Welcome

We extend a cordial welcome to all participants of this year’s European Studies Conference. This interdisciplinary gathering of scholars has facilitated an active exchange of ideas, insights, and reflections for nearly fifty years. We are now looking forward to another stimulating and productive series of sessions that will focus upon multifaceted perspectives on the present, past and future of the European continent.

We wish you a pleasant and rewarding professional experience!

Mark Celinscak and Martina Saltamacchia
ESC 2023 Conference Coordinators

Conference Steering Committee

Mark Celinscak, History
Tanushree Ghosh, English
Sara Marzioli, Exploratory Studies
Jody Neathery-Castro, Political Science
Lana Obradovic, Political Science
Martina Saltamacchia, History
Paul Williams, Religion
General Information

Location of the Conference
The 48th annual European Studies Conference will be conducted online and in-person this year. The in-person sessions will take place at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. You will be able to sign in, receive informational materials, and a copy of the final version of this year’s program on the main floor in the designated registration area there. Members of the ESC Steering Committee will welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

Shuttle Service
Complimentary shuttle service will be available on a regular basis between the conference hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Omaha Aksarben Village 1717 S. 67th Street, located on the UNO Scott campus, and the North campus, the site of the European Studies Conference. This UNO shuttle runs continuously between the two campuses and stops at the Mammel Hall, across the road from the Courtyard Omaha Aksarben Village, every 5-10 minutes. Please see the map of the two campuses on our web site for the location of the shuttle bus stop. The shuttle will bring you to the University Library located on the North campus. From there, please take a short walk through the campus to the Community Engagement Center (this route is also marked on the map) and go to the main floor of the CEC.

The Orv Menard Lecture: Friday Special Guest Speaker
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomaz Jardim, Associate Professor of History at Toronto Metropolitan University. The title of his presentation is: "Ilse Koch on Trial: Gender, Violence, and Making the 'Bitch of Buchenwald'."

On September 1, 1967, one of the Third Reich’s most infamous figures hanged herself in her cell after nearly twenty-four years in prison. Known as the “Bitch of Buchenwald,” Ilse Koch was singularly notorious, having been accused of owning lampshades fabricated from skins of murdered camp inmates and engaging in “bestial” sexual behavior. These allegations fueled a public fascination that turned Koch into a household name and the foremost symbol of Nazi savagery. Her subsequent prosecution resulted in a scandal that prompted US Senate hearings and even the intervention of President Truman.

Yet the most sensational atrocities attributed to Koch were apocryphal or unproven. In his presentation Dr. Jardim will show that, while Koch was guilty of heinous crimes, she also became a scapegoat for postwar Germans eager to distance themselves from the Nazi past. The popular condemnation of Koch—and the particularly perverse crimes attributed to her by prosecutors, the
media, and the public at large—diverted attention from the far more consequential but less sensational complicity of millions of ordinary Germans in the Third Reich’s crimes.

Jardim reveals how gendered perceptions of violence and culpability drove Koch’s zealous prosecution at a time when male Nazi perpetrators responsible for greater crimes often escaped punishment or received lighter sentences. Both in the international press and during her three criminal trials, Koch was condemned for her violation of accepted gender norms and “good womanly behavior.” Koch’s “sexual barbarism,” though treated as an emblem of the Third Reich’s depravity, ultimately obscured the bureaucratised terror of the Nazi state and hampered understanding of the Holocaust. This talk is generously co-sponsored by UNO’s Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy.

Guided Tours of the Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center
Free guided tours of the Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center will be offered to conference participants on Thursday, October 5, at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Each tour will last approximately 30-40 minutes. Interested participants should register by Sept. 25 through this form: https://forms.office.com/r/1Ck3MtZqjt

The Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center is located within walking distance of the hotel at 2289 S 67 Street. The Museum houses works of art by renowned artist and Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak. In this temporary space, the Museum showcases 99 pieces of Bak’s work through rotating exhibitions, as well as providing classroom and presentation spaces for tours, lectures, and curated programming. Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center offers a source of collaboration and opportunities to students, faculty and staff with the broader community around the subjects of art, Holocaust education, human rights and genocide.

