



Kazara Memorial

Annual Christmas Lecture and Reception Heritage, Conflict and the Dynamics of Memory

Professor Rob van der Laarse

Research Director, Amsterdam School for Heritage and Memory Studies, University of Amsterdam and Westerbork chair of War and Conflict Heritage, VU University Amsterdam

Wednesday 3rd December 2014

6.30 – 8.30pm

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

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The world is increasingly full of conflicts: how do these colour our perceptions of places associated with historical events over decades if not centuries? In the past ten years, interest in the heritage of European regional and ethnic conflicts has grown explosively in relation to collective memory, but also in political debates, heritage tourism, the museum sector, and city branding. The so-called Crimean Treasures collection of Scythian gold, now stateless after the separation of Crimea, is claimed by Ukraine as well as by Moscow and five Crimean museums.

This lecture will focus on how the Balkans and Ukraine demonstrate the transnationalization of 'memory events' in present-day Europe. Both regions have a special relationship to the Netherlands: the Dutch since 1995 have had a painful and difficult relationship with Bosnia following the Srebrenica massacre and the failure of the Dutchbat mission, while by contrast, recent relationships with Ukraine feed sympathy for Kiev and the EU boycott of Russia, notwithstanding the loss of almost 200 Dutch passengers in the recent MH17 crash.

Professor Rob van der Laarse is Research Director of the Amsterdam School for Heritage & Memory Studies, University of Amsterdam, and Westerbork Chair of War & Conflict Heritage, VU University Amsterdam. He is project leader of the international Terrascapes Research Group which was recently awarded the Euromediterraneo Prize, 2013. Van der Laarse's research is born from a fascination with cultural power, narratives of representation, and the shadow of the Enlightenment. He started a critical debate on the essentialist assumption of UNESCO's Intangible Heritage Convention with his essay 'De terugkeer van heteigene', in *Boekman* 88 (2011). He has organized substantial international conferences on *The Challenge of Heritage* (2002), *The*

Dynamics of War, Heritage, Memory and Remembrance (2007), *The Archaeology of Terrascapes* (2012) and *Competing Memories* (2013). His recent chapter 'Beyond Auschwitz, Europe's Terrascapes in The Age of Postmemory' in Marc Silberman and Florance Vatan's, (eds). *Memory and Postwar Memorials* (2013) rethinks the issue of competing memories in Europe.

Booking Form

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Admission:

ICOMOS-UK & ICOM UK Members	£15
Non-Members	£18
Students	£10

Admission includes wine and festive refreshments.

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