

Dear Sir/Madam,

We invite you to participate in the 10th conference in the **Faces of War** (Polish: Oblicza Wojny) series, which, as per tradition, will be held in the hospitable premises of the Institute of History at the University of Lodz and online on **June 5-6, 2025**. This year's proceedings will be dedicated to the theme of **'War and Remembrance'**.

War, as an individual and collective experience, as well as an element of political, historical, and cultural narratives, is inextricably linked to memory and various forms of commemoration. Among the topics we would like to discuss at our conference, we intend to pay particular attention to the connections between war, memory, and identity. We are also keen on exploring the evolution of memory and the creation of related myths and legends. We hope that the presentations will consider various forms of memory – from individual experiences to the perspectives of social, political, and national groups. We also welcome papers analyzing examples of referencing war experiences through their illustration and commemoration. For this reason, we are interested in literary, architectural, visual, cinematic, and other works used as tools to shape perceptions of historical conflicts.

Also, we hope that the conference will serve as a forum for presenting previously unknown sources – historical, archaeological, and others – as well as new interpretations of texts and artifacts that have already been studied. We also highlight the challenges related to documenting contemporary conflicts, including verifying the credibility and archiving of materials produced *en masse* during such events.

We want to emphasize the role of memorial sites such as architectural monuments, museums, memorials, and cemeteries. Discussions may include topics related to reconciliation processes, as well as the impact of memory politics on historical and social narratives and international relations.

We welcome researchers from various disciplines studying different cultures and periods – from antiquity to contemporary times. Please refer to the list of suggested topics below, but other subjects related to the overarching research problem of the conference are also welcome.

Organizers plan to publish a post-conference volume with the University of Lodz Press, containing articles that receive positive reviews.

We warmly welcome you to participate in our conference!

Organizing Committee

Suggested Topics

1. War, Memory, and Identity

- Armed conflicts in the memory of victors, the defeated, and neutrals
- The evolution of war memory
- Reflections on war, memory, and identity
- The social construction of war memory: living memory versus official memory
- Memory of war conflicts as a propaganda tool
- Transgenerational memory: passing war experiences between generations
- Memory conflicts: different narratives of various social and political groups about the same war
- Combatants in the memory of their descendants
- Forgotten histories

2. Historical Sources and Their Interpretation

- (Not only) historical sources as memory carriers for studying armed conflicts
- Known sources – new interpretations
- War in ego-documents
- Archiving war: from parchment documents to 3D technology
- Traces of armed conflicts in archaeological material
- Mass burial sites and their research

3. Memory Politics and Commemoration Mechanisms

- Mechanisms of commemorating armed conflicts in different countries and periods
- Memory politics and historical narratives: shaping and utilizing war memory
- Conflicts over memory: international disputes over war commemoration
- The role of international institutions in shaping war memory (e.g., UNESCO, UN)
- Processes of forgiveness and reconciliation after armed conflicts

4. Memorial Sites and Their Functions

- Memorial sites – museums, monuments, cemeteries
- Architecture – a witness to history
- Monuments and memorial sites as expressions of social and political interpretations of war
- Museums as spaces of war memory
- Museums – the boundary between commemoration and the glorification of war

5. War in Culture and Art

- Strategies for shaping and utilizing war memory in art
- War as a theme in literature, art, and film
- Destruction of architectural and artistic works due to military actions
- Historical reconstruction as an expression of historical memory
- War legends and myths
- War in anecdotes

6. Regional and Contemporary Contexts of Memory

- The war in Ukraine and its impact on historical memory in Europe
- War memory in different cultures
- Hybrid conflicts and their documentation for future generations
- Contemporary challenges in preserving war memory in the era of disinformation

Organizational Information

- Hybrid format of proceedings
- On-site sessions – Institute of History, University of Lodz, A. Kaminski Street 27a
- Online sessions – MS Teams
- Chronological scope – from antiquity to contemporary times
- Interdisciplinary conference
- Presentation duration – 15 minutes
- Conference languages – Polish, English, Ukrainian
- Conference participation application – via the registration form available on the website www.obliczawojny.uni.lodz.pl
- The organizers plan to publish submitted articles
- Student participation requires approval from an academic supervisor

Conference Fee

- On-site participation – 500 PLN (includes coffee breaks, two lunches, a formal dinner, conference materials, excluding accommodation)
- On-site participation with accommodation for one night – 665 PLN (includes coffee breaks, two lunches, a formal dinner, and conference materials)
- On-site participation with accommodation for two nights – 830 PLN (includes coffee breaks, two lunches, a formal dinner, and conference materials,)
- Online participation – **free** (with technical support, conference materials in PDF format)
- Payment account – 78 1240 3028 1111 0011 4844 7890 (Bank Pekao S.A.)

Timeline

- January 16 – Start of application submissions
- April 12 – Application submission deadline
- May 4 – Payment deadline
- May 16 – Conference program announcement
- **June 5-6 – Conference dates**
- September 30 – Deadline for submitting articles for publication

Contact

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Organizing Committee

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