Conference Proceedings
Presenters at the European Studies Conference are encouraged to submit their papers to be published in our online Conference Proceedings, ISSN 2476-0269. The editor of the Proceedings is Dr. Ana Carballal. Submissions should be sent directly to her at europeanproceedings@unomaha.edu. For specific details and format requirements, please see our website. If you have any questions regarding the Proceedings, please contact the editor.

Parking
In case you wish to drive to the conference, free parking is available for the conference attendees in Lot E in front of the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center (CEC) on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Visitors should enter through the Lot E parking booth, which is staffed with a UNO parking attendant, and let him know that you are an attendee of the European Studies Conference.
No-Host Dinner on Thursday Evening
Please plan to join us for a no-host dinner at Beacon Hills at Aksarben Village. This restaurant features made-from scratch with chef specialties and Midwest hospitality. The cost of the dinner is approximately $15-30. This restaurant is located within walking distance of the hotel at 6750 Mercy Road.
Program Overview

Thursday 5 October 2023 [IN PERSON]

9:00 – 10:30 AM .................................................................Session One
Panel 1: Holocaust Perpetrators

10:45AM – 12:15 PM ...........................................................Session Two
Panel 2: British Literature
Panel 25: Fulbright Presentation TITLE TBD

12:15 – 1:45PM .................................................................Lunch

1:45 – 3:15 PM .................................................................Session Three
Panel 3: Issues of Justice
Panel 4: The truth behind the veil – reality versus the written word

3:30-5:00 PM .................................................................Session Four
Panel 5: Future Scholars
Panel 6: Macedonia

7:00-9:00 PM .................................................................No-Host Dinner
Please plan to join us for a no-host dinner at Beacon Hills at Aksarben Village. This restaurant features made-from scratch with chef specialties and Midwest hospitality. The cost of the dinner is approximately $15-30. This restaurant is located within walking distance of the hotel at 6750 Mercy Road.

Friday 6 October 2023 [IN PERSON]

9:00 AM-10:45 AM.................................................................Session Five
Panel 7: Timeless Disquisitions
Panel 8: Economies and the Environment

11:00 AM-12:45AM.................................................................Session Six
Panel 9 European Literature
Panel 10: Political and Individual Agency and the Arts

12:45-2:30PM.................LUNCH AND KEYNOTE.................................
Welcome by Dr. Martina Saltamacchia
Welcome by Dr. Melanie Bloom, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

1:30-2:30PM
Introduction of keynote speaker by Dr. Mark Celinscak, Department of History
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomaz Jardim, Associate Professor of History at Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada). Presentation title: "Ilse Koch on Trial: Gender, Violence, and Making the 'Bitch of Buchenwald'." This talk is generously co-sponsored by UNO’s Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy.

2:45PM-4:30PM……………………………………………………………………Session Seven
Panel 11: Tradition and Innovation in English Poetry
Panel 12: Philosophers on Love

Thursday 5 October 2023 [VIRTUAL]

9:00 AM- 10:30AM…………………………………………………………………..Session One
Panel 13: Narratives of Self

10:30 – 12:00 PM ……………………………………………………………………..Session Two
Panel 14: Literary and Filmic Responses to Tragedy
Panel 15: Literature and Gender

1:45-3:15 PM…………………………………………………………………..Session Three
Panel 16: Holocaust Victims & Perpetrators

3:30-5:00 PM…………………………………………………………………..Session Four
Panel 17: Films and Popular Culture
Panel 18: Women Writing & Writing about Women

Friday 6 October 2023 [VIRTUAL]

9:00 AM-10:45 AM…………………………………………………………………..Session Five
Panel 19: Black Europe
Panel 20: Memory and Memorialization

11:00 AM-12:45AM…………………………………………………………………..Session Six
Panel 21: Multisensory Expressions
Panel 22: Contemporary Issues in European Politics

1:30-2:30PM........................LUNCH AND KEYNOTE...........................................

