereign debt crises, in order to 'save' Member States from bankruptcy. Whilst the aim may be praiseworthy—and therefore difficult to criticise—the methods employed, particularly those involving discourse, may constitute a form of genuine violence that needs to be highlighted.

12.15 – 13.45: Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30: Cheese tasting

Friday, 22nd May 2026, Hall of Ceremonies, Campus of Letters, Arts and Humanities: **Career trainings**

9.00 – 12.30: “Research funding and management of collective research projects”, a workshop by Franziska Metzinger (CMER [Shared Support Structure for European Research])

9.00-10.45: Programmes of transnational research funding: Horizon Europe (ERC 1-3, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, RIA, CSA, etc.), *Europe Créative*, COST Actions

10.45 – 11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30: Methodology of construction, structuring and management of collective research

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch break

14.00 – 17.00: Cooperation with civil society organisations as a part of your research

14.00 – 15.15: “What Do We Mean by Citizen Science? Histories, Definitions, and Contemporary Practices”, a lecture by Dr. Julie Sascia Mewes (Technical Universities of Berlin and Chemnitz)

Citizen science has emerged as a prominent field at the intersection of science and society, yet its meanings, practices, and orientations remain diverse and sometimes contested. This lecture provides an introduction to citizen science by tracing its historical roots and two core traditions, before moving on to more recent participatory and co-creative research approaches. It examines key definitions and typologies proposed in the literature, highlighting differences in goals, levels of participation, and underlying epistemologies. Drawing on an empirical case study of a national citizen science competition and its embedding within Germany’s research and funding landscape, the presentation offers a novel analytical framework for understanding the pluralisation of citizen science modes driven by evolving policy contexts and the increasing institutionalisation of citizen science across Europe and beyond.

15.15 – 15.30: Coffee break

15.30 – 16.00: Case study n°1 – citizen’s science. “[MIGRATEXT](#), [MIGRACT](#), [Migratude](#)” by Geneviève Guétemme (University of Orléans) and Chloé Lesseur, object and environment designer

16.00 – 16.30: Case study n°2 – art & research. “Spectral images and ghostly grammar” by [Nadia Lichtig](#)

16.30 – 16.45: Case study n°3 – participatory research. “Relate and read the (hi)stories of violence” by Roxana Ilasca, Emmanuelle Séjourné and Anna Krykun

16.45 – 17.00: Discussion

19.00 – 20.30: [Central City Library](#) | “Writing the violence: in France and in India”, meeting with Shumona Sinha

Shumona Sinha, a French novelist of Indian origin who lives in Paris since 2001, is the author of *Assommons les pauvres* [Let’s kill the poor], *Calcutta* and *L’autre nom du bonheur était français. Souvenirs de ces époques nues* [The other name of happiness was French. Memoirs of those naked times]. She is a finalist for the Renaudot Prize, winner of the Prix Valéry Larbaud Award, the Internationaler Literaturpreis in Berlin, the Award for French-speaking authors (prix du Rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises) from the Académie française [French Language and Letters Academy] and the Grand Prix of the Novel from the SGDL [Society of the Men of Letters, the most ancient and the most important corporation of writers in France]. Her poetic writing strives to describe uprooting, the violent political history of her native country and her adopted country, the rise of Hindu fascism and the reprisals against those involved in the resistance. She regularly comments in the French and Indian media on the current political situation.

Saturday, 23rd May 2026: Cultural and network activities – Concluding session

10.00 – 17.00: Visit of [Chenonceau Castle](#)

9.29 – 9.55: Train from Tours to Chenonceaux

10.00 – 12.00: Guided tour of the castle

12.00 – 13.30: Picnic

13.30 – 14.45: Wine tasting at the Cave des Dômes

14.45 – 16.00: Free time for visiting royal gardens

16.28 – 17.03: Train to Tours

18.45 – 20.00: [Irish Compagny](#) | Final discussion on the next stage of the project in Spring 2027 and ‘Representing violence’ European Doctoral Network

20.00: Closing dinner

Organising committee:

Khiara Clément (LEA, University of Tours)

Liudmyla Harmash (H.S. Skovoroda National Pedagogical University / University of Tours / LE STUDIUM Visiting Researcher)

Roxana Ilasca (ICD, University of Tours)

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