



ANTISEMITISM AND ANTIGYPSYISM:

*Historical Roots and
Post-Holocaust Legacies*

17 OCTOBER 2024
ATHENS

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INSTITUTE
of EDUCATIONAL
POLICY



OBSERVATORY
ON HISTORY TEACHING
IN EUROPE



PROGRAMME

17 OCTOBER 2024

The General State Archives and the Institute of Educational Policy
from the Greek Ministry of Education
and
the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe and Roma and
Travellers Division from the Council of Europe

Meeting venue

General State Archives (Dafnis 61, Psichiko 154 52, Athens, Greece).



Background

The Holocaust, a systematic genocide during World War II, targeted Jews and Roma among other groups. Its roots lie in long-standing prejudices and the radicalisation of exclusionary ideologies during the period of nation-building in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Understanding these historical contexts is crucial for recognising and combating similar forms of discrimination today.

Objective

The seminar aims to equip teachers and other education professionals with a comprehensive understanding of antisemitism and antigypsyism, tracing their historical roots, the impact of the Holocaust, and their lasting effects on contemporary society. The sessions will provide them with methods and tools to teach these subjects effectively, emphasizing the importance of recognising early signs of prejudice and preventing escalation.

 9:00-9:15

OPENING

Chaired by **Aurora AILINCAI**, OHTE Executive Director

Welcoming words by:

George KALANTZIS, Secretary General of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of Greece

Dimitris P. SOTIROPOULOS, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Peloponnese, President of the General State Archives of Greece

Spyros DOUKAKIS, Chair of the Hellenic Institute of Educational Policy, Assistant Professor of Digital Technologies in Education and Knowledge Transformation, Ionian University


Alain LAMASSOURE, Chair of the OHTE Governing Board

Presentation of the seminar

Moderation of the three sessions by: **Raul CĂRSTOCEA**, Vice-chair of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council, Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century European History, Maynooth University

Questions to consider:

- How did the position and roles of minority groups change from pre-modern agrarian societies to modern industrial ones, and what impact did the decline of religious beliefs have on these minorities?
- How did the development of official languages and cultures affect minorities, and what are the differences between biological racism and religious prejudice and how did scientific advancements influence the exclusion of minority groups?
- Why were minorities attracted to socialism, and why did states portray it as a foreign ideology?

 9:15-11:15

SESSION 1: HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF ANTISEMITISM AND ANTIGYPSYISM

The session will explore the long-term historical roots of antisemitism and antigypsyism, focusing on the marginalisation and persecution of Jews and Roma throughout history. It will include an analysis of the impact of state formation and nation-building in the 19th century on these minority groups, highlighting the transformation of minorities from being seen as strangers to being perceived as dangerous. Additionally, the session will examine the influence of scientific advancements and racial theories on the exclusion of minorities. Finally, there will be a discussion on the role of nationalism and the portrayal of socialism as a foreign ideology associated with these minorities.


SPEAKERS:

Lambros BALTSIOTIS, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and History, Panteion University, Athens

Spyros MARKETOS, Assistant Professor, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Andrei-Dan SORESCU, Postdoctoral Fellow, New Europe College Institute of Advanced Studies, Bucharest

Stavros ZOUMBOULAKIS, Chairman of the National Library of Greece

 11:15-11:45 COFFEE BREAK

 11:45-13:00

SESSION 2: THE HOLOCAUST AS A EUROPEAN PROCESS

The session will provide a detailed analysis of the Holocaust as a process involving various European countries, examining the different stages and patterns of persecution and mass murder. It will also include a discussion on the various victim groups, with a particular focus on Jews and Roma.

SPEAKERS:

Paul Isaac HAGOUEL, Member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – IHRA

Lovro KRALJ, Director of the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Research in Southeast Europe in Rijeka

Anna MIRGA, anthropologist and Roma activist, Deputy Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC)



13:00-14:30 LUNCH BREAK


Questions to consider:

- What is the significance of establishing a chronology for the Holocaust?
- What were the commonalities and differences between the victim groups?
- Why is the Holocaust described as a modern, bureaucratic process of mass-industrial killing?

Questions to consider:

- Why did the recognition of the mass killing of some groups during the Holocaust take so long?
- What is the role of Holocaust memorials, museums and sites of memory?
- What is the educational importance of learning about the Holocaust today?
- How can we counteract Holocaust denial and the rehabilitation of those responsible for genocide?
- How is the Holocaust taught today and what relevant educational tools are used in the classroom?
- In the age of AI and digital technology, how can we address the challenges of fake news and historical manipulation when teaching the Holocaust?



 14:30-16:30

SESSION 3: TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST: PRESERVING HISTORICAL MEMORY

The session will explore the legacy of the Holocaust and its remembrance, discussing the development of Holocaust remembrance and its significance in contemporary education. It will examine the challenges of Holocaust denial and the rehabilitation of war criminals and will also cover effective teaching methods and tools for addressing these topics.

SPEAKERS:


Zanet BATTINO, Archaeologist, Director of the Jewish Museum of Greece

Maria BOGDAN, Fortunoff Research Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies

Antonia LOIZOU, Inspector responsible for the teaching of the Holocaust in secondary education, Ministry of Education, Cyprus

Maria MITSIAKI, Associate Professor, Department of Greek Philology, Democritus University of Thrace

Nikoleta ROUSSOU, Academic Scholar, Ionian University-Faculty of Humanities, Department of History

 16:30-17:00

CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

Chaired by **Aurora AILINCAI**, OHTe Executive Director

Summary of key points from each session by **Oana NESTIAN**, The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (rapporteur)

Historical perspectives by **Raul CĂRSTOCEA**, Vice-chair of the OHTe Scientific Advisory Council, Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century European History, Maynooth University



17:30-20:00

VISIT TO THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF GREECE AND DINNER