

# Chronic Violence and Collective Trauma

(6 ECTS credits, BA, module-no. 1422)

*The English language will be the medium of instruction*

**Lecturers:** Rohullah Amin, M.D. M.A.

**Time:** On Thursdays, 13:15 – 14:45, start date: April, 4 2019, in building 33, room no. 1313

**Double sessions:**

May 16, 13:15 to 14:45, in room 1313, from 14:45 to 16:15 in room 1312

June 13, 13:15 to 14:45 in room 1313, from 14:45 to 16:15 in room 1413

**Objectives of the seminar:**

This seminar focuses on the effects of protracted conflicts on individual and communities and is part of module 1422-V2 Power and Domination in Societies.

The goal of this seminar is to provide basic knowledge of the social and psychological effects of long term conflict on individuals and collectives. Among many, psychological trauma is one of the most pervasive conditions found in the aftermath of conflict. This seminar will expand your views on invisible emotional, cognitive, behavioral and social processes that are shaped by the experience of violence.

This seminar aims at exploring ongoing discourses in the realms of exploration on the impacts of large scale and long term violence on populations; how do intellectual communities make sense of the psychological and social processes that shape human experiences?

This seminar benefits from the interdisciplinary approach of this course that brings together a wide range of scholarly perspectives from different domains of social sciences. Established theories and critical perspectives will be presented in this seminar alongside the contributions to the discourse from the viewpoints of survivors as well as from supporting professionals.

The literature discussed in this course examines the how(s) and why(s) individuals processing violence as victims, witnesses or perpetrators; this will also include supporting professionals who are vulnerable to secondary trauma as they work with survivors. We will also discuss the nature of trauma, get to know forms and shapes that it takes, and examine its capacity to move through space, time, generations particularly with the increasing role of the media and internet.

We will see how survivors remember, forget, narrate, deny or acknowledge their experience of trauma. We will focus on how all of these take place in individuals in relation to those around them shaping and reshaping their collective memory, identity, and their social roles.

**Requirements:**

Regular attendance, active participation as well as doing the mandatory readings are basic conditions for successful completion of the course.

You will have to do a **presentation** on an assigned topic on sessions eight or nine towards the end of the course. Students will have to do a presentation on one of the assigned topics related to the course in groups of two. With 20 students in class, there will be 10 groups making their presentations in two colloquium days scheduled towards the end of the trimester. The presentation has to be accompanied by a handout and it will make 1/3 of the final grade.

Finally, you will have to write a **term paper** on a topic of your choice relevant to the seminar topic. You will have time until the end of the seminar (June 25, 2019) to decide about the topic of your term paper. The term paper must be between 3500 to 4500 words in English. The format should consistently be typed in 12 pt, Times New Roman font, double spaced in a standard sized page of word document. You can schedule a meeting during office hours to discuss your topic. The deadline for the term paper is July 15, 2019. Please use APA 6th edition referencing and citation style for your term paper. The term paper makes 2/3 of the final grade.

There is no tolerance for plagiarism and breach of academic integrity. Participants are highly encouraged to learn how to appropriately attribute credit to authors and publishers.

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **1. Introduction: April 4, 2019 at 13:15-14:45**

Laying the grounds for the structure and contents of the seminar

- Welcoming the participants, introduction to instruction goals and methods, canvas, group formation, and logistics
  
- Introduction to the concept of trauma, violence and the process of interaction between people as individuals or as a community in violent environments, particularly during prolonged conflicts

#### Assigned reading for the psychology of chronic violence:

Bar-Tal, D. (2007). Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 50(11), 1430–1453.

#### **2. Collective Trauma and Collective Memory: April 11, 2019**

Individual memory of suffering gets carried out to the next generations who have not experienced or witnessed the traumatic events themselves. There is a process in which collectives construct and reconstruct their collective memory which they inherit from their previous generation. Memory reconstruction in this fashion sets a wide range of elements in motion in a way that the collective memory's nature and function evolves into social values, identity, attributions of meaning, perspectives, and paths that communities take.

