

Slow Revenant Symposium

Conference room F-006
Thursday, 13th April 2023, 9:30 – 13:30 h



At a time when both individual and collective memories proliferate at immense speeds, the *Slow Revenant Symposium*, which unites the Slow Memory and REVENANT projects, will consider the multiple rhythms through which the past achieves political presence in Southeast Europe and beyond.

Slow memory is an emergent concept that is intended to help us think from new angles about how societies and individuals remember the pasts that meaningfully affect their present and future. It begins from the premise that we are quite skilled (and have much practice) commemorating sudden or extreme events such as wars, atrocities or catastrophes. But we are less certain about how to reckon with slow-moving transformations that may be just as impactful, such as climate change, deindustrialization, or the gradual expansion of social and political rights. In order to understand the meaning of slow processes and how we may remember slowly, this COST Action brings together scholars and practitioners from many different disciplines (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, technologists) from across the world to offer new perspectives for memory studies.

Project REVENANT examines the collective memories and legacies that have afforded powerful afterlives to the Habsburg, Ottoman, and Romanov Empires. The overarching project research question is: *How do collective memories of the former empires of central and southeast Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East achieve articulation through ensembles of persons, places and things?* REVENANT's threefold heuristic of persons, places and things corresponds to three further, more specific research questions. First, how and why do certain historical personages come to embody collective memories of empires? Secondly, what processes produce specific places as sites of post-imperial memory? Third, how do bygone empires achieve contemporary embodiment through a variety of objects and material culture? The project team aims to uncover the complex answers to these questions from a multidisciplinary, comparative perspective. This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. #101002908).