Introduction of keynote speaker by Dr. Mark Celinscak, Department of History
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomaz Jardim, Associate Professor of History at Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada). Presentation title: "Ilse Koch on Trial: Gender, Violence, and Making the 'Bitch of Buchenwald’"
Zoom ID: TBA

2:45PM-4:30PM..............................Session Seven
Panel 23: Medieval Science and Literature
Panel 24: European Identity
2023 COMPLETE PROGRAM

Thursday 5 October 2023 [IN PERSON]

9:00 – 10:30 AM .................................................................Session One

Panel 1: Holocaust Perpetrators
Chair: TBD
1. The Most Evil Nazi Woman: Bestiality, Brutality, Sexuality Re-Examined, Hana Waisserova, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2. The Fall of the Second Israel: An Analysis of the Kaunas Pogrom in Lithuania, Olivia Perez, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
3. How Hitler’s Auxiliary Forces Committed Genocide, Md Showkot Ali, University of Nebraska at Omaha

10:45AM – 12:15 PM .................................................................Session Two

Panel 2: British Literature
Chair: TBD
1. Fiddlers and Violins: Distinctions in Eighteenth-Century British Literature, Kathleen Leicht, University of Central Missouri
2. The 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare’s First Folio (1623): The Birthplace and the Birth of Britain’s National Poet, Darlena Ciraulo, University of Central Missouri
3. A Beowulf Blend of Revenge: Of Gods, Myths and Men, James Buckingham, Independent Scholar

Panel 25: Fulbright Presentation TITLE TBD
Chair: Aferdita Krasniqi, Institute of International Education
SPEAKERS TBA

12:15-1:45PM.................................................................Lunch

1:45 – 3:15 PM .................................................................Session Three

Panel 3: Issues of Justice
Chair: TBD
1. Preventing Genocide on the Edge of Europe: Liberal Internationalism and the Protection of Vulnerable Populations in and around Crimea, Richard Moeller, Metropolitan State University of Denver
2. Exploring Age-Friendly Cities through the Framework of a European Approach to Care Ethics,
Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht, Purdue University Global
3. Foucault’s Practices of Freedom: Problematization and Political Imagination in Reyberolle’s Dogs, Nicole Ridgway, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Panel 4: The truth behind the veil – reality versus the written word
Chair: Graham Wrightson, South Dakota State University
1. The Fallacy of the Al-Andalusian Convivencia, Chad Lemme, South Dakota State University
2. The Failure of the Jesuits in Their Missions to Japan: The Cultural Inhibitions that Heralded Their Doom, Abby Muller, South Dakota State University
3. The Old Norse Thrill of Defeat: A Pragmatic Approach, Michael S. Nagy, South Dakota State University

3:30-5:00 PM……………………………………………………………………Session Four

Panel 5: Future Scholars
Chair: TBD
1. A Dangerous Woman: The Integral, Complicated Narrative and Impact of Ancient Roman Sex Workers, Kayla Borchers, South Dakota State University
2. The Failure of the Third Crusade, Jason Libby, University of Nebraska at Omaha
3. Petrifying the Male Gaze: Medusa, Sexuality, and Horror, Deanna Sobczyk, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Panel 6: Macedonia
Chair: TBD
1. An Iconographic Analysis of Classical and Early Hellenistic Macedonian Tombstones, Ann Haverkost, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2. The Macedonian sarissa versus the Early modern pike: Comparative observations of the pike in formation from an experimental history study recreating a phalanx, Graham Wrightson, South Dakota State University
*Please note: the presentation of artifacts (pikes) will also be part of this panel

7:00-9:00 PM……………………………………………………………………………..No-Host Dinner

Please plan to join us for a no-host dinner at Beacon Hills at Aksarben Village. This restaurant features made-from scratch with chef specialties and Midwest hospitality. The cost of the dinner is approximately $15-30. This restaurant is located within walking distance of the hotel at 6750 Mercy Road.
Friday 6 October 2023 [IN PERSON]

