

The European Summer School 2026 will examine not only the complex interactions and relationships between concentration camps and their surroundings, but also the respective attitudes of the local populations towards the memorial sites in the Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR, Austria, reunified Germany and the territories occupied by the Wehrmacht during the Second World War.

The concentration camps were an 'integral part of the National Socialist social order' (Jens-Christian Wagner); they existed in constant interaction with their regional surroundings and were therefore impossible for anyone to overlook.

Jens Schley's 'Nachbar Buchenwald' (1999) and the search for traces in Fürstenberg/Havel (2007) carried out by him and Annette Leo are examples of how the socio-spatial environment of the concentration camps can be explored. This helped to counter the legend that people knew nothing and were not allowed to speak out.

When memorial sites were established at the locations of some former concentration camps, the initiative in most cases came from survivors and camp communities who wanted to commemorate the murdered prisoners. The surroundings of the camps initially played only a minor role and were not featured in the first exhibitions. Nevertheless, the presence of the camp sites and their conversion into memorials confronted the people in the surrounding areas with a past that most wanted to forget and repress as quickly as possible.

ORGANISERS:

Stiftung
Brandenburgische
Gedenkstätten | Mahn- und Gedenkstätte
Ravensbrück

ZfA
Zentrum für
Antisemitismusforschung

ZZF
Leibniz-Zentrum für
Zeithistorische
Forschung Potsdam

Leibniz
Wert der
Vergangenheit

CONCEPT

Isabel Enzenbach, Andrea Genest, Johanna Kootz, Sonja Mues, Achim Saupe, Thomas Schaarschmidt, Mohammad Sarhangi, Aliena Stürzer, Freya Ziegelitz, Irmgard Zündorf

COORDINATION

Freya Ziegelitz | Graduate Trainee
ziegelitz@ravensbrueck.de
Tel. +49 (0)33093-608171

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ravensbrueck.de

ACCOMMODATION

Overnight stay in a shared room with full board at the neighbouring youth hostel: 58 euros per night. Monday to Friday: 240 euros.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Ravensbrück Memorial Museum
Straße der Nationen
16798 Fürstenberg/Havel

DIRECTIONS

By train: Hourly service on the RE5 from Berlin (towards Stralsund/Rostock) to Fürstenberg/Havel. From the station, it is approx. 2 km on foot or by taxi. Transfer available on request.

By car: Fürstenberg/Havel is located approx. 80 km north of Berlin on the B 96 Berlin-Stralsund.

SUPPORTED BY:

RAVENSBRÜCK
Internationaler
Freundeskreis

**ROSA
LUXEMBURG
STIFTUNG**



Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

SIEMENS

Mercedes-Benz Group

**HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG**



**LAND
BRANDENBURG**
Ministerium für Wissenschaft,
Forschung und Kultur

18TH RAVENSBRÜCK EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL

31 AUGUST 2026 – 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

**CAMPS –
SPACES –
NEIGHBOURS**
Concentration camps
and their surroundings

Credits: Photothek Media Lab / Kira Hofmann

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 31 AUGUST

10:00 **Guided tours of the Ravensbrück Memorial Museum (DE/EN)**

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Welcome and introduction to the Summer School**
Andrea Genest

(UN-)COMFORTABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Chair: Andrea Genest

14:00 **Roundtable**
Annette Leo, Katrin Unger, Sebastian Hammer

16:00 **Research forum**
Chair: Johanna Kootz, Sonja Mues, Thomas Schaarschmidt, Freya Ziegelitz

19:30 **Get-together**

TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER CONDITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Chair: Aliena Stürzer

09:30 **The importance of the surroundings for camps**
Andrea Genest, Fürstenberg/Havel

10:00 **Concentration camps, memorials and cultural geography. What we can learn from the ‘turns’**
Axel Drecol, Oranienburg

11:00 **Satellite camps as meeting places**
Andrea Rudorff, Berlin

11:30 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**

14:30 **In-depth tours (DE/EN)**

18:30 **Dinner**

19:30 **Film screening: “Nur der Wald ist geblieben” (Only the Forest Remains)**
Directed by Johann Seebacher, Tobias Hochstätger (AT 2025)

WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER MEETING PLACES

Chair: Kristina Tolok

09:30 **Germans and forced labourers**
Daniel Logemann, Weimar

10:30 **A stifled public**
Christian Angerer, Mauthausen

11:00 **Camps in motion**
Janine Fubel, Hagen

11:30 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**

15:00 **Workshops**

18:30 **Dinner**

THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER HARD-WON MEMORY

Chair: Irina Rebrova

09:30 **“Hamburg receives the ashes of murdered sons”**
Alyn Šišić, Hamburg

10:00 **“The efforts concerning Hinzert continue”**
Sabine Arend, Hinzert

11:00 **How the 1940s continue to shape public memory in Greece**
Alexios Ntotorakis-Exarchou, Prague

11:30 **Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**

15:00 **Workshops**

18:30 **Dinner**

19:30 **Roundtable: “Next door. Memorial sites in the neighbourhood”**
Chair: Nadja Grintzewitsch
Constanze Jaiser, Stefan Gerbing, Michaela Ambellan, Monika Barkow

FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER THE PROS AND CONS OF MEMORIALS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Chair: Freya Ziegelitz

09:30 **Roundtable**
Deborah Hartmann, Franka Maubach, Jörg Skriebeleit

11:30 **Critical friends**
Chair: Johanna Kootz, Thomas Schaarschmidt