

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**22 – 24/06/2023**

The conference will reflect the productivity of applying Western conceptualizations of testimony to the discussion of specific circumstances of the Soviet political and legal system. It aims to achieve a more nuanced understanding of Soviet practices and forms of witnessing and testifying.

**ORGANIZATION**

Olga Rosenblum *ZfL*

**CONTACT**

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**VENUE**

Bundesstiftung zur Aufarbeitung  
der SED-Diktatur  
Kronenstraße 5  
10117 Berlin

in Kooperation mit

**BUNDESSTIFTUNG  
AUFARBEITUNG** 

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# THE RIGHT TO TESTIFY

**THE PUBLIC  
STATUS OF THE  
WITNESS IN TIMES  
OF SOCIAL CHANGE**

**zfl**

**LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM  
FÜR LITERATUR- UND  
KULTURFORSCHUNG**



Fig.: From the collection Third Sakharov Hearings,  
Washington D.C., 1979, Andrei Sakharov Research  
Center for Democratic Development.

## THURSDAY, 22/06/2023

14.00

**OLGA ROSENBLUM** *ZfL*

Welcome and Introduction

14.30 **Keynote 1** – Chair: Katrin Trüstedt *ZfL*

**AURÉLIA KALISKY** *CMB Berlin*

The Multidimensionality of Testimony.  
From Ukraine to Syria and Back

16.30 **Section I** – Chair: Luba Jurgenson *Paris*  
**Testimony on/in Situations of Violence:  
Exemplary Trials in the USSR during the 1930s  
(Belarus and Russia)**

**ANNE HARTMANN** *Bochum*

Witnesses of the Prosecution. Testimonies by  
Western Intellectuals on the Moscow Show Trials

**LORENZ ERREN** *Mainz – online*

Legitimate by Due Procedure?  
The Role of Testimonies in Political Trials under Stalin

**IRYNA RAMANAVA** *Giessen*

Testimony at Show Trials in Agriculture in the BSSR  
(1937–1939)

## FRIDAY, 23/06/2023

10.00 **Section II** – Chair: Giulia De Florio *Parma*  
**Testimony on the Holocaust, the Holodomor, and the  
Repressions of the Stalin Era in the Literature of the  
1950s: Ukraine and Russia**

**VIKTORIYA SUKOVATA** *Leipzig*

Partisan Doctor Albert Tsessarsky and  
His Testimony on the Holocaust in Ukraine

**ANNA KRASNIKOVA** *Milan*

The Editorial Evolution of Vasily Grossman's  
*Everything Flows*

12.00 **Section III** – Chair: Ann Komaromi *Toronto*  
**Testimony on the Repressions of the Stalin Era in the  
Context of the Repressions of the 1960s: Russia, Var-  
lam Shalamov**

**FRANZISKA THUN-HOHENSTEIN** *ZfL*,  
**LUBA JURGENSON** *Paris*

Perspectives on Reading Literary Testimony on the  
Gulag: Biography, Context, and Literary Strategies  
Using the Example of Varlam Shalamov

**ELENA MIKHAILIK** *Sydney – online*

*A Letter to an Old Friend* — Who Is It Addressed to?

15.00 **Section IV** – Chair: Anika Walke *St. Louis*  
**War Testimony in the Literature of the 1970s: Belarus,  
Ales Adamovich**

**NINA WELLER** *ZfL*

Telling History from Below. On the Concept of Living  
Testimony in Ales Adamovich's Work and in the Dis-  
course on the Shestidesyatniki

**PHILINE BICKHARDT** *HU Berlin*

Ales Adamovich's Documentary Prose: *A Comparison  
of Khatynskaya povest'* (1972) and *Karateli: Radost'  
noža, ili Žizneopisanya giperboreev* (1981)

17.00 **Section V** – Chair: Olga Rosenblum *ZfL*  
**Witnesses of the New Generation. Literary and Other  
Spaces for Testimony in the 1950s and 1980s: Russia**

**NATALIA BORISOVA** *Tübingen*

In Search of Reality:  
Andrei Sinyavsky's *A Voice from the Chorus*

**MAKSIM LEPEKHIN** *Dresden*

Testifying in the Presence of the Other:  
The Soviet Subject on Trial

**TATIANA VORONINA** *Zurich*

Testimony as a Political Act: Leningrad Survivors'  
Societies and Soviet Memory Politics

## SATURDAY, 24/06/2023

10.00 **Section VI** – Chair: Zaal Andronikashvili *ZfL*  
**Testimony and/as Dissidence in the 1960s and  
1970s: Russia**

**ANN KOMAROMI** *Toronto*

Dissident Memoirs as Testimony

**OLGA ROSENBLUM** *ZfL*

Testimony and its Absence in Dissident Open  
Letters and Trial Transcripts

12.00 **Section VII** – Chair: Nina Weller *ZfL*  
**Testimony on/in Situations of Violence:  
Past and Present in Today's Belarus**

**ANIKA WALKE** *St. Louis*

Witnessing Genocide in the Age of Authori-  
tarianism: Holocaust Testimony in Belarus

**IRYNA KASHTALIAN** *Bremen*

In the Hope of a Fair Trial: Oral Testimonies on  
the History of the Crimes Committed by the  
Lukashenka Regime in Belarus

14.00 **Section VIII** – Chair: Matthias Schwartz *ZfL*  
**Testimony on/in Situations of Violence:  
Past and Present in Today's Russia and Ukraine**

**GIULIA DE FLORIO** *Parma*

The Right to Tell the Truth: Defendants' Last  
Words in Present-day Russian Courts

**DANIEL SCHWARTZ** *Montreal/ZfL*

Did I Hear Right?: Resounding Archival Images  
in Sergei Loznitsa's *Babi Yar. Context* (2021)

16.00 **Keynote 2**

**SANDRA FRIMMEL** *Zurich*

Theatrical Testifying. Instructing Witnesses  
from Early Soviet Mock Trials to Pyotr Pavlensky

**AMÉLIE ZU EULENBURG** *Bundesstiftung zur  
Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur*

Closing Remarks