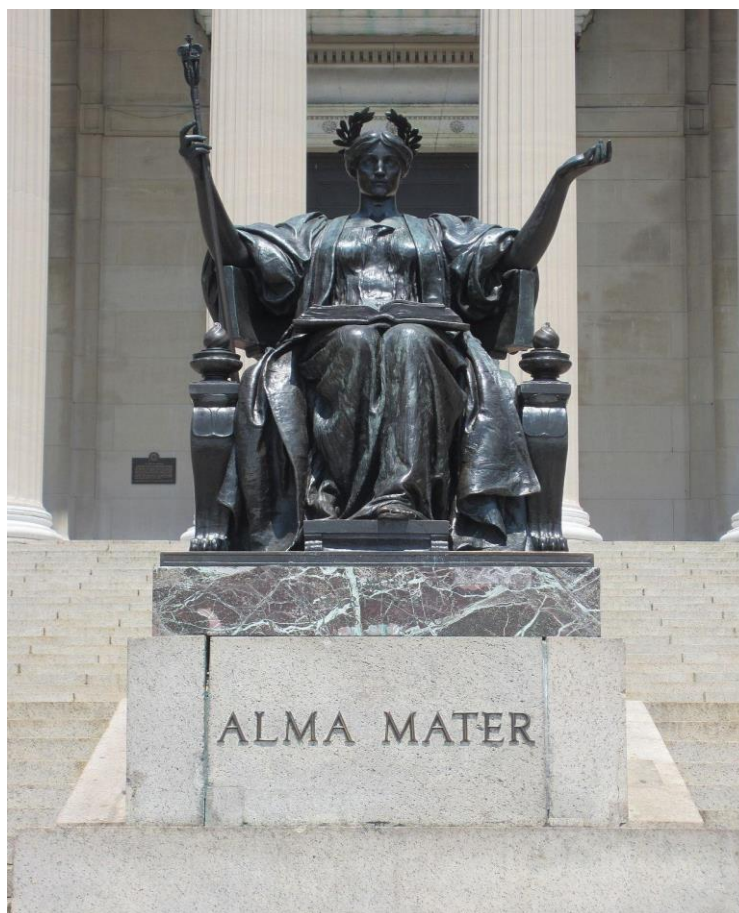


# Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA)

## Alumni Projects

2012-2019



**AHDA** | Alliance for  
Historical Dialogue  
and Accountability

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
**IS  
HR**  
institute for  
the study of  
human rights

Institute for the Study of Human Rights  
[Humanrightscolumbia.org](http://Humanrightscolumbia.org)

# *Argentina*

*Milena Duran*

*Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo*

## **The Identity House: An Educational and Research Center for Memory, Identity and Human Rights**

As an AHDA Fellow, Milena developed the project entitled The Identity House: An Educational and Research Center for Memory, Identity and Human Rights. This is an integral project for the The Identity House, the museum of Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo in the Espacio Memoria y Derechos Humanos, that seeks to turn it into a center for educational and research activities that will allow society to learn and build on Abuela's experience to deal with current problems related to human rights and identity.

The project involves three phases. First, the creation of the Institutional Archive of Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo that will include the historical documentation and audiovisual materials of the organization, some of which will become available for educational and research uses. Second, the development of an oral history project for the Family Biographical Archive that will collect the voices of the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren regarding their restitution experiences. The goals of this oral history project will be to create an opportunity for intergenerational dialogue between the restored grandchildren and their own children, to involve the young in the organizations' cause and work, and to learn about the ripple effects that children appropriation has had and continues to have over the following generations. Finally, the third phase is the design of an oral history curriculum to carry out an educational program with students and teacher training courses, in order to transmit our experience and promote the use of oral history as a tool to address current human rights and identity issues.

*AHDA project in progress*

# ***Belgium/Bosnia and Herzegovina***

*Stipe Odak*

*Université catholique de Louvain*

## **Divided Bridges**

As a country with a centuries-long legacy of multireligious life, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a paradigmatic case of a diverse society at the heart of Europe. The history of the region, however, is also marked by numerous tragedies stemming from world wars, dissolution of empires, the experience of totalitarian regimes, and interethnic conflicts. In such circumstances, political and social issues are inseparable from collective memory. Reconstruction of civic life, in other words, coincides with the processes of coming to terms with the past. “How do we remember past tragedies?” is a question at the heart of that quest. It inquires as to whether there is a common we; how the past relates to present and future; and what valence tragedies should have in social memory.

Stipe’s project at AHDA, entitled Divided Bridges, aims at (re)discovering peacebuilding potentials in the major religious traditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Religions understand themselves as bridges between people, spiritually grounded instruments of peace. A growing percentage of the population worldwide sees religion as one of the central aspects of their identities. At the same time, it is undeniable that religious traditions have been implicated in intergroup violence, human rights violations, and different forms of cultural oppression. The goal of this project is to (re)discover pro-social elements in religions, in view of traumatic experiences of ex-Yugoslav wars in the 1990s and their aftermath. The emphasis on re-discovering implies that many of these peacebuilding elements have been forgotten or overshadowed by past violence. The project is envisaged as a combination of a website, workshops, and public talks. It aspires to provide a platform for open and inclusive discussions about the social role of religion. Far from being apologetic or oblivious towards past crimes, it desires to address “difficult history” in a direct yet responsible way. By engaging in the concrete theological and spiritual heritage of local religious traditions, while remaining conscious of the history of religiously inspired violence, the project aims to develop strong and resilient networks of peace-oriented citizens.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Bosnia

*Nataša Govedarica*

*Four Faces of Omarska*

*Website: <https://cetirilicaomarske.wordpress.com>*

## Memory Mapping in Prijedor

During her AHDA fellowship, Nataša Govedarica focused on dealing with the past processes in her native Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once an ethnically mixed town that was exemplary in its friendly neighborly relations, the town of Prijedor nowadays is infamous for the place it holds in the world's topography of mass atrocities. In 1992, during the early months of the Bosnian war, more than 3,000 citizens of this municipality and region of northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina, predominantly Bosniaks, were killed or disappeared. After the Srebrenica genocide, Prijedor is the second largest massacre and was among the main reasons for the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Due to systematic violence, the case is sometimes called the "Prijedor genocide." The Prijedor genocide with its unthinkable methods of segregation, torture, and systematic rape and killings, has its specific local dynamics of victims-perpetrators-bystanders that are described in oral histories of survivors and witnesses. Perspectives of perpetrators have also been known to a certain extent, as they were expressed in trials at the ICTY, but the majority of the population, that is the community of bystanders, has mostly stayed silent about their action—or inaction—during this period of terrible violence. Thus, the project's point of departure was a desire to address this lacuna. The project sought to collect 30-35 new oral histories and bring a diversity of local positions and perspective, commemorative practices, and post-war dynamics to light through this small-scale oral history project. Additional work would include an exploration of existing materials and digital mapping of potential participants for the project.

The project is currently in progress, and Nataša is collaborating with the Four Faces of Omarska working group, which is a group of artists and theoreticians who have been investigating the political, economic, and cultural implications of the complex transition that followed the devastating wars in the post-Yugoslav countries (Omarska, a mine and concentration camp from the nineties, is a case study, hence the project name). Through this partnership, a collection of in-depth interviews and oral history is to be published in early 2017. It will provide personal insight into a reality where, even today, 20 years after the end of the Bosnian War, Prijedor's municipal (Serb) government refuses to memorialize the suffering of non-Serb citizens of Prijedor, while at the same time building memorials to Serb combatants who died in the conflict. It will also bring to light the perspectives of local activists, who keep organizing public commemorative gatherings and activities calling on the Prijedor administration to uphold victims' universally recognized right to the truth, including the basic right to grieve and honor their dead.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Cambodia

*Khet Long*

*Website: <http://www.yfpcambodia.org/>*

## Memory Sketch of Kraing Ta Chan

The overall goal of the Memory Sketch of Kraing Ta Chan project is to reconstruct the memory of Kraing Ta Chan, a former security center, through arts and dialogues for the healing of victim survivors and non-recurrence of mass atrocity in Cambodia. It was designed to be a participatory workshop in which younger and older generations could interact with one another and speak about the violent past. The project also sought to preserve Khmer Rouge crime sites and establish community memory and remembrance activities through consultation workshops, art works, and exhibitions. In these ways, the project aimed to reconnect younger generations with the memory of an earlier generation and to share experiences of victim-survivors in order to acknowledge their suffering and recognize the harm caused by the Khmer Rouge cadres at Kraing Ta Chan security center. To do this, the project engaged the participation of university students, memorial committees, victims, and survivors, as well as NGOs who were involved in the memorialization processes.

