



Agenda

eCommemoration

Convention

13 & 14 October 2021



eCommemoration is history and memory, understood digitally.

How is digitalisation redefining history? New generations, new technologies, old and new questions call on us to renew our understanding of the past and reckon with unpleasant truths. These opportunities inspire digital creativity and historical curiosity beyond national, generational, and disciplinary divides. Drawing on six decades of experience in European history education, Körber-Stiftung encourages this approach.

The eCommemoration Convention on 13 & 14 October 2021

opens a space for historians, memory workers, digital creators and innovative minds to come together for creative exchange and hands-on digital experience.

Curious? Join us!

koerber-stiftung.de/en/ecommemoration

Wednesday, 13 October

The future of history? Reshaping the past through social media, big data and civic intelligence

19:00 – 20:30 p.m. CET, Opening Panel

Pieter van Huis | Bellingcat | Amsterdam

Heidi J.S. Tworek | University of British Columbia | Vancouver

Moderator: Thorsten Logge | University of Hamburg

To write history has long been the prerogative of the mighty, wealthy and influential. But the information age has brought new rules into play, allowing for more open discussions of events. Simultaneously, that process has become more contested and volatile. Incisive historical events such as the Syrian conflict, the war in Donbas or the Storm on the Capitol have most recently shown how an abundance of information can be distorted by filter bubbles, click-driven algorithms and even state-sponsored propaganda. Who writes history today? How can we, as diverse and global societies, negotiate an inclusive understanding of the past, based in fact? What challenges does this pose to the profession of historians and what role can civic involvement play?



Let's see! **Watch the film »Bellingcat – Truth in a post-truth world« (2018)**

Watch the film on the conference platform.

Available for 7 days from Tuesday, 12 October on.

Dive deeper into »history in the making«: The film explores the promise of open source investigation, taking viewers inside the exclusive world of the »citizen investigative journalist« collective known as Bellingcat. In cases ranging from the MH17 disaster to the poisoning of a Russian spy in the United Kingdom, the Bellingcat team's quest for truth will shed light on the fight for journalistic integrity in the era of fake news and alternative facts.

Thursday, 14 October

Virtual Testimony. How interactive technology and serious games open new perspectives on the past

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CET, Panel

Jack Gutmann | Artist | Salzburg

Karen Jungblut | USC Shoah Foundation | Frankfurt / Los Angeles

Vít Šisler | Charles University / Charles Games | Prague

Moderator: Marcus Richter | Moderator and Journalist | Berlin

History is more than numbers and figures. To eyewitnesses, history is life experience. Hearing their stories makes history come alive. Digital technologies go beyond mere recordings of testimony. They open spaces for virtual interaction. Serious games such as »Attentat 1942« and »Svoboda 1945: Liberation« (Charles Games 2017 and 2021) allow players to interact with fictionalised eyewitnesses to explore the conflicted history that surrounds World War II. USC Shoah Foundation's »Dimensions in Testimony« programme aims at preserving future possibilities of interaction with Holocaust survivors. In the autobiographical adventure game »Path Out« (Causa Creations 2017) players adopt the character of a young Syrian artist, who escaped the civil war in 2014.

How can new tools make the complexity of historical testimony accessible? Which insights can virtual eyewitnesses offer when dealing with contested pasts? And how can they maintain their relevance for generations still to come?



In cooperation with the Foundation for Digital Games Culture, Berlin



Let's play! Svoboda 1945 – Liberation

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CET, Session

Vít Šisler | Charles University / Charles Games | Prague

Gameplay: Christian Huberts | Foundation for Digital Games Culture | Berlin

Moderator: Marcus Richter | Moderator and Journalist | Berlin

Get a first-hand look at the newest development from the award-winning team of Charles Games, makers of the critically acclaimed Attentat 1942. Launched in August 2021, »Svoboda 1945 – Liberation« looks into the contested pasts of the Czech-German borderlands in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. Join lead designer Vít Šisler in solving this »historical narrative mystery«.

In cooperation with the Foundation for Digital Games Culture, Berlin



Thursday, 14 October

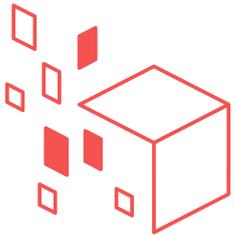
Let's explore! **Black History in VR and AR**

15:45 – 16:30 p.m. CET, Session

Insa Hollenberg | headraft | Hamburg

Julian Weiß | headraft | Hamburg

Modern technology can help us see the past with new eyes and to overcome outdated perspectives: Take a look at novel approaches that shed light on Black History and allow users to reconsider the history of racial injustice and civil rights. In this workshop, you will immerse yourself in history with virtual reality or bring the past into your living room with augmented reality.



From pedestals to pixels? How technological innovation can open the discussion of history

17:00 – 18:15 p.m. CET, Panel

Glenn Cantave | Activist and Social Entrepreneur | New York City

Olivette Otele | University of Bristol

Moderator: David Olusoga OBE | Historian and Broadcaster | London

The Black Lives Matter movement has pinpointed the urgency of dealing with current effects of racial injustice. It also highlighted the systematic disregard of Black history within American and European societies. This disparity becomes apparent in the still prevalent portrayal of the history of race relations from a white or colonial point of view. It also reveals the long-standing marginalisation of Black history in public spaces – in museums, monuments or collective places of memory. Extended reality tools disrupt that narrative and change mindsets, inspiring a more inclusive perspective on the past. How can new approaches to depicting the past enable us to break up hardened interpretations? Can looking beyond fixed pedestals and traditional institutions show new ways of achieving public awareness for marginalised histories?

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