#### Assigned readings:

Winter, J. (2010). Sites of Memory. In RADSTONE S. & SCHWARZ B. (Eds.), *Memory- Histories, Theories, Debates* (pp. 312-324). NEW YORK- Fordham University.

Ring, Magnus, Eyerman, Ron, & Madigan, Todd. (2017). Cultural Trauma, Collective Memory and the Vietnam War. *Croatian Political Science Review*, 54(1-2), 11-31.

Barlow, M., Pezdek, K., & Blandón-Gitlin, I. (2017). Trauma and memory. (pp. 307-331). *American Psychological Association*.

#### **3. Screen trauma and vicarious trauma: April 18, 2019**

This session covers the types of secondary trauma without direct contact to the event.

#### Recommended readings:

Pinchevski, A. (2016). Screen Trauma- Visual Media and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 33(4), 51–75.

Cohen, K., & Collens, P. (2013). The impact of trauma work on trauma workers- A metasynthesis on vicarious trauma and vicarious posttraumatic growth. *Psychological Trauma- Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 5(6), 570–580.

#### **4. Historical trauma and cultural trauma: May 2, 2019**

#### Assigned readings:

Kirmayer, L., Gone, J., & Moses, J. (2014). Rethinking Historical Trauma. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 51(3), 299-319.

Lazar, A., & Litvak-Hirsch, T. (2009). Cultural Trauma as a Potential Symbolic Boundary. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 22(2), 183-190.

#### **5. Social Aspects of Collective Trauma: May 9, 2019**

Assigned readings:

Beck, Teresa Koloma. The Eye of the Beholder- Violence as a Social Process. International Journal of Conflict and Violence 5.2 (2011)- 345-56. ProQuest. Web. 16 Apr. 2019.

Eyerman, R. (2013). Social theory and trauma. Acta Sociologica, 56(1), 41-53.

**6. & 7. Collective Trauma and Identity Transformation: May 16, 2019**

Double Session (Rooms 1313 & 1312)

The first session will take place as usual in room 1313 in which the following texts will be discussed:

Mobasher, M. (2006). Cultural Trauma and Ethnic Identity Formation Among Iranian Immigrants in the United States. American Behavioral Scientist, 50(1), 100-117.

Wise, A. (2004). Embodying Exile- Trauma and Collective Identities among East Timorese Refugees in Australia. Social Analysis- The International Journal of Social and Cultural Practice, 48(3), 24-39.

The second session is dedicated to the **colloquium (I)**. This session will take place in room 1312. Groups will present their oral presentations in the following format:

Group (A):

**Addressing collective trauma among native North Americans. Comparative Approaches in the United States and Canada.**

Group (C):

**Intergenerational Transmission of collective trauma of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

Group (E):

**The Middle Eastern struggles to remember or forget**

**8. Transmission of trauma through generations: May 23, 2019**

Recommended readings:

Eyerman, R. (2004). The Past in the Present- Culture and the Transmission of Memory. Acta Sociologica, 47(2), 159-169.

Bezo, & Maggi. (2015). Living in survival mode- Intergenerational transmission of trauma from the Holodomor genocide of 1932–1933 in Ukraine. Social Science & Medicine, 134, 87-94.

Lijtmaer, R. (2017). UNTOLD STORIES AND THE POWER OF SILENCE IN THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF SOCIAL TRAUMA. American Journal of Psychoanalysis, 77(3), 274-284.

**9. Critical Perspectives on Trauma Studies: June 6, 2019**

Assigned reading:

Summerfield, Derek (1999). A critique of seven assumptions behind psychological trauma programmes in war-affected areas, Social Science & Medicine 48, 1449-1462.

**10 & 11. Colloquium 2: June 13, 2019 (Double Session in rooms 1313 & 1413)**

Presentations of **colloquium II**:

Group (B)

**9/11 as a collective trauma**

Group (G):

**Resilience in collective trauma**

Group (D):

**Slavery as a collective burden**

Group (F):

**Trauma and media**