9:00 AM-10:45 AM…………………………………………………………………Session Five

Panel 7: Timeless Disquisitions
Chair: TBD
1. Reason and God’s Existence: On Showing How the Cosmological and the Ontological Arguments Complement One Another, Michael Carper, St. Louis University
2. Miracles as the Conjunction of the Natural and the Supernatural, Jason Costanzo, Conception Seminary College
3. Intersecting Church and State in a Ninth Century Dispute over Divorce and Remarriage, Brian Matz, Fontbonne University

Panel 8: Economies and the Environment
Chair: TBD
1. Demographic Transitions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia: A Comparative Study, Erwin Erhardt, University of Cincinnati
2. The Power of The Sun: The Role of Domestic Energy Independence as a Key Driver of International Security in Contemporary Europe, Michael Ross, American Military University
3. Getting with the Program: Facts and Attitudes Concerning Gastarbeiter after 50 years, Donald Sunnen, Virginia Military Institute
4. Where Have You Gone David Ricardo: Will the Inflation Reduction Act Strain Trade Relations With the EU?, Scott Sybeldon, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

11:00 AM-12:45AM…………………………………………………………………Session Six

Panel 9: European Literature
Chair: TBD
1. Marcel Proust in The Times Literary Supplement (1913-1932), Herbert Craig, University of Nebraska at Kearney
2. The Plague: Modern Life, Gene Fendt, University of Nebraska at Kearney
3. Thomas Mann’s Joseph und seine Brüder as Joseph’s – and God’s – Bildungsroman, Don Holman, University of Northern Colorado
4. The transatlantic migration of El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha: A Case Study in the Reception and Circulation of Knowledge, Mirzam Perez, Grinnell College
Panel 10: Political and Individual Agency and the Arts
Chair: TBD
1. Remembering the Haitian Revolution Through, Against, and Beyond William Wordsworth’s Romanticism, Chienyn Chi, Southern Nazarene University
2. David Bergelson’s Novel The End of Everything – the Yiddish Madame Bovary? Agency and Middle-Class Aspirations in the Early 20th-Century Russian Shtetl, Ginny Lewis, Northern State University
3. Joan FitzAlan de Bohun: Art, Piety, and Politics in Late-Medieval England, Daniel Bennett Page, Independent Scholar
4. Activism and Commitment within the Autobiographical Work of Luis Martín Cabrera, Steven Torres, University of Nebraska at Omaha

12:45-2:30PM……………………..LUNCH AND KEYNOTE………………………………………..

Welcome by Dr. Martina Saltamacchia
Welcome by Dr. Melanie Bloom, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

1:30-2:30PM
Introduction of keynote speaker by Dr. Mark Celinscak, Department of History
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomaz Jardim, Associate Professor of History at Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada). Presentation title: "Ilse Koch on Trial: Gender, Violence, and Making the 'Bitch of Buchenwald'." This talk is generously co-sponsored by UNO’s Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy.

2:45PM-4:30PM……………………………………………………………………..Session Seven

Panel 11: Tradition and Innovation in English Poetry
Chair: Erwin Erhardt, University of Cincinnati
1. Fear, Faith, and Fables: Anne Finch (1661-1720) and the Satire of Salvation, Rachel Noziuk, Southern Illinois University—Carbondale
3. Only the Good Die Young: Shelley’s Adonais and the Making of a Romantic Star, Rebecca Umland, University of Nebraska at Kearney
4. The Cinematic Afterlife of the Romantics, or The Fictional Lives of the Poets, Samuel Umland, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Panel 12: Philosophers on Love
Chair: TBD
1. On the love of God, self, and neighbor in Søren Kierkegaard’s “edifying discourse” Works of Love, Patrick Murray, Creighton University
2. From Love to the Concept: Hegel’s Path to Philosophy, Jeanne Schuler, Creighton University
3. “I Love You!” Returning to Love in Recent Continental Thought, Richard White, Creighton University
Thursday 5 October 2023 [VIRTUAL]