This project was implemented through a variety of activities such as by training university students on dealing with the past, exposure visits, the creation of a booklet called “Memory Sketch of Kraing Ta Chan,” and the creation of a Bill Board of Memory. It sought to engage young people, particularly those of university age, in the memorialization process. The reason for this focus was twofold: first, university students have little exposure to or understanding of the history of the Kraing Ta Chan site, which this project provides through field research and dialogues; secondly, transforming the events of tragedy that occurred at the site during the Khmer Rouge era into an opportunity for students, members of the community, and others to learn about this place, creates an opportunity to teach about the past, and to promote lessons in conflict transformation and democracy promotion as well.

This AHDA project was funded by International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

*AHDA project completed in 2017*

# Chile

*Beatriz Aguila Mussa*

*Museum of Memory and Human Rights*

## Never More and More Than Ever

Beatriz is a sociologist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and a grantee fellow from the Latin-American Laboratory of Museum Management 2018, organized by the Fundación TyPA (Argentina). She is investigating human rights, memory, and civic education models for post-dictatorship and post-transitional societies. The AHDA project that she designed at Columbia University aims to aid visitors, especially the young ones, to construct meaning about Chilean troubled past and relate this with their reflections about the present of the world and in Chile. The project seeks to encourage a more conscious exercise of citizens' rights and provide them with tools to strengthen a culture of democracy and human rights, thus promoting a constructive process of reconciliation.

The project consists of creating and updating the mission and vision of the museum through its educational plan. The project implementation has three phases over two years. First, developing new pedagogies of museum education to support dialogic memory and promote active citizenship. Second, organizing two lines of investigation - one about daily life during the dictatorship and another related to the transitional period to add to the museological script. And finally, modifying the museography on the permanent exhibition to boost visitors' engagement.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Croatia

*Darija Maric*

Website: <http://www.documenta.hr/hr/naslovnica.html>

## Refugee Convoys in the Nineties

Darija Maric's project examines the plight of refugees, both Croatian and Serbian, who at different points in the Balkan Wars of the 1990s were forced to abandon their homes. The project, entitled *Refugee Convoys in the Nineties*, is based on video material collected through Documenta's *Personal memories on War and Detention* project, which consists of a collection of almost 500 video-recorded memories from all over Croatia. Darija's project included the creation of a temporary traveling multimedia exhibition that would present the experience of both ethnic groups, Serbs and Croats, who faced similar destinies during the war but stood on opposing sides of the conflict.

The exhibition will consist of video-recorded personal memories, photos, objects that belonged to refugees during the nineties, letters, and other kinds of documents. The aim of the exhibition is to increase empathy and deepen understanding of suffering and the losses experienced by victims during the war in Croatia, despite their ethnic background. With this exhibition, Maric's intention is to challenge visitors to think about concepts such as tolerance, mutual respect, human rights, and democracy.

The main aim of the project is to contribute to the development of individual and social processes of dealing with the past in order to build a sustainable peace in Croatia and the region. Through this project, Documenta wanted to contribute to the process of dealing with the past within local communities – Zagreb, Knin, Ilok, Pakrac. Concepts of a multi-perspective approach and the development of critical thinking, essential for analyzing historical events, will be promoted further after the completion of the project and realization of the exhibition in each town.

Željka Jelavić, senior curator at Ethnographic Museum Zagreb, has created a second project, *Refugee Convoys in the Nineties*, composed of video interviews with refugees, photos, objects that belonged to refugees, letters and other kind of documents. Other materials for the exhibit, including documentation that draws on personal memories have also been prepared, and liaisons with numerous local museums have been developed: the Croatian History Museum in Zagreb, The Ilok Municipal Museum, and The Pakrac Municipal Museum are interested in cooperating with the project. More generally, Documenta's activities in the cultural field have intensified, as it expects art and culture will be important mediums in the future for efforts to promote the process of dealing with the past.

*AHDA project in progress*



# Croatia

*Mario Mazic*

*Youth Initiative for Human Rights*

*Website: <http://www.yibr.org/>; <https://pastcontinues.org/>*

## Shared Narratives-Past Continues

The goal of this project is to contribute to the non-recurrence of violence in the Balkans by bridging the gaps in different and often conflicting narratives among young people that perpetuate conflicts along ethnic lines. Stage 1 of the project, involving documentation about the conflict, has been completed. This involved compiling documentation and making it available in a user-friendly format to project participants. The documentation includes, among other things, materials from the ICTY and local courts, media/press material and peace agreements, laws and political decisions, minutes of government and military meetings, and statements of victims and witnesses. Stage 2 of the project is an initial seminar and training for 120 high school and university students from five different countries, who will bring their national history textbooks with them.

Students will present and discuss the materials they have been taught, and explore, compare, and critically analyze the different narratives presented. Following this initial training, participants will be divided into groups, with each group working on a shared narrative. Sub-groups will also participate in study tours of places where crimes were committed, where they will speak with victims and witnesses, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, local investigators, prosecutors, activists, and local youth. Finally, after all the groups have finished their group work and the narratives are developed, they will be prepared for publication. During this stage, the publication will be translated into all official regional languages and into English. After the publication is printed and published online, it will be promoted in capital cities of the former-Yugoslav countries and in several towns that were heavily destroyed during the war.

The project impact is advocacy with over 150 young people from 5 countries who have had more than 12 study-visits around the region. The book will be presented around the region and will serve as an advocacy initiative for historical dialogue, a critical approach to nationalist mythology across the region, and against segregated education.

The project has been implemented by the Regional Network of Youth Initiative for Human Rights in collaboration with PAX for Peace from the Netherlands with support by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the European Commission. In 2019, YIHR received the French government Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood [prize](#) (*Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*) for the project.

*AHDA project in progress; phase one complete*



## **Civilian Victims Museum**

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Croatia is currently making a memory museum in partnership with the municipal government in Petrinja (a town 50 km southeast of the Croatian capital), a town heavily damaged during the 1990s war in the former Yugoslavia. The museum will be aimed at preserving the memory of civilian victims regardless of their ethnic identity. A building has been identified as the future home for the museum, and this project is in its introductory stages of development.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Cyprus

*Daphne Lappa*

*Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)*

*Website: [www.abdr.info](http://www.abdr.info)*

## **Imagined Nicosia: Video Games for Children**

The divisions within the city of Nicosia in Cyprus are largely defined by ethno-religious identity. The buffer zone divides the old city in half, separating the northern part from the southern. While beginning as a mapping project, Daphne Lappa has decided to include a series of games and interactive platforms that seek to address the divisions of the city by creating an imaginary Nicosia that is free of these divisions. The online games are geared towards children and seek to create a Nicosia without the borders of its real identity and an image that encourages children to think about the city in a unified way. The games familiarize children with sites on both sides of the city and encourages them to think about the multi-ethnic history of the place.

*AHDA project completed*

# India

*Javeed Aziz*  
*Independent Researcher*

## **Engaging Memories Bottom Up: Oral History of Kashmir (1497-2016)**

This is a multiphase project. The first phase is that of selection and background research of the victims of the ongoing conflict in Kashmir. The victims are from different parts of the valley of Kashmir, the place of actual conflict and perhaps the most militarized zone in the world. Javeed Aziz has conducted background research on about 70 victims/survivors of the conflict belonging to different sections of the society, and around 50 have been approached through proper channels to get their informed consent for oral history interviews. Efforts to win the trust of the victims and motivate them to share their lived experiences are also ongoing.

In the context of Kashmir, it has been difficult to win the trust of people given the fact that it is generally believed that victims' stories are distorted and given a particular spin, used as commodities and sold for personal benefits, or instrumentalized to serve a particular ideology. With much difficulty and prolonged persuasion, Aziz has obtained consent from about 10 victims to conduct standard oral history interviews and already conducted about 15 interview sessions. In the last phase of the project, the interviewees will be provided transcripts of their interviews as well as their audio recording for their own records and/or comments. Aziz plans to publish this work in the form of a book through some reputed international publisher, as desired by the interviewees.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Indonesia

*Sadiah Boonstra*

*Independent Researcher*

## Exhibit on Dutch Colonialism

Sadiah Boonstra completed an exhibit at Erasmus Huis, the cultural center of the Netherlands Embassy in Indonesia, entitled "Prince Diponegoro in Dutch Perspectives: From 1800 until the present." The exhibition focused on the Javanese Prince Diponegoro, who led the Java War (1825-1830) against the Dutch, and highlighted Diponegoro's meanings and legacies for Dutch colonial and contemporary society in the Netherlands. In line with Sadiah's other projects, the exhibit shows an alternative perspective on a violent episode in history, one which was initially written by the victors (the Dutch) but that deserves a critical re-examination.

