

Open Forum

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Introduction

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Nowhere in Europe was the Holocaust as visible as in the Soviet Union, and nowhere was its memory so systematically silenced. The site of Babyn Yar is the very embodiment of this grim legacy: a ravine on the outskirts of Kyiv where the German occupiers murdered tens of thousands of Jews in broad daylight, and where the Soviets tried to erase the past by turning the mass graves into a city park. Only after the fall of the Soviet Union could the Holocaust be remembered in its – sometimes-disturbing – complexities in Kyiv, and in the rest of Ukraine. Since then, a lively, at times volatile remembrance culture has developed, which differs from the European one in many ways. It has its own dividing lines and sensitivities, and it often leaves observers puzzled.

To address the transformation of Holocaust remembrance, and its particular dynamic in Ukraine, the newly founded journal, Eastern European Holocaust Studies (EEHS) is inviting scholars and experts from East, West, South and North to share their views in an academic open forum. Several scholars have been requested to respond a question regarding an aspect of Holocaust memory, as the start of an international professional dialogue. Readers are invited to offer their own take if they feel they could contribute to any of these questions and beyond.

This section of the journal, the “Open Forum” is edited by Tobias Wals (wals@ifz-muenchen.de) and Andrea Pető (petoa@ceu.edu). Please, feel free to contact us if you wish to share your ideas.

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