

MINI SYMPOSIUM 'ARCHAEOLOGY AND MEMORY. FORMER WWII CAMPS IN EUROPE'

Friday 23rd March

13.30-17.15 h.

VU University Amsterdam,

De Boelelaan 1105, Main Building, Room 06-A04

(Sixth floor A04)

The archaeology of 20th-century war, terror and conflict is a growing field of research. The archaeological research of 'terrorscapes' often overlaps with personal and collective memories. Besides memory, the heritage of the camps has been dominated in the last decades by historical research. What then, is the added value of archaeology of the camps? Focusing on the relation between the memory of the camps and material culture, three renowned archaeologists will reflect on their research projects at former camps in Norway, Austria and the Netherlands. How are found artefacts to be evaluated? Do these 'modern' finds require a different methodology? And subsequently,

in what way will they be (re)presented at remembrance centres and other museum exhibitions? Hence, the relation between archaeology of these traumatic sites and the experience of camps as heritage sites will be addressed. How is the archaeology embedded in the heritage policy of the *Gedenkst tte*, a status which brings former camps, more than other places of memory, in a field of tension involving personal memories, public commemoration, and the 'tourist experience'.

This mini-symposium is part of the (master)course 'Terrors in Postwar Europe', which is coordinated by Prof dr Rob van der Laarse and mr drs Iris van Ooijen.

Programme

Prof dr Marek Jasinski *Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

'Memory of War and War on Memories - Materiality and Archaeology of WWII in Norway'.

Prof dr Claudia Theune *University of Vienna*

'Archaeological Research in former Concentration camps. Material culture and the memory of things in places of Nazi terror'.

Drs Ivar Schute *RAAP Archaeological Consultancy*

'Westerbork Archaeological Research project'.