*AHDA project completed*

Other projects:

### **1965 Today, Living with the Indonesian Massacres**

To pursue her work on the 1965-66 mass-violence in Indonesia, Sadiah moved to Jakarta, as Dutch organizations were reluctant to support her project because of its political sensitivity. She continues to work on this topic, focusing on the intergenerational socio-cultural impact of the violence. Sadiah co-edited a special issue of *Inside Indonesia*, which asks: how do these events continue to impact Indonesia today? What does "1965" mean to Indonesians? How do they continue to live with the massacres? Clearly, there are various answers to these questions. The special edition approaches them in three ways. First, it looks at competing narratives in historical culture. Second, it examines institutional legacies and civil society. Official stories have often been challenged within civil society, yet they continue to permeate institutions within Indonesia. Finally, the issue takes a close look at actions for transitional justice now happening around the country and across the world. The special issue appeared online on October 1, 2015, exactly fifty years after the 1965 "tragedy" took place.

*AHDA project completed*

# Indonesia

*Kartika Pratiwi*

*Independent Researcher*

## **(Re)writing Indonesian Genocide in 1965 in the Digital Age**

The project that Kartika Pratiwi developed during the AHDA fellowship is entitled (Re)writing Indonesian Genocide in 1965 in the Digital Age, which includes the creation of an interactive digital platform about facts related to the Indonesian mass killing in 1965 through materials, including a collection of stories and memories of survivors, archival documents, and digital cartography. This project aims to change the culture of history-writing of Indonesian genocide issues by using digital technology. It also contributes to providing alternative materials in history education that enable learners and educators as well as wider society to get more access to formerly cloistered documents and stories and allow them to explore the issue for themselves.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Italy

*Elena Monicelli*

*Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole*

## **“Until I Die:” The Role of the Historical Testimony in (Peace and Human Rights) Education**

This project started as a research on the subject of historical testimony in order to design a training tool for teachers and professionals. The research was published as "Donde no habite el olvido. Herencia y transmisión del testimonio: perspectivas socio-jurídicas" in di/segni, University of Milan, Le Edizioni Milano, 2017. From time to time, the project is tested in trainings and developed again after analysis of participant's reactions. As a result, workshop and training seminars have been prepared and improved.

The initial idea was to begin with the research phase. The research led to the project implementation. However, given the fact that the project is in the field of education, and in education action feeds theory and vice versa, one can never consider the research completely done. The design of the teachers' training course has been completed and has already been experimented in different situations and contexts. Elena Monicelli has received positive feedback as well as some critiques of the project. Elena continues to work on integrating theory and practice, using some case studies to improve her research.

*AHDA project research completed / application in progress*

# Iraq

*Bayar Mustafa Sevdeen*

*University of Kurdistan Hewler*

## **The Voice of the 74<sup>th</sup> Genocide: A Platform for Yazidi Youths**

As an AHDA fellow, Bayar Sevdeen pursued a project called The Voice of the 74th Genocide: A Platform for Yazidi Youths. The focus of the project is memory work of Yazidis, the trauma they faced in August 2014, and reconciliation of their relations with their Muslim neighbors, both Kurds and Arabs. Another issue the project will address is how to initiate a “trust building” process through historical dialogue between Kurds and Arabs (the specific situation of Yazidis’ distrust in Arabs and difficulties in re-communicating with the Kurds). The ultimate goal of the project is to provide a suitable platform for Yazidi youth in order to give voice to their own stories, deepen the discussion, and reveal the root causes of the mistrust, as well as to foster their motivation to search for solutions.

*AHDA project in progress*



# Japan

*Sunji Lee*

*Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and Hosei University*

## **School Trip to Traumatic Memory: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Okinawa and Fukushima**

Sunji Lee works as a research fellow for the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and as a teacher at Hosei University. He specializes in research concerning education, especially the education of traumatic memories. Traumatic memories are, for instance, the memories of an earthquake, world war, or nuclear plant accident. He also researches the role of media in education from a philosophical perspective. His article, “The Concept of Attention in Bernard Stiegler: Focusing on the Concept of Retention,” won the Prize of the Japanese Educational Research Association. His work also appears in national and international academic journals, including the Philosophy of Education Society of Japan, Japanese Educational Research Association, History of Educational Thoughts Society, and Educational Philosophy and Theory.

During his time as an AHDA fellow, Sunji began designing a project regarding the education of disaster and calamity called “School Trip to Traumatic Memory: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Okinawa and Fukushima.” This project organizes trips to the cities to raise awareness about incidents that drastically change society. This project is composed of three parts: study in school, talk with victims, and then tour around the place that suffered damage in the past. Education in this project is engaged with not only information or knowledge, but also how to motivate individuals to think of how to build a peaceful society and provide empathy to victims. Ultimately, the project aims to impact policymakers, civil society, and the international community to create a paradigm shift towards a more gender-sensitive approach to transitional justice. This is also an opportunity for dialogue about the future of areas affected by disaster because children will visit, talk, and think of that area, bridging the area’s past and future.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Kosovo

*Nora S. Ahmetaj*

*Center for Research Documentation and Publication (CRDP)*

*Website: <https://www.facebook.com/CRDPKosovo/>*

## Deconstructing Reconciliation in Kosovo

This project was meant to create historical dialogue in Kosovo and the Western Balkans, employing a multi-faceted approach to deconstructing reconciliation, including a research project, a workshop, a final report, and a visibility event. The project's research report was prepared on deconstructing reconciliation, resulting from a combination of desk research, qualitative (focus groups, interviews), and quantitative (public opinion polls) research. The research project engages participants through focus groups and surveys of civil society actors, media, academics, religious community representatives, high school students, families of missing persons and victims, war veterans, teachers, victims, and non-victims (survivors).

The project's three-day workshop on deconstructing reconciliation brought together 50 people from different ethnic backgrounds to engage in dialogue concerning reconciliation in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. They will represent people from different social groups such as war victims, families of war victims, ex-combatants, clerics, activists, scholars, journalists, government officials, and others. The hope is that new ideas will be developed through comparisons of reconciliation in other parts of the world (first session), the review of reconciliation instruments strategies (second session), and assessment of the institutionalisation of reconciliation (third session).

The workshop culminated in a final report, which combines the pre-workshop research and the workshop results, including different perceptions of reconciliation from workshop participants. This document will be a resource for state and non-state institutions working on conflict transformation in the future. The final visibility event was a public event (with stakeholders and media present) where the final report was published and results discussed.

*AHDA project completed*

# Kosovo

*Raba Gjoshi*

*Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosovo (YIHR KS)*

## Oral History on the Deported Diaspora of Kosovo

From early 1988 until June 1999, a series of war crimes were committed by both the Yugoslav security forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army. Starting in March 1988, more than 800,000 ethnic Albanians were forcefully deported from their homeland, and almost all of the 500,000 to 600,000 individuals who remained in Kosovo were displaced. Forced expulsion was committed by several groups, frequently acting together, including the Yugoslav army, special 5 police, paramilitary forces, and armed Serb civilians (Iacopino, V., Frank, M., and Waldman, R.).

Reportedly, up to 65% of people and families were directly expelled from their homes by Serb forces. The Kosovo crisis resulted in the largest population displacement in Europe since World War II. By mid-April 1999, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that almost half a million refugees had crossed the border from Kosovo to Macedonia and Albania.

The aim of this project is to establish a Museum of Deportations to honor the memory of the deportations from Kosovo and the diaspora. To that end, the team has analyzed court judgements and other reports and are in the process of creating an oral history, which includes stories from the diaspora of Kosovo. More research is being conducted to access both Albanian and Serbian news reports on the deportations to see if there were any commonalities in their reporting of this crisis. In addition, the municipality of Prishtina is also considering establishing a Museum of War, which would build on the concept of the Museum of Deportations.

*AHDA project completed*

# Kosovo

*Korab Krasniqi*

*forumZFD - Forum Civil Peace Service*

## **I Want to be Heard**

Korab Krasniqi has been working on the following projects: I Want to be Heard, oral histories with survivors of wartime sexual violence; Living with Memories of Missing, an oral history and digital storytelling project with family members of missing persons; Kosovo Memory Heritage, a project on a general context of memory landscape; UNERASABLE, a collaborative regional exhibition exploring the concept of memory and oblivion; Feminist Conversations: History, Memory, and Difference, a regional conference on women activism during the times of oppression; Data March, forgotten women's activism in Kosovo from March 1998; and People and Memories Talk, oral histories with wartime survivors and others.

