



**Université d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa**

***International Workshop organized by the Central and Eastern European Studies Research Group in collaboration with the Studies in Migration Research Group\****

***21st Century Reflections on Sexual Violence in Wars, its Transgenerational and Transnational Impact***

March 13-16, 2018



**March 13, 19:30**

**Location: Academic Hall (133 Séraphin-Marion)**

19:30 Official opening in the presence of: Prof. Brian Ray (Vice-Dean Research, Faculty of Arts); Prof. Sylvain Schryburt (Chair, Department of Theatre); Prof. Joerg Esleben (Chair, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures); Embassy dignitaries to be confirmed.

**20:00 Ottawa premiere of *Cheers to Sarajevo*** (dir. Ashleigh Harvey, Johannesburg), followed by a Q&A period

At the dawn of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early 1990s, a South African photo journalist records a soon-to-be-taboo love affair between a Bosnian Serb man and a Bosnian Muslim woman. What begins as a story of love and friendship becomes a complicated tale of patriotism, conflict of allegiance, and rape used as a weapon of war. However, the play also demonstrates the strength people must to resist hatred.

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\* This event has come about as a result of an Insight Development Grant of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and funding from the Studies in Migration Research Group (Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa).

**March 14 - Location: 125 Simard Hall (60 University)**

**16:00-18:00: Panel on sexual violence in wars, its national and transnational memory**

**Moderator: Andrea Prajerová, University of Ottawa**

16:00 Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa: Welcome and introduction - "The Politics of Memory: Sexual Violence at the End of WWII in Germany and in the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995)"

**16:15 Keynote Speaker - Nena Močnik, University of Turku, Finland:** "From Testifying to Myth Making: Creation of Rape Survivor's Destiny"

16:45: Tatjana Takševa, St. Mary`s University: "War Trauma and Healing, Successes and Challenges: In Conversation with Bosnian Women Rape Survivors"

17:00 Christabelle Sethna, University of Ottawa: "Me Too: Unwanted Pregnancy and Abortion"

17:15 Aimee Goldsmith, Johannesburg: "A History Shaped by Trauma and the Cathartic Properties of Storytelling"

17:30 Discussion

**18:00 Break with refreshments**

**18:45 Mythili Rajiva, University of Ottawa: Introducing the film *For Those Who Can Tell No Tales***

**19:00 Screening of the movie *For Those Who Can Tell No Tales*** (Za one koji ne mogu da govore, 2013; dir. Jasmila Žbanić), followed by a discussion

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**March 15 - Location: 125 Simard Hall (60 University)**

**Moderator: Andrea Prajerová, University of Ottawa**

**16:00-18:00 Panel on the transgenerational impact of sexual violence in wars**

16:00 Agatha Schwartz, University of Ottawa: Welcome and introduction - "Children of the Enemy": The Transgenerational Impact of Sexual Violence in Wars"

**16:15 Keynote Speaker - Winfried Behlau, Delmenhorst (Germany), Writer and Editor:** "Thistleflowers, Russian Children in Germany: From a Silenced Rape Child to a Writer, Editor and Public Speaker"

16:45 Lejla Damon, London UK (Teleconferencing): "Finding Safa, My Birth Mother"

17:15 Tatjana Takševa, St. Mary`s University: "Deconstructing Ethnic Boundaries: Bosnian Children Born of War and Identity Beyond Ethnicity"

17:30 Discussion

**18:00 Break with refreshments**

**18:45 Mythili Rajiva, University of Ottawa: Introducing the film *As If I Am Not There***

**19:00 Ottawa premiere of *As If I Am Not There* (2010; dir. Juanita Wilson), followed by a discussion**

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**March 16 - Location: 60 Waller (room t.b.a.)**

**15:00-20:00 Theatre workshop facilitated by Nena Močnik and Aimee Goldsmith**

*The workshop is free but registration is required. Registration: [Yana.Meerzon@uottawa.ca](mailto:Yana.Meerzon@uottawa.ca)*

### **ACHIEVING TRUTH: EMBODIED ART RESEARCH AND CREATING THE PHYSICALITY OF WAR ON STAGE**

The workshop explores potentials of performative arts in reconstructing, portraying and representing the embodied experience of war. The first part, led by Nena Močnik will focus on collecting testimonies by survivors with the help of different dramatic tools and body expressions, using movement, voice and visual portrayals. Participants will learn about the importance of non-verbal expression in researching a body as a testifier and bearer of trauma.

In the second part, Aimee Goldsmith will lead participants through the performance arts as a format of creating physicality and emotions of the character in war. Participants will engage in a few exercises to see how the environment affects one's body and how to become increasingly aware of your own body. The focus will be on modes of portraying war on stage with the aim of submersing the viewer in the experience, as opposed to a voyeuristic approach, as well as on the reason for this choice.

The experiential workshop will be enriched by visual documentation and screening from the performance(s). Both facilitators will bring in their own experiences in embodied art research and performances from their work in Bosnia-Herzegovina.