

APOLOGOSCAPES

:

(Counter)productivities
of apologies in politics,
art, and institutional
infrastructures – one-day
cross-disciplinary seminar

The cross-disciplinary seminar “Apologoscapes: (Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures” focuses on exploring the potentialities and pitfalls of apologies in various socio-political and cultural contexts. The seminar aims to define and challenge the existing and non-existing protocols of apology in the context of current calls for coming to terms with the contentious past. Thus apology is also interpreted as a kind of counter paradigms of memory politics. The seminar’s participants will address mainly the discourses and events that resonate with an apology in post-Yugoslav’s (semi)peripheries, while some will reflect on other geo-political and cultural contexts. Moreover, the seminar will try to unleash different effects of issued or missing apologies that can be seen as steps towards engagement, repair and agency, but also as a danger to reaffirm the dominant authorities/power constellations.

The pressing questions asked by the seminar will pursue the reasons for different approaches towards apology (and its absence or rejection) in their collective and public dimensions.

Separate sessions will be dedicated to: *(Infra) Structural obliteration and institutional neglect; After erasure and cancelling: Reconciling and impossibility of apology; and Performative speech acts of apology in the arts and culture.*

“Apologoscapes: (Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures” is a result of a cross-disciplinary curatorial collaboration

between different research projects that was initiated by the seminar curators Gal Kirn (“Protests, artistic practices and culture of memory in the post-Yugoslav context”, University of Ljubljana), Katja Kobolt (“Picturing Modernist Future: Women Illustrators and Childhood Conceptions in Socialist Yugoslavia”, ZRC SAZU), and Suzana Milevska (“Ethical and Aesthetical Protocols of Apology”, Art and Theory Büchsenhausen Residency in Innsbruck 21/22).

The seminar will take place parallel to the exhibition *Sorry, the Hardest Word?* (curated by Suzana Milevska at P74 Gallery, Ljubljana, 7th November 2023).

* *Apologoscapes: (Counter)productivities of apologies in politics, art, and institutional infrastructures* stemmed out Suzana Milevska’s research project “Ethical and Aesthetical Protocols of Apology”, Art and Theory Büchsenhausen Residency in Innsbruck 2021-22. The term ‘apologoscapes’, was coined by Suzana Milevska – in reference to five other ‘scapes’ suggested by Arjun Appadurai in his 1990 article: “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy” (Theory, Culture & Society, 7, 295-310).

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**Seminar's programme:
8.11.2023, 9:30–18:00**

ZRC SAZU

9:30–9:45

Welcome and introduction:
Gal Kirn, Katja Kobolt and Suzana
Milevska

9:45 –11:45

**(Infra)Structural obliteration and
institutional neglect**

Position paper and moderation:

Katja Kobolt (Institute of Culture
and Memory Studies, ZRC SAZU)

Lilijana Burcar (Faculty of Arts,
University of Ljubljana): *Festival
Kurirček (Partizan Courier),
Lost and squandered heritage of
antifascism and unique children's
cultural landscape*

Sanja Petrović Todosijević (Institute
for Recent History of Serbia,
Belgrade): *When monuments fall
silent. The Boško Buha Memorial
Complex: The Dismissed Symbol of
marginalised policy of Education and
Upbringing of Socialist Yugoslavia*

Martin Pogačar (Institute of
Culture and Memory Studies, ZRC
SAZU): *Railways and dreams: What
happened to the infrastructures of
socialist childhood*

Q&A

11:45–12:00 Coffee Break

12:00–14:00

**After erasure and cancelling:
Reconciling and impossibility of
apology**

Position paper and moderation:
Gal Kirn (Department of Sociology,
Faculty of Arts, University of
Ljubljana)

Jovana Mihajlović Trbovc (Institute
of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC
SAZU): *Agency in addressing ‘the
erasure’ (izbris) in Slovenian public
sphere: acknowledgment, redress,
apology ... by whom?*

Vuk Ćosić (artist): *Ć – Monument
to the Deleted* by Vuk Ćosić with
Aleksandar Vujović & Irena Wölle

Simon Hajdini (Department
of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts,
University of Ljubljana): *“You are
Unforgiven” – Apology in the Age of
Cancel Culture*

Q&A

14:00–15:00 Lunch break

15:00–17:30

**Performative speech acts of apology
in the arts and culture**

Position paper and moderation:
Suzana Milevska (independent art
theorist and curator)

Seraphine Appel (Pompeu Fabra
University in Barcelona/University
College London): *Temporal
manoeuvres of apologetic settler
colonialism*

Michaela Bstieler (University of
Innsbruck): *Dwelling on Desolation*

Erëmirë Krasniqi (Oral History
Kosovo): *Reconciliation of Blood
Feuds Campaign 1990–1991*

Rosalyn D’ Mello (independent
writer and art critic): *Sorry I’m late:
The violence of chrononormativity*

17:30 –18:00

Q&A and concluding remarks

Seminar's host and partner institutions

The host of the seminar is the Institute of Culture and Memory Studies ZRC SAZU (project *Picturing Modernist Future: Women Illustrators and Childhood Conceptions in Socialist Yugoslavia*, funded by the European Union – Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 101024090). The partner institutions: Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (project Protests, artistic practices and culture of memory in the post-Yugoslav context, funded by ARRS J6-3144), and Zavod P.A.R.A.S.I.T.E. / P74 Gallery, Ljubljana.

Acknowledgments

Sorry, the Hardest Word? is the outcome of the ongoing theoretical and curatorial research project “Ethical and Aesthetical Protocols of Apology”, which I developed during the Art and Theory Büchsenhausen Residency in Innsbruck 21/22. Previously the project included the participatory workshop *Is “Sorry” Enough?* Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck, 09.04.2022, and the pilot spatialized essay *Apologoscapes – Not Yet an Exhibition* at Neue Galerie, Innsbruck, 13. 05. – 16. 07. 2022.

I want to express my immense gratitude to all participants: artists, theorists, curators, and audience members who generously contributed to various phases of the exhibition’s development. I am also greatly indebted to Andrei Siclodi for his encouragement during the early phase of the research, to Gal Kirn and Katja Kobolt - the co-curators of the cross-disciplinary seminar Apologoscapes, to all seminar’s contributors and collaborators, and to the partner institutions who supported the seminar in logistic and financial terms.

My deepest thanks however goes to Tadej Pogačar, who included this project in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of The P.A.R.A.S.I.T.E Institute, Ljubljana, and who continues to inspire and influence my work with his art practice, curatorial dialogue, and long-term friendship all these years.

— Suzana Milevska

SORRY, THE HARDEST WORD?

Curated by Suzana Milevska

Artists: Tal Adler, Marie Blum, Noa Gur, Sasha Huber, Tadej Pogačar, Sam Richardson, Merete Røstad, Simona Schneider, Sašo Stanojkovič, Esther Strauß, and Virgil B/G Taylor.

07/11-30/11/2023

Opening: 7 November, 6 pm, P74 Gallery

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Sasha Huber, Tadej Pogačar, Sam

Richardson, Merete Røstad, Simona

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