



## **From Harm to Hope: Slow Violence, Collective Memory and Everyday Resistance**

**Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
March 25 – 26, 2026**

At the time when forms of direct violence, such as wars, conflicts and genocide, dominate media narratives and public discourses, more subtle and gradual forms of violence frequently go unrecognized and unaddressed. Drawing closely upon Johan Galtung's (1969) concept of structural violence, Rob Nixon (2011) introduced the concept of "slow violence" which focuses on the temporalities of structural violence. Nixon (2011) describes slow violence as a gradual, often unnoticed process that unfolds over time and 'out of sight'. Grounded in Rob Nixon's concept of "slow violence", this workshop seeks to explore how long-term, non-spectacular, and everyday forms of violence are experienced, remembered, but also resisted. The workshop seeks to uncover how violence unfolds incrementally over time, often unnoticed by the wider public, but with profound and lasting effects on communities, geographies, and memory practices. We are particularly interested in how these marginalised or silenced forms of harm become embedded in the material, spatial, and affective fabric of communities, and how they resurface in moments of disruption, including new cycles of violence, environmental degradation, natural disasters or political ruptures.

We also draw on the emerging theory of "slow memory" (Wüstenberg 2023), which helps us understand how memories of such violence form not immediately or spectacularly, but gradually over time, unevenly, and often silently. Both of these concepts emphasise the need to recognise the lasting impacts on affected communities. Together, the concepts of slow violence and slow memory allow us to explore how mnemonic communities emerge over time, bound by shared (but frequently marginalized) experiences of suffering, infrastructural neglect, and social exclusion. These communities often negotiate entangled temporalities of memory, where past violence is layered with present-day injustices, and where the politics of remembrance are inseparable from struggles over visibility and voice.

In social spaces affected by war violence such communities, at the same time, may become sites of everyday peace-making, where affective knowledge, memory practices or geographies of memory contribute to resisting ongoing violence. Following Ann Rigney (2018), who proposes to focus on hope rather than just harm when researching memory of past violence, we also aim to examine how peace-making efforts and resistance to violence unfold slowly, often in the same everyday, unspectacular manner. Rather than focusing on formal, top-down reconciliation processes, this workshop invites attention to grassroots and community-based forms of resistance, through memory work, care practices, and affective solidarities, that seek to repair, change, contest or transform the enduring legacies of violence. These forms of resistance often go unnoticed, but are crucial to imagining non-violent and just futures and to building sustainable peace.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

This two-day workshop is organised as part of the project *“Time is (not) on my side: Remembering victims of slow violence in a post-conflict and post-disaster setting”*, which has received a Horizon Europe funding (grant agreement no. 101130805). The workshop will take place at the **Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU)** in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We invite papers that explore the intersection between multiple forms of violence—slow, structural, environmental, urban, infrastructural, extractive and epistemic—and their role in shaping collective memory, social relations, and everyday life in affected communities. Likewise, we wish to explore how communities respond: how they rework memory, reimagine space and resist marginalization in the face of persistent harm.

We welcome papers that address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How do everyday forms of violence shape the formation and evolution of mnemonic communities?
- What role does public space and the built environment play in the material manifestation and collective remembering of slow violence?
- In what ways does slow violence become constitutive of community and interpersonal relations, rather than merely disruptive?
- How is slow violence narrated and whose narratives are legitimized, marginalized or erased?
- What affective economies shape the narration, transmission and suppression of memory?
- How does slow violence intersect with class, gender, disability, ethnicity and race, and how are these intersections remembered, resisted or addressed in peace-building efforts?
- How can acts of remembering function as forms of resistance to slow violence?

The workshop will take place in in-person format on **March 25 – 26, 2026**. Registration is free for all presenters. There is a limited number of accommodation and travel grants for presenters.

An edited volume is planned as an outcome of the workshop, and selected contributions will be invited for inclusion.

Abstract submission deadline: **5 November, 2025**

Notification of acceptance/rejection: **28 November, 2025**

Abstracts (c. 300 words), together with a short biography, should be sent to Tamara Banjeglav at [tamara.banjeglav@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:tamara.banjeglav@zrc-sazu.si)