As part of the AHDA fellowship, Korab designed a follow-up project that aims to deliver an academic policy paper drawn from a thorough reading and analysis of the I Want to be Heard publication. The paper resulting from interdisciplinary study will examine the ways in which women deal with the trauma of rape and abandonment, and how that informs contemporary socio-cultural and political developments. Ultimately, the project aims to impact policymakers, civil society, and the international community to create a paradigm shift towards a more gender-sensitive approach to transitional justice.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Lebanon

*Nayla Hamedeh*

*Lebanese Association for History (LAH)*

*Website: <http://lablebanon.org/>*

## **History Education, Power of Memory, and Historical Commemoration Sites**

Nayla Hamadeh, a founding member and President of the Lebanese Association for History (LAH), has worked at LAH to launch several projects aimed at bridging gaps and making connections in Lebanese society. The first project, Developing Historical Thinking, is a broad professional development program offered to history teachers across Lebanon. The team of trainers has traveled from the extreme north to extreme south of the country to offer workshops on historical understanding to empower teachers to focus on conceptual thinking and develop high-level thinking skills. This project, executed from January to June 2016, is part of a wider commitment by LAH to move the teaching of history in Lebanon away from the one-narrative approach by addressing the curricular deadlock that faces history education in the country. As a result of this deadlock, students still do not study the civil war or any other event that occurred in the last fifty years of Lebanon's history.

The second project, The Power of Memory, was conducted in partnership with the Forum for Civil Peace Service Zfd and the History Department at the Universite St. Joseph. This project, launched in September 2016, concerns the facilitation of dialogue between leaders of youth organizations in Lebanese political parties. The aim here is to bring these youth together to think about the violent past in order to develop narratives that reflect more acceptance, empathy, and may have an impact on the public discourse about the past.

The third project that Nayla is involved in is Sites of Commemoration in Lebanon: Towards a Better Understanding of the Past. The first phase, launched in December 2016, will work to empower teachers to establish oral history research projects in their classes. Students will conduct research on sites of commemoration related to the civil war.

The aim is to open a conversation about the cultures of commemoration in Lebanon and raise awareness and understanding of the different experiences that people lived, their right to commemorate, and how to learn about the past from these sites.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Lebanon

*Lynn Maalouf*

*Act for the Disappeared*

*Website: <https://www.fushatamal.org/en>*

## **Fushat ‘Amal (A Space for Hope) – a Digital Memorial Project for the Missing in Lebanon**

Fushat ‘Amal, a Space for Hope, is an interactive digital space designed to collect and bring to public attention some of the stories of the thousands of persons who went missing in Lebanon over the past four decades, and whose families continue to struggle to learn about their fate. The digital space is interactive, allowing relatives to create profile pages of their loved ones and add images, videos, and texts that they would like to share, in recognition of these interrupted lives. Behind the abstract number of 17,000 missing and the framed photographs that have become the hallmark of the families’ public gatherings, there are personal stories to be told and shared. Fushat ‘Amal is one space in which the parents, children, and siblings of the missing can share with us these stories; a space where younger generations and those who did not suffer the same fate can learn about who these people are and reflect on the consequences of their disappearance, the day they left their homes never to return or be heard of again.

At the time of writing, Act for the Disappeared has focused on preparing the ground for the launching of the website where the space will exist. One of the project’s goals is to engage youth on this issue; to that end, ACT conducted presentations of the project in six different universities, enlisting over 30 volunteers who have been trained in interview skills, with a focus on the issue of the missing. Since that time, almost 100 interviews with relatives of missing persons from across Lebanon have been conducted. In parallel, ACT has created a support group of 18 civil society organizations to consult in order to ensure widespread support for the issue. A leaflet about Fushat ‘Amal was developed and is currently being distributed by the ICRC delegates who are gathering data from relatives in the course of their Ante-Disappearance Data project.

ACT launched Fushat ‘Amal through a communications campaign that included a press conference, billboard posters, two testimonials aired on television, and 10 stories of missing persons published in the press.

*AHDA project completed*

# Lebanon

*Reina M. Sarkis*  
*MoHR*

## **Group Psychotherapy for Torture Victims and Post-Trauma Initiative**

Reina Sarkis is a psychoanalyst spearheading a number of groundbreaking initiatives in Lebanon and abroad. She currently runs her own practice and, for nearly two decades, has been focusing her research and work around topics related to human rights. Her aim is to generate debate and grassroots movement to galvanize Lebanese society towards reforms and better policies. In 2014, she founded MoHR, and her goal is to push for the creation of a meta-structure for human rights and past conflicts in Lebanon.

During the AHDA fellowship, Reina mainly focused on education, particularly bringing human rights masters students to Lebanon by creating collaboration and partnerships between Columbia University and the American University of Beirut. She advanced and developed her group therapy for torture victims initiative through connections and meetings took part in key seminars about historical dialogue. The initiative aims to provide context and culturally sensitive psychotherapy to enhance patients' agency, their sense of self-worth, and empower them to deal with the legacy of traumatic experiences. In addition, group work will enhance a sense of mutual trust and rebuild faith between members of different ethnic and religious communities in Lebanon.

*AHDA project in progress*



# North Macedonia

*Irena Stefoska*

*Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE)*

*Website: [www.cdrsee.org](http://www.cdrsee.org)*

## Joint History Textbook Project

The Joint History Project, based in Southern Europe, is in the midst of preparing to launch its new history textbooks for the post-WWII period. This is a continuation of a very long project on history education in the region. Phase 1 was completed in 2007, and then in 2014 the current phase was launched, with the expectation that these new additional textbooks will be completed by the end of this calendar year. The project has a geographical framework, focusing on countries from Slovenia to Cyprus, and from Albania to Turkey. The idea is to compile different kinds of sources related to a variety of historical topics or themes: political events in the region and sensitive topics, such as the Greek Civil War after WWII, or what happened during the Cold War. There are special chapters devoted to topics such as the history of the former Yugoslavia; a history of socialism in the region; Bulgaria and its history as part of the eastern bloc; as well as on modernization, sport, health, and education. Workbook sources are drawn from multiple perspectives, with historians from all relevant countries participating in creating the textbook. The challenge for the project is the volatile political situation in many participating countries, which makes it unclear if the textbook will be adopted everywhere. In particular, the situation in Greece, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Albania is not promising, with the undermining of university autonomy as governments increasingly insert themselves heavy-handedly in the education sector. In such a turbulent time, history, national history, identity, and identity politics are useful tools for those in power. Nonetheless, the textbook is being published and the hope is that a change in government positions will enable it to be used more widely in the region.

In addition to her history education project, Irena Stefoska also published an essay on the topic entitled “Some Aspects of History Textbooks for Secondary School: The Case of Macedonia,” in *Civic and Uncivic Values in Macedonia: Value Transformation, Education and Media*, eds. Sabrina P. Ramet, Ola Listhaug, Jbert Simkus (New York: Palgrave, 2013).

*AHDA Project Complete*

# Nepal

*Subha Ghale*

*Independent researcher*

## **Indigenous Peoples in Protected Areas – A Study Based in Oral History**

The fieldwork for this project was conducted in Chitwan and Nawalparasi from April 3 to 13, 2016. Subha Ghale interviewed indigenous communities in multiple sites affected by Chitwan National Park. Subha focused on the Bote indigenous fishing community that has been living on the riverbanks near Chitwan National Park for generations.

On July 10, 2016 Subha organized an event in Kathmandu to discuss issues faced by indigenous peoples in protected areas. The 23 participants included indigenous activists, environmentalists, journalists, human rights advocates, and NGO workers. There were representatives from six protected areas – Bardiya National Park, Shivapuri National Park, Dhor Patan Hunting Reserve, Langtang National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Chitwan National Park. Participants gave presentations on the impact of protected areas on their respective communities. They shared their experiences, came up with possible solutions and were able to place local problems in a broader context. Subha presented the preliminary findings of her fieldwork in Chitwan. A comprehensive report documenting the main points of the discussion was later shared with participants and other relevant actors. A journalist who participated in the event followed up with the participants and wrote [an article](#) for an online newspaper.