9:00 AM- 10:30AM……………………………………………………………………………..Session One

Panel 13: Narratives of Self
Chair: TBD
1. The Genre Specifics of Eugene Vodolazkin’s Novel “The Aviator,” Nina Efimov, Florida State University
2. The Problem of Self-Identification in Short Stories of Bernhard Schlink, Natalia Gridneva, Samara State Technical University (Russia)
3. The Diaries of John Fowles as a Creative Biography of the Writer, Tamara Selitrina, Bashkir State Pedagogical University (Russia)

10:30 – 12:00 PM ………………………………………………………………………………..Session Two

Panel 14: Literary and Filmic Responses to Tragedy
Chair: TBD
1. “Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia: Six Plays of Sephardic Greece,” David Crespy, University of Missouri
2. Intermediality in Profiling Health Literacy in post-Chernobyl Nuclear Energy Storytelling, Inna Häkkinen, University of Helsinki (Finland), Institute of Advanced Studies Köszeg (Hungary)
3. Variations on the Theme of a Silent Dirge: “Der Zor Çölünde” and the Forced Deportations and Death Marches of Armenians during the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1923, James Carl Lagman Osorio, University of Wisconsin Madison
4. Spectral Soundscapes in Elfriede Jelinek’s Post-Holocaust Novel The Children of The Dead, Björn Treber, University of Minnesota

Panel 15: Literature and Gender
Chair: TBD
1. Women representation and power dynamics in the Celestina, Silvia Asandei, University of Kansas
2. Of Demons, Adders and Drugs: Discourse as Instrument of Female Agency in Catriona Ward’s Little Eve and Miriam Toews’ Women Talking, Elisa Fierro, Independent Scholar
3. The Medieval Spanish Serranilla and Ecofeminism, Katherine Gatto, John Carroll University
1:45-3:15 PM ........................................................................................................Session Three

Panel 16: Holocaust Victims & Perpetrators
Chair: TBD
1. Contradictory Objectives: The Nazi Racial Worldview and the Ibero-American Institute, Kenneth Negy, University of Mississippi
2. Jewish Waste-Pickers in the Ukrainian SSR on the Eve of the Holocaust, Tatiana Perga, Simon Dubnow Institute (Germany)
3. Bearing Witness to Mauthausen – A Cross-Reading of Experiences, Perceptions, and Social Realities in Early Survivor Testimonies, Siegrun Wildner, University of Northern Iowa

3:30-5:00 PM ........................................................................................................Session Four

Panel 17: Films and Popular Culture
Chair: TBD
1. Teaching Nietzsche with Top Gun, Linda Deaver, Purdue Global University
2. Neither “Worthless” Nor “Vicious:” Sergei Eisenstein’s Final Battles Beyond the Ice, Andrew Gregg, Independent Scholar
3. The Impact of the Film ‘Schindler’s List’ on German Vergangenheitsbewältigung, Beatrice Leeming, University of Cambridge (UK)

Panel 18: Women Writing & Writing about Women
Chair: TBD
1. Staging Sephardic Jewish Historiography in Turkey. Performance and Politics in the Quincentenary of 1492, Rüstem Ertuğ Altınav, University of Milan (Italy)
2. The Conflicted Proto-Feminism of Cristina Belgiojoso’s Delle presente condizione delle donne e del loro avvenire, Carolyn Gascoigne, University of Houston-Downtown
3. The Depiction of Imprisoned Women in Guzel Yakhina’s Zuleikha Opens Her Eyes, Maeghan Lanaghan, Florida State University
4. Empowering Activism through Literature: Restoration Ecocriticism, Cenk Tan, Pamukkale University (Turkey)
Friday 6 October 2023 [VIRTUAL]

