
Project REVENANT
invites you to a guest lecture by Dr. Maura Hametz

The Lager at the Risiera di San Sabba: Nation, Faith, and Memory on Italy's Eastern Border

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka,
Tuesday, 7 November 2023, at 14:30 h
Classroom F-206



Overshadowed by the larger camps in the Nazi extermination network and forgotten due to its territorial liminality in the Adriatic Occupation Zone, the Nazi Lager at the Risiera di San Sabba in the city of Trieste remains relatively obscure in international studies of the Shoah. The historiography of the Adriatic region focuses heavily on national concerns relating to the emergence of Central European nation-states after World War I, the contours of Italy, Yugoslavia, and Austria and/or Germany, and the ethnic relations and struggles among Italians, Slovenes and Croats (“Slavs”), and Austrians or German Nazis. The Risiera, remembered as “the only Nazi killing camp on Italian soil,” emerges as a locus of Fascist and Nazi persecution (articulated as Italian and then German violence) against the Resistance to various forms of oppression cast in ethno-nationalist terms. In the aftermath of World War II, nationally framed tropes continue in memory studies documenting the history of the Risiera Lager against the background of the Cold War struggle between Italy and Yugoslavia, Italians and “Slavs” (primarily Slovenes), and East and West at the southern fringe of the Iron Curtain.



Maura Hametz, Professor of History at James Madison University, Virginia, USA, earned her BA at Colgate University and PhD at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the Adriatic provinces in the late Habsburg empire and Italy from the nineteenth century to the present with emphasis on the intersections of politics, religion, culture, law, ethnicity, and national identity. She is the author of *Making Trieste Italian, 1918-1954* (Royal Historical Society, 2005), *In the Name of Italy: Nation, Family, and Patriotism in a Fascist Court* (Fordham U. Press, 2012) and co-editor of *Sissi's World: The Empress Elisabeth in Myth and Memory* (Bloomsbury, 2018) and *Jewish Intellectual Women in Central Europe* (Mellen, 2012). She is currently working on projects on citizenship in the eastern borderlands after World War I, fascist violence and the 1930 Il Popolo bombing, and the Risiera di San Sabba and legacies of the Nazi Lager in Trieste.