The link to the article is here: <https://www.recordnepal.com/art-letter/books/the-dark-side-of-nepals-national-parks/>

The final report of the event will be published in the near future.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Pakistan

*Rana Tanveer*

*The Express Tribune*

## Religious Minorities in Pakistan: The Ahmadi Community

As a journalist, Rana Tanveer understands the importance of engaging in historical dialogue in order to spread awareness and seek solutions for contemporary issues in Pakistan. The issue that Rana sought to address through his work involves the treatment of religious minorities—for instance, Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Bhais, Shias, and in particular the Ahmadi Muslim Community—who comprise five million of Pakistan's total population and have been subject to severe persecution by the state and society for decades.

The condition of the Ahmadis may be traced through historical decisions made by the state and amendments added to the Constitution that have infringed many of their rights, especially their right to religious freedom. Members of the Ahmadi Community, who claim to be Muslims but are considered apostates by the state, are taking refuge in different countries and opting to leave Pakistan in order to practice their religion freely. Since 1973, the Pakistani government constitutionally declared them non-Muslim despite their strong claim of being Muslim. Hundreds of Ahmadi men, women, and children have lost their lives at the hands of public and state persecution. The Pakistani media, which is dominated by mainstream prejudices, does not give proper coverage to the atrocities committed against the Ahmadis. Therefore, as a journalist, Rana believes it is incredibly important to address these issues publicly so that proper redress and action may be taken to alleviate the discrimination they currently face and address the injustices they have experienced.

As a fellow, Rana developed a project to end religious fanaticism against the Ahmadiya Muslim Community. Since this topic is met with great sensitivity in Pakistan, where fanaticism and religious intolerance are increasingly unbridled, he is taking steps to implement this project through conferences and lectures at educational institutions. In this regard, Rana will also deliver a lecture at the University of the Punjab's Institute of Communication Studies. Most importantly, Rana also plans to write a book on the topic. Since returning from Columbia, he has written 109 stories, of which 104 are on issues of religious minorities, including Ahmadis, Christians, Sikhs, and Hindus.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Poland

*Jolanta Steciuk*

*Young Journalists' Association "Polis"*

*Website: [www.facebook.com/polis1995/](http://www.facebook.com/polis1995/)*

## Borders of Memory

In the aftermath of the Second World War, Poland was “moved” westwards about 200,000 kilometers. Several millions of people, including Germans and Poles, had to resettle in the new territories of their respective states. For a half century, the historical narratives of these events were built separately on each side of the Iron Curtain. As such, Jolanta Steciuk’s project, entitled Borders of Memory, aimed to explore what transfers of populations and shifting borders after WWII meant to young Polish students, in an attempt to create a shared narrative between young Poles and Germans.

The project examined how past migrations in the region shaped collective and individual memory. At a later stage, given the refugee crisis in Europe, the project was expanded to contribute to people’s readiness to welcome refugees. Societies build their present on their past experiences; therefore, the Borders of Memory platform covers not only past events and past migrations, but also raises awareness of present refugee experiences in Europe, promotes positive images of refugees (for example, the refugee Olympic team), and promotes engagement in offering assistance to refugees.

Borders of Memory identified that there are significant differences between central and regional narratives, approaches to historical heritage, and awareness of the past events and their meaning in the regions of Poland. Additionally, the project revealed that there seems to be a growing need and interest in exploring historical events through the lens of family stories. Finally, the project demonstrates that memory work was and is important, but that it has to be “translated” to respond to current human rights challenges.

The project continues through the Borders of Memory [Facebook page](#). Jolanta and her colleagues focus on past events (postwar border changes in Poland and the region, forced migrations during WWII and in the aftermath of the war), and how they shape collective memory in Poland and influence interpretations of current events in the region. Jolanta also published a [chapter](#) entitled “Borders Change, Memory Stays,” on pedagogical methods in the handbook *Histoire croisée as a perspective for non-formal education* (pp. 30-40). This educational method is being used in projects of the Krzyzowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe, an institution that serves as an international youth exchange center.

In addition, the Young Journalists’ Association “Polis” is actively working on various projects, including a 2016 project to support a school community (50 km from Warsaw) hosting refugee children from Ukraine, Chechnya, and Kyrgyzstan. The project consists of workshops and school community integrational events. Second, “Polis” has also been working on an interfaith Night of Temples project where residents from Warsaw and Poznan visit several temples including a synagogue, a mosque, and churches of Christian denominations. Finally, “Polis” continues to be actively involved in the No Hate Speech Campaign by working with a partner organization in the Ukraine to create a No Hate Speech Movement.

*AHDA project completed / Other projects ongoing*

# Poland

*Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska*

*Jagiellonian University*

*Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau*

## One-Way Ticket 1981 in Oswiecim

During the AHDA fellowship, Joanna Talewicz-Kwiatkowska worked on the research project entitled One-Way Ticket 1981 in Oświęcim, which is about the series of acts of violence against the Roma, including setting their houses on fire, destruction of property, and acts of physical aggression. As a result, the Roma left Poland and settled in Sweden. The project will be the first systematic, multidisciplinary study of these events and the post-migration history of the Oświęcim-based Roma community. This multidisciplinary research will include the disciplines of History, Political Science, Migration Studies, and Anthropology and will later be collected in a book.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Rwanda

*Nicolas Habarugira*

*Community Based Sociiotherapy Rwanda*

## **Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Violence and Trauma through Narratives and Dialogues among Youth in Rwanda**

At Columbia University, Nicolas Habarugira developed a project entitled Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Violence and Trauma through Narratives and Dialogues among Youth in Rwanda. Research revealed that the legacies and experiences of the 1994 genocide are embodied in the second generation. While the government of Rwanda has initiated many programs to promote youth development, minimal attention has been paid to how parents' experiences in the 1994 genocide impacted parenting and youth. This project will contribute to sustainable peacebuilding and downstream prevention of recurrence of violence. It will bring together youth from schools and communities from different historical backgrounds (e.g. descendants of survivors, perpetrators, youth whose parents paid reparations, etc.) in "safe" dialogue groups. They will exchange their life stories and their parents' experiences, thus rebuilding safety, trust, and taking steps for new life orientations for themselves, their community, and the country.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Serbia

*Petar Subotin*

*Balkan Investigative Reporting Network*

Website: <http://www.birn.eu.com>; <https://balkaninsight.com>

## *The Unidentified*

Petar Subotin has developed a documentary film as his AHDA project. *The Unidentified* reveals the names of those responsible for some of the most brutal attacks of the Kosovo war, from those who ordered attacks on villages in the area around the town of Pec during the 1999 war to those who were involved in the removal of victims' bodies to mass graves at the Batajnica police center near Belgrade in Serbia. Many of these perpetrators live comfortable, open lives, and the film seeks to hold them accountable for their pasts. What is interesting about the film is that both perpetrators and victims are interviewed, and their accounts corroborate one another. Also interesting are the implications of the perpetrator testimony, and questions of national identity and patriotism are posed in all their complexity. As well as the nightmarish memories of the victims and perpetrators, the film, which is based on a two-year investigation, reveals the names of the "unidentified": the officials who gave the orders. *The Unidentified* has been translated into English, Serbian, and Albanian. The film also seeks to contemplate the complicated issue of perpetrators as victims and the culture of victimhood in Serbia. After developing a short version of the material into a film, Petar and his Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) colleagues developed a longer version in order to use exclusive material and footage. More information about the film can be found [here](#).

The documentary had successful premieres in Belgrade in April 2015 and in Pristina in May 2015. Since then, the film has been screened at Mezhyhirya Fest (Kiev, Ukraine), DokuFest (Prizren, Kosovo), the Sarajevo Film Festival (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Docudoc (Maribor, Slovenia), Ciampino Film Festival (Rome, Italy), the International Human Rights Festival (Tirana, Albania), the Human Rights Film Festival (Zagreb and Rijeka, Croatia), the Harriman Institute at Columbia University (New York, USA), the South East European Film Festival (Los Angeles, USA) where it won the award for the best short documentary in April 2016, the Beldocs Film Festival (Belgrade, Serbia), the Tirana Film Festival (Tirana, Albania), the Mediteran Film Festival (Siroki Brijeg, Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the Budapest International Film Festival (Budapest, Hungary).

The film screenings have been accompanied by events and discussions for students, journalists, and the public around the topic of war crimes. The events took place at the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) in Pristina (Kosovo), the South East European University (Skopje), and Sarajevo University. On World Peace Day, the Centre for Civic Education and the Coalition for REKOM in Podgorica organized a debate on reconciliation under the theme "Can art contribute to the process of reconciliation in the region?" The film opened the human rights festival Ubrzaj 2016 in Podgorica and at the Belgrade office of YIHR as part of the international programme on Justice Without Reconciliation.