9:00 AM-10:45 AM…………………………………………………………………Session Five

Panel 19: Black Europe
Chair: TBD
1. The Europe Wide Anti-Racist Struggle in Britain: Black British Resistance Against Fortress Europe 1987-2000, Leonard Butingan, University of California Santa Cruz
2. Uncovering the Trauma Narrative in Olivia Wenzel’s 1000 Coils of Fear, Julia Engellant, University of Missouri
3. Lynch Law and the American Project: How White Colonists Adapted European Precedent to Structure Racial Citizenship, Kathryn Robinson, University of Kansas
4. Black Italy in Contemporary Literature and Cinema: Igiaba Scego, Gabriella Ghermandi, and Fred Kuwornu, Habib Zanzana, The University of Scranton

Panel 20: Memory and Memorialization
Chair: TBD
1. The Memorialisation of Beethoven’s Ode to Joy after Nazi Propaganda: A Controversial Background for the European Anthem, Chiara Antico, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Portugal)
2. Postwar Expulsion and Trauma: A Comparison of East and West German Children’s Memories, Michelle Mouton, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
3. Holocaust Memorialization in Mieczysław Weinberg’s Opera “The Passenger,” Nicole Steinberg, University of Maryland, College Park

11:00 AM-12:45AM…………………………………………………………………Session Six

Panel 21: Multisensory Expressions
Chair: TBD
1. The Iridescence of Light: A Devotional Synthesis of Biomorphism and the Baroque in the Neo-Futurist Design of Szervita Square Tower and the Palladian Classicism of the Church of Saint Anne at Szervita Square in Budapest in Hungary, Titian Butash, University of Oxford (UK)
2. Erotics of Grammar in Nineteenth-Century Cloud Treatises, Lucien Darjeun Meadows, University of Denver
3. Unveiling the Sensory Symphonia: Re-imagining the Sonorous and Sensuous Essence of Medieval Pilgrimage, Evelyn Nicholson, University of Cambridge Theological Federation (UK)

Panel 22: Contemporary Issues in European Politics
Chair: TBD
1. The Commonwealth and Brexit, Debra Holzhauer, Southeast Missouri State University
2. Scotland Reexamined: Its Constitutional and Political Future, Frank Le Veness, St. John's University, New York
3. Ancient Rome’s Mare Nostrum and Modern Globalization—Analyzing Crises of Civilization through the Prism of Complex Systems Theory: Insights, Implications and the Limits of Analogy, Mark Orsag, Doane University

1:30-2:30PM LUNCH AND KEYNOTE

Introduction of keynote speaker by Dr. Mark Celinscak, Department of History
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tomaz Jardim, Associate Professor of History at Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada). Presentation title: "Ilse Koch on Trial: Gender, Violence, and Making the 'Bitch of Buchenwald'." This talk is generously co-sponsored by UNO’s Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy.
Zoom ID:

2:45PM-4:30PM Session Seven

Panel 23: Medieval Science and Literature
Chair: TBD
1. Science, Alchemy and Occultism: A New Interpretation of the Miscellaneous Papers of Don Antonio de’ Medici, Giovanna Potenza, Federico II University, Naples (Italy)
2. Negative emotions in Dante's Inferno, Andreas Prasinos, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)
3. The Cathedral of the Sea: Portraying Fortunes and Influence of the Jewish Life in Medieval Barcelona Through Historical Fiction, Wilfrido Suarez, Briar Cliff University

Panel 24: European Identity
Chair: TBD
1. Gender, Race, Power, and Decolonization of the Transatlantic Secret Freemasonry in the 18th and 19th centuries in Spain and South America, Claudia Salas-Forero, University of Kansas
2. Hammers and Anvils: Rusyns on the Periphery between Competing Nationalisms, Nicholas Rackers, Independent Scholar
3. Women, War, Victories and Reason: Fredrick II of Prussia, Called the “Great,” Michael J. Ziemann, Seattle Pacific University
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS