

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Organisers invite the submition of paper proposals for the conference

NARRATING JUSTICE: POSTWAR TRIALS IN MEMORY AND CULTURE

11-12 JUNE 2026

VIENNA



PRODUCTION OF PRINT MATERIALS AFTER THE END OF THE NUERMBERG TRIALS, OCTOBER 1946, SOURCE: BUNDESARCHIV, BARCH, BILD 183-V00197-3 / O. ANG.

KEY DATES

22TH MARCH 2026

Abstract submission
deadline

30 TH APRIL 2026

Confirmation of
participation

11-12TH JUNE2026

Conference
date

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The year 2026, marking the eightieth anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials (1945–1946), invites renewed reflection on the significance of post-war justice in the longue durée of twentieth-century European history.

As the foundational moment of an era of reckoning with totalitarianism, the trials initiated a complex and multi-phase process of legal, moral, and cultural confrontation with the legacy of war crimes. This process extended well beyond the 1940s, unfolding over subsequent decades, from high-profile trials in West Germany to belated reckonings in Austria and other European states. Public engagement elevated the trials beyond their legal framework, turning them into sites of social and cultural meaning. Reported by the press, radio, and later television, they generated enormous public interest, influenced the perception of history, and co-created narratives about guilt, responsibility, victims and perpetrators. Over time, they became an important reference for artistic and creative expressions, manifested in diverse forms and practices engaging with memory.

The discussion on post-war reckoning provides an opportunity to reflect on contemporary responses to violence and human rights violations, as well as on the role of scholarly research in the face of current conflicts and growing political tensions in Europe and around the world. The conference seeks to examine post-war trials as a long-term historical, legal, social and cultural phenomenon. Drawing on approaches from different fields of scholarship, it will address the immediate post-1945 tribunals and their aftermath, as well as later trials and broader processes of post-conflict justice in diverse contexts. Attention will be given to the historical, social, and media contexts of these trials, their forms of documentation and reception, as well as their representation in literature, film, theatre, music, and the visual arts. We also invite contributions focusing on non-European contexts, perspectives, and historical settings.

We invite abstracts covering topics that include, but are not limited to:

- **Historical and Legal Contexts:** The Nuremberg Trials and their impact on the development of international criminal law; Trials in Germany, Austria, Poland, and other countries; Shifts in legal categories: from war crimes to crimes against humanity
- **Social and Political Dimensions:** Reception of post-war trials in European societies; Public debates on guilt, responsibility, and retribution; The role of victims' and witnesses' testimonies
- **Trials in the Media:** Press, radio, television, and digital coverage of trials, Documentary recordings as historical sources, Visual and rhetorical strategies in depicting perpetrators and victims
- **Cultural and Artistic Representations:** Trials as motifs in literature, theatre, film, and the visual arts; Artistic reconstructions, reinterpretations, and revisitations; Documentary literature and nonfiction in the context of legal history
- **Memory Studies and Politics of Memory:** Post-war trials in European cultural memory; Transnational and comparative perspectives; Institutionalization of the memory of trials (museums, archives, education)
- **Contemporary Relevance:** Continuities between post-war tribunals and modern international courts; Narratives of responsibility in the context of contemporary conflicts; Challenges for law, memory, and justice in the twenty-first century

TIMELINE AND SUBMISSIONS

Proposals must include, in a single PDF file:

- 1) paper abstract (max. 1,000 words)
- 2) brief biography of the author(s)

All conference submissions must be in English, and all accepted works are to be presented in English. Proposals for the conference should be submitted to **office@vienna.pan.pl** by **March 22, 2026**.

ACCOMODATION AND TRAVEL

The conference will take place over two days, on 11-12 June 2026, at the Polish Academy of Sciences – Scientific Centre in Vienna (Boerhaavegasse 25, 1030 Vienna).

The organisers encourage in-person participation by all speakers. However, depending on the circumstances, some presentations could be delivered online. Please note that invited speakers will be responsible for their transport to and from Vienna.

Participation in the conference is free of charge, and participants will be offered lunch and coffee during the breaks. Participants without institutional support may receive reimbursement of travel expenses up to €150 per person, as well as modest complimentary accommodation at the PAS Scientific Centre in Vienna. For those requesting support, a brief statement of purpose (500–650 words) should be submitted with the abstract and biography.

Inquiries can be made by e-mail to monika.gromala@vienna.pan.pl, milena.blahuta@vienna.pan.pl

ORGANISERS:



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Scientific Center



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