The New York Review of Books included the documentary in a list of great films and books dealing with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, and a DVD copy of the documentary has been filed at the Harvard University Library.

*AHDA project completed*



# Serbia

*Srdjan Hercigonja*  
*Forum ZFD e.V.*

## Omarska Camp Digital Archive

Currently, Srdjan Hercigonja is going through the archive that has been built in the last nine years through the work of the Working Group Four Faces of Omarska. Srdjan is trying to select what parts of the archive will be put online as a form of online memory activism. The digital archive will not be just a simple website, but more inclusive in a way, so it can be perceived as online memory activism. During 2019, Srdjan's goal is to finish the selection of material, speak with relevant stakeholders, and launch the digital platform.

The goal of the project is to create a digital archive through a process of careful curation of the already existing Four Faces of Omarska archive. This digital platform would be interactive, which means that it would be an open source for anyone who is interested in downloading parts of the archive, but it also means that other people can contribute to our archive by contacting the team that will be in charge of maintaining this digital platform.

The first goal is to make the work of the Four Faces of Omarska archive visible and to make the archive public after more than eight years of work. The goal is not, however, only to promote the work by Four Faces of Omarska, but also to raise awareness of the difficulties of memorialization in post-Yugoslav countries and promote different means of what a memorial can be.

The Omarska camp and the events in Prijedor from 1992 were among the primary reasons for the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Today, a very small number of people know about its existence, both in the region and internationally; by creating the digital platform, and through communication channels, one of the goals of the project is to present what happened there in 1992, what was there before, and what the current situation is.

*AHDA project final stages in progress*

# Serbia

*Jasmina Lazović*  
*Center for Public History*

## **Forbidden and Forgotten Memories: Combating Serbia's Restrictive Policies on the 1990s War Memories**

Jasmina Lazović's project deals with the culture of remembrance in Serbia of the 1990s wars. The project, entitled *Forbidden and Forgotten Memories: Combating Serbia's Restrictive Policies on the 1990s War Memories*, has been designed to contest the recently adopted Law on War Memorials. This law imposes the official narrative about the so-called liberation-driven nature of the Serbian armed forces' involvement in the wars in the region. At the same time, it also censors alternative memory initiatives that are not in line with the official narrative.

In order to advocate for the amendment of this law, Jasmina plans to do comprehensive analyses of Serbia's memory policies and practices, researching both publicly recognized and suppressed memories of the 1990s wars. Apart from mapping, documenting, and creating an online database of the existing war memorials, this project also focuses on unmarked places of memory related to crimes committed in Serbia, as well as the neglected memories of the anti-war movements of the 1990s.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Serbia

*Sandra Orlovic*

*(Project work now being carried out by Jelena Krstic)*

*Humanitarian Law Center*

## Batajnica Memorial Initiative

The Batajnica Memorial Initiative is a multi-faceted project developed by the Humanitarian Law Center that aims to establish a memorial site in virtual space that provides information on victims based on court documentation and personal testimonies. Additionally, the Initiative launched an online petition for establishing a memorial site for the victims of crimes whose bodies were found in secret mass graves and produced the documentary called *Depth Two* about a mass grave discovered in Batajnica in 2001, in which the bodies of Kosovo Albanian civilians killed during the war in Kosovo were found. The list of victims, their stories and the petition can be found online [here](#).

*Depth Two* premiered at the 66th International Film Festival in Berlin (*Berlinale*) in February 2016 and was subsequently shown at festivals in Greece, Germany, Serbia, UK, Romania, Russia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Brazil, Macedonia, Canada, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Spain. It was also screened in several towns in Serbia and Kosovo. The film won the Award for Best Film Editing at the Beldocs International Documentary Film Festival in Belgrade, the Grand Jury Award at the Open City Festival in London, the Critics Award at the Atlántida Film Fest in Spain, the Best Director and Best Screenplay awards at the KineNova Film Festival in Skopje, and the Grand Prix of the festival at the IFF Message to Man in Saint Petersburg, Russia. A short video collage about the film's screenings can be viewed [here](#). Columbia was pleased to host a New York screening of the film in January 2017.

The final phase of the project is currently underway. This phase includes a number of activities: (1) organizing high-profile public debates targeting students and young historians, human rights activists, and artists from Kosovo and Serbia in order to initiate a discussion on the memorialization of the Kosovo war in both societies and possible concepts of the future memorial center entitled Batajnica – Site of Memory and Conscience; (2) conducting a public call for proposals for the concept of the future memorial center Batajnica – Site of Memory and Conscience and organizing an exhibition of the shortlisted proposals; and (3) preparing and submitting the official request for the establishment of the Batajnica Memorial Centre to the Serbian Parliament and Government and, along with the winning concept, at least 7,000 signatures of support and messages by participants of the New Generation Dialogue Forum and other supporters.

*AHDA project in progress*

# South Africa

*Bonita Bennett*

*District Six Museum*

*Website: <https://www.districtsix.co.za/>*

## Voices on the Landscape

The campaign to have District Six in Cape Town declared as a National Heritage Site is the objective of this project. There is a statutory part to the project, as well as an activist/civic engagement component of the project. Both are still in progress: the former is being negotiated with the government authorities tasked with this responsibility while the latter is an ongoing process, which deals with engaging communities in various programs to support the campaign.

*AHDA project in progress*

# South Africa

*Friederike Bubenzer*

*Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and the University of Stellenbosch, with funding from the Mellon Foundation*

*Website: <http://trauma-memory-arts.org.za/home-version-2/about/>*

## Trauma, Memory and Representations of the Past

Trauma, Memory and Representations of the Past is a multi-year collaboration between the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) and Professor Pumla Gobodo Madikizela at the University of Stellenbosch that seeks to gain an understanding of the nature and manifestations of intergenerational and historical trauma in South Africa. It is the first project of its kind and integrates an exciting art component. The first phase of the project, which is now complete, involved collecting oral history life story interviews; in the second phase, the project will conduct focus groups with second generation participants.

For many respondents participating in the first phase, this was the first time they told their life stories, and it is hoped that this will contribute to a sense of acknowledgement of past experiences during apartheid. The life stories will be added to a larger repository, and well known South African artist Sue Williams and award-winning actress and playwright Thembi Mtshali-Jones are potential contributors to the artistic representations of these stories at a later stage. This part of the five-year project will be completed in the upcoming months.

Friederike Bubenzer is also working on a research project on the interconnectedness of mental health and peacebuilding. This is a collaboration between IJR and the War Trauma Foundation that developed from an international conference and its outcome [report](#). The study suggests that communities are likely to be caught in cycles of pain and conflict if historical and intergenerational trauma is not acknowledged and integrated into long-term post-conflict reconstruction and social transformation efforts (including historical dialogue). This is as relevant in countries like Zimbabwe (e.g. the Gukurahundi massacre of the 80s which remains unaddressed) and South Sudan (e.g. the 1990 Bor massacre which continues to surface in much of the conflict analysis conducted as part of current political dynamics) as it is in South Africa, the USA, and Australia. The majority of countries that have emerged out of conflict in the last four decades and have not yet resolved historical violations in the immediate post-conflict era have returned to conflict. Sustainably and holistically integrating mental health and psycho-social support into transitional justice, historical dialogue, and peacebuilding efforts could potentially undo harmful cycles of repetition.

*AHDA project in progress*

# South Korea

*Mikang Yang*

*The International NGO History Forum for Peace in Northeast Asia*

*Website: [http://www.historyngo.org/bbs/board.php?bo\\_table=09\\_4](http://www.historyngo.org/bbs/board.php?bo_table=09_4)*

## Joint History Textbook

Mikang Yang's project is issuing a joint history textbook with contributors from Japan, Korea, and China as a project developed in part from a summer youth camp held annually in one of the three countries in which kids and teachers participate in joint history classes.

In 2015, Mikang and her organization successfully published the first English language version of *A History to Open the Future: Modern East Asian History and Regional Reconciliation*. This is the first common history textbook jointly written by scholars and experts from Korea, Japan, and China and focusing on modern East Asian history and regional reconciliation. After being translated into English, it was published on July 13 by the Asia-Pacific Research Center at the University of Hawaii. The newly released English version can be purchased [here](#). The common history textbook has sold around 300,000 copies in the three countries with 100,000 copies sold in Korea. The textbook is used as a supplementary teaching resource in some secondary schools and a reference book in universities. The Korea-based organization, Asia Peace & History Education Network, has used it as the main textbook at its annual History Study Camp for Korean-Chinese-Japanese Youths. It also appears in a comic book edition for primary school students.

