

Pariser Platz Seminar

Approaches and Methods in Research on the Second World War and the 20th Century

The aim of the Pilecki Institute seminar is discussion of various approaches and methods in researching the 20th century with particular focus on World War II, post-war justice and memory cultures. We recognize that historical research requires research methods and research imagination of other social sciences too. We include not only research carried out by historians, but also by sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists or law scholars. We want to animate a lively and constructive workshop to discuss each other's' work with particular focus on methods and analytical tools used in respective research. If you would like to submit a paper and present your research, feel free to propose one (m.falkowski@instytutpileckiego.pl). The seminars take place at the Pilecki Institute Berlin, Pariser Platz 4a (S Bahn Brandenburger Tor). Depending on the speaker's wishes, the speeches and discussions will be in German or English

Monday, March 2, 2020, 12-2pm

Oral history: between documentary intervention and theoretical innovation

Piotr Filipkowski

Piotr Filipkowski will start by taking a brief look at the oral history tradition in Europe and the United States, showing also its dynamic development in Central-Eastern Europe after 1989. This overview will be followed by a closer insight into his own experience in oral history field - as interviewer and researcher in several important projects. This part will be illustrated by fragments of video interviews, that we will analyse together. The latter should be a starting point for discussion with workshop participants on practical, methodological, ethical and theoretical questions related to oral history - and research on contemporary past in general. The final shape of the workshop depends to much extend on the interests and engagement of participants.

Piotr Filipkowski is a Research Fellow at the Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin and author of "Oral History and the War. Nazi Concentration Camp in a Biographical-Narrative Perspective" (Peter Lang Verlag, 2019)