*AHDA project completed*

# South Sudan

*Dorcas Francis Loly Werson*

*The Advocate for Human Rights and Democracy*

## Community Memorialization and Reconciliation in South Sudan

Dorcas Francis Loly Werson works as an Advocacy Officer for the non-profit organization The Advocate for Human Rights and Democracy (TAHURID). Her role is to advocate for the advancement and protection of the human rights of the South Sudanese people through advocacy and education and by empowering the community on human rights principles and democratic concepts guaranteed by the South Sudan Constitution, applicable laws, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While at Columbia University, she developed an oral history project entitled Community Memorialization and Reconciliation in South Sudan. This project aims to document stories of women victims living in camps as internally displaced persons. The main objectives of the project are to support inclusive societies; advance sustainable peace and development; protect women and girls from violence, exploitation, and abuse; and provide activists with the tools necessary to develop human rights advocacy plans.

*AHDA project in progress*



# Spain (Catalonia)

*Oriol Lopez Badell*

*European Observatory on Memories - University of Barcelona Solidarity*

*Foundation*

*Website: [www.europeanmemories.net](http://www.europeanmemories.net)*

## Strengthening Democratic Culture and Values in Spain

The project designed by Oriol Lopez Badell during his stay at Columbia as an AHDA fellow has resulted in a number of different activities in 2015 and 2016. November 20, 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of Franco's death in Spain. This event sparked a series of activities connected to the memory of the Spanish Civil War and Franco dictatorship including: (1) the *Franco 40/40* project, (2) a tribute to Maria Salvo (former political prisoner during Franco dictatorship), (3) the international conference, "Victory Over Fascism: Barcelona 1936," (4) a short [documentary](#) also titled *Victory Over Fascism: Barcelona 1936*, and (5) tours for school groups through memory sites in the Les Corts and Gracia districts of Barcelona linked to the Spanish Civil War and Francoist dictatorship.

*AHDA project completed; other projects in progress*

# Sri Lanka

*Evelyn Dissanayake*  
*Asian Press Institute*

## **Living with Memories: An Oral History and Memory Project on Enforced Disappearances in Sri Lanka**

As an AHDA fellow, Evelyn created an oral history and memory project based on her research on enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka. The goal of the project is to promote freedom of expression and right to information by creating a space for the families of the enforced disappeared to share their past and current memories through oral narratives. The recorded stories will be digitally archived and shared with diverse civil society organizations, human rights groups, policymakers, and duty-bearers to encourage them towards open dialogues on enforced disappearance in the country. This also opens up an opportunity to bridge diverse ethnic communities to initiate interethnic dialogues and create space for the families of the disappeared to share their memories with each other in order to minimize the perceptual gaps that further misunderstanding and lead to conflicts. The project also aims to digitally map enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka in order to document these cases for future reference and pressure legal bodies and the government to probe into the issue of enforced disappearance and initiate remedial mechanisms for the families of the enforced disappeared such that they may receive redress and justice.

Sri Lanka is currently going through a political process in which democracy and freedom of expression have come into question. Encouraging dialogue between diverse communities and the sharing of narratives among different ethnic communities will help bring out different views and interpretations of historical narratives and promote reconciliation and future coexistence.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Sri Lanka

*Hasini Haputhanthri*

*Social Cohesion and Transformation (FLICT)*

## University Exchanges for Social Cohesion and Transformation

A university exchange program has been established with the two camps of the former conflict in Sri Lanka. The students in the exchange program include ex-combatants and other students. The program takes them to former battlegrounds and gives them space to reflect on dealing with difficult pasts and mass atrocities. They have the opportunity to meet victims of the violent conflict, which can lead to transformational changes. These experiences are being documented with the intent to share them more widely in the future.

One success story from the last exchange highlights the program's methods. Students from Kelaniya University visited the students from Jaffna University, going to their homes, visiting with families affected by the war, and listening to their stories. Students visited the last battlegrounds and saw the remnants of the remaining war equipment. One boy, Sukarnan, is now a student in Jaffna University. He was a former Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fighter as a teenager and lost his leg in the Battle of Muhamalai at the age 18. Last June, he climbed Adam's Peak (Sri Pada) on his crutches and participated in the university exchange program to share his story. One of the other students commented on the experience of the program: "Everybody has a story. If I listen to the other then we can understand the other person's story."

*AHDA project completed*

# Turkey

*Murat Celikcan*

*Hafıza Merkezi/ Center for Truth, Memory and Justice*

*Website: <http://bakikatadaletbahiza.org/>*

## Database of Enforced Disappearances

Hafıza Merkezi works on dealing with the past, focusing on the Armenian Genocide and the Kurdish/Turkish conflict. In particular, his work on the Kurdish conflict addresses enforced disappearances after the 1980 military coup d'état by collecting, confirming, and publishing data about the forcibly disappeared on a public database accessible through its website. The aim of the database is to address the need for documentation on enforced disappearances in Turkey in a standardized and publicly accessible format. The information in the database is gathered primarily from field interviews conducted with the relatives of those missing, as well as from secondhand sources like media reports and legal documents. Due to the political changes on the ground, peace has been included as a new field and they have started documenting current but related data.

*AHDA project in progress / Phase One completed*

# Turkey

*Asena Gunal*

*DEPO/ Anadolu Kültür*

*Website: <http://www.depoistanbul.net/en/>*

## Political Apologies Exhibit

This project originally proposed a new exhibition and publication that would focus on eight state crimes in Turkey, all of which need to be acknowledged and reckoned with in order to address ongoing ethno-religious and political conflicts. Crimes such as the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the 1938 Dersim Massacre, the forced disappearances of the 1990s, and the 2011 military attack on civilians in Roboski were crimes committed by the state or by state-sanctioned proxies. A discussion regarding possible redress with regard to these acts of violence will transform the rhetoric of protest into more constructive and future-oriented policies that have the potential to affect the general public and policymakers.

*AHDA project changed/ updated*

Asena Gunal is now working on another project on enforced disappearances from a comparative perspective with Hafiza Merkezi. Through Hafiza Merkezi, Asena works on creating a memory tour, which aims to map the city through its political past that is inscribed in the urban fabric, and yet often suppressed in public memory. During the AHDA fellowship, Asena worked in collaboration with Nayat Karaköseoglu to map Turkey's political past, research later used for a workshop for practitioners, scholars, and students that was coordinated between the AHDA program, the Columbia Global Center in Istanbul, and Hafiza Merkezi.

# Turkey

*Nayat Karakoseoglu*

*Hrant Dink Foundation*

*Website: <http://www.brantdink.org>*

## **Hrant Dink: Site of Memory**

Nayat Karakoseoglu has entered the implementation stage of a project to make the Agos newspaper's former offices, where Hrant Dink was assassinated, a memory site. In order to approach the project critically, the first step will be to visit sites of conscience and memorials in different parts of the world from South America to South Africa, where the project team will organize dialogue meetings to receive the input of different groups; meetings with experts, curators, historians and academics; and workshops at the Hrant Dink Foundation in order to draw attention to the importance of sites of conscience and memorials for the countering of social amnesia. A report covering the observations of the site visits and the importance and impact of such sites will be produced at the end of the project along with a strategy paper which will function as a roadmap to create the Hrant Dink Site of Memory and Conscience. The creation and design of the site began in the autumn of 2016. These preparatory activities have aimed not only to create a roadmap for the Hrant Dink Foundation's own site, but also to inspire other platforms, organizations, and initiatives to create sites of conscience and memorials in Turkey.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Turkey

*Latife Ulucinar*  
*Anadolu Kültür*

## Untitled Project

At the present, Turkey is going through a social and political process where democracy has been in considerable decline. The law has been used to suppress the freedom of self-expression and society has become more polarized around ethnic identities, religion, culture, class, and lifestyles. Critical voices are being repressed and silenced. Passing through increasingly those ahistorical times, approaching ever-escalating polarization by detaching them from the political, social, and cultural structures that lead to them as if they do not have a past makes it more difficult to analyze and see into the future. The project that Latife Ulucinar developed at AHDA aims at creating safe ground to encourage interactive dialogue between different views and interpretations of historical narratives in order to promote democratic values and open alternative spaces for our polarized society and politics. Taking into consideration the evolution of narratives and the polarized shape they take currently in Turkey, the project will bring together people coming from different social and cultural backgrounds to foster a common ground for alternative and critical envisagement and imagination.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Uganda

*Okot Komakech Deo*

*Refugee Law Project (RLP), the School of Law at Makerere University*

## **The Mass Grave Scoping Project: Conflict Events Documentation, National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre**

The Mass Grave Scoping Project is an ongoing documentation project in post-war Uganda. The project is operational at the Refugee Law Project's National Memory and Peace Documentation Center in Northern Uganda. The Mass Grave Scoping Project derives its data from engagement with victimized communities. Survivors share their memories of mass killings and other atrocities through direct dialogue. These memories are then recorded in the project's database. The database functions as an "archive" in the sense of bringing the memory of the past to bear on the politics of Uganda's present post conflict healing communities.

The project has supported the referral of victims with untreated war wounds for physical and psychological repair and also continues to support annual community and victims' commemoration of events of massacre across the regions of operations, including Acholi, Lango, Teso, West Nile, and Rwenzori regions. The project is on a platform where victims have a voice to share their experiences and concerns as part of a process in the direction of healing and reconciling communities.

An article about the project entitled "The Mass Grave Scoping Project: Remembering and Recording Memories of Silenced Massacres: A Case in Northern Uganda," was [published](#) by The Society for Applied Anthropology in a special issue of *Practicing Anthropology* (Spring 2018).

*AHDA project in progress*



# Uganda

*Francis Opio*

*Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI)*

## **Memory, Memorialization and Peace Education for a Secure Future**

Working for the Foundation for Justice and Development Initiative (FJDI) in Gulu, Uganda, Francis Opio led the documentation of victims' reparations needs and overseen the implementation of capacity building and advocacy programs to help victims agitate for their reparations needs. As an AHDA fellow, he worked towards the establishment of a community memorial space to preserve documented testimonies and/or narratives of survivors of the Lord's Resistance Army war, victim profiles, timelines of events, and artifacts intended to empower victims to heal and promote reconciliation among the Acholi community.

The project seeks to establish a bigger space to house the existing community memory center in Lukodi village, Gulu District. The community memory center will be used for remembering victims of the Lukodi massacre and northern Uganda conflict, providing victims with the space to reflect and acknowledge that conflict happened and contributing to individual healing. It will further build a sense of shared identity as victims will be able to listen and/or read the collected narratives and testimonies of others who also suffered the conflict. Overall, the establishment will further provide space for people near and far to reflect on the dangers of violence.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Ukraine

*Sofie Dyak*

*Center for Urban History*

*Website: <http://www.lvivcenter.org>*

## Sites of Memory Project

Sofie Dyak works with the Center for Urban History in L'viv, Ukraine, which has recently completed the selection process for its memory project regarding sites of Jewish history in L'viv. The Center selected three synagogues near the center of town, two of which are completely gone and one of which is in ruins. A memorial for a nearby concentration camp and cemetery are also being designed. The aim of the project is to create a site of memory and a memorial that reflects a growing awareness of L'viv's multiethnic past by creating public spaces connected to the city's Jewish history and heritage.

A second goal of the project is to create public spaces that improve the quality of life for the city's citizens and visitors. In other words, Sofie wants to avoid having a static structure or simply a monument to the past. The design for these public spaces was opened up into an international competition with 70 designs, and an international jury of experts met to determine the winners. All the designs were hung in the Palace of the Arts on public display, an event in and of itself, through which Sofia worked to promote dialogue and publicity on the topic. The winners of the competition have been announced, and the next phase will involve editing and building the projects.

*AHDA project in progress*

# United States

*Sarah C. Bishop  
Baruch College*

## **Bodies of Evidence: Asylum Seekers and the Search for Legal Protection**

Sarah Bishop designed a project called Bodies of Evidence: Asylum Seekers and the Search for Legal Protection. The project collects and presents firsthand insights into the trauma and human rights abuses constitutive of the legal processes triggered by forced migrants' arrival in the U.S. Drawing from oral history interviews with successful and unsuccessful applicants for asylum, archival records of asylum seekers, and a deep reading of asylum legislation, the project will advance understanding of the role of memory, narrative, and evidence in the contested site of forced migration.

*AHDA project in progress*

# United States

*Erica Fugger*

*Washington College Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience*

## **The National Home Front Project: Connecting American World War II Legacies with Contemporary Human Rights Struggles**

Erica is an oral historian and peace educator based at Washington College's Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience (Maryland, USA). She currently manages a World War II public memory initiative that focuses on collecting and preserving civilian memories of World War II on the American homefront. Through its community partnership program, the National Home Front Project trains organizations across the United States to record new oral histories and helps archive civilian interview collections that have previously been inaccessible to the public.

During the AHDA fellowship, Erica developed a project proposal with the hopes of supporting grassroots documentation efforts around the upcoming Japanese American pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. in June 2020. Organized by Tsuru for Solidarity, community members from across the country will be descending on Washington for a "Close the Camps" rally, further connecting Japanese Americans' shared memories of World War II incarceration with contemporary human rights struggles. It is Erica's hope that the National Home Front Project's interview resources may be helpful in conducting new oral histories around this event, and that the program may subsequently be able to collaborate with other institutional and community stakeholders in developing narrative-based educational materials around this solidarity activism. Erica sees these efforts drawing upon American historical consciousness and national dialogue around World War II in particularly impactful ways, and looks forward to exploring how the program can best offer support to this important cause.

*AHDA project in progress*

# United States

*Linda J. Mann*

*Founder, Justice and Equity Solutions*

## Georgetown Memory Project

Linda Mann focuses her work on enslaved descendants in the United States. As an AHDA fellow, she developed a large-scale oral history initiative focused on documenting the voices of enslaved descendants to better understand their perceptions of identity, faith, and meaningful repair. The project has strengthened her research and emboldened her findings that the voices of those wronged must be at the forefront of repair initiatives. Further, the oral histories documented the lasting impact of historical racial injustices. However, the U.S. has yet to confront its slave past, and as a result the country continues to struggle with racism and oppression. Her goal is to continue to work side-by-side with those unheard to assist in “lifting every voice” and work towards U.S. policymaking that provides meaningful and sustainable repair to the legacy of historical racial injustices.

*AHDA project in progress*

# United States

*Benjamin de la Piedra*

*Columbia Life Histories Project*

## **Columbia Life Histories Project**

After completing a semester with AHDA, Benjamin de la Piedra and his partner Mario Alvarez created a website of preliminary findings and secured funding to support a second round of interviews, this time with black Columbia graduate students and faculty members. They conducted these interviews in the spring of 2018 and will complete the project with an exhaustive report and set of policy recommendations addressed to GSAS Dean Carlos Alonso by the end of summer 2018.

*AHDA project in progress / second phase*

# United States

*Tammi Sharpe*

*Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI)*

## Oral History and the Civil Rights Movement

Tammi Sharpe has created an oral history project that examines the statements of bystanders or supporters of segregation during the civil rights movement in the 1960s in the United States. Birmingham was a focal point of civil rights activities and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) has an extensive oral history collection of foot soldiers in the movement but no documentation on resistance to it. This omission represents a significant gap in the public's understanding of the period and a challenge to dealing with the history of race in the United States in a robust way. Tammi publicized her idea for a project in local newspapers, and interviewees contacted her and asked to be interviewed and to tell their stories. Those oral histories are now part of the BCRI collection.

The completion of the oral history component coincided with public events related to the project, in which individuals who Tammi interviewed as well as foot soldiers in the civil rights movement told their stories to a general audience, spurring conversation about the past. The events were recorded and were aired on NPR and made available as a podcast. Finally, Tammi is completing a book based on edited summaries of the 21 interviews she conducted; the text also contains historical background on race relations and slavery in the United States and a meditation on atoning for the crimes of slavery and segregation, offering lessons for other countries trying to redress legacies of human rights violations. These three Foot Soldiers' oral histories were part of the original Oral History Collection at BCRI, which has more than 500 interviews.

*AHDA project in progress*

# Zimbabwe

*Samantha N. Mandiveyi*  
*Trust Africa*

## Gukurahundi Genocide

While at Columbia University, Samantha Mandiveyi started working on a digital storytelling project about the Gukurahundi genocide that took place in Zimbabwe in 1983. The goal of the projects is to address tribal divisions of Zimbabwean communities through acknowledgement and engagement with the impact of past atrocities such as the Gukurahundi Genocide of 1983.

She wants to create a space online in the form of the website and various social media pages where stories, documents, and historical artifacts related to Gukurahundi genocide will be uploaded, archived, and shared. The stories will be collected and recorded through various methodologies, such as harvesting events, oral history recordings, and traditional storytelling circles. This is also an opportunity for dialogue to reach across multiple divides. The long-term goal for this project is to deepen dialogue among young people who have been negatively impacted by tribal divisions.

*AHDA project in progress*

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