

Graduate Research Assistant Opportunity
Casual Position
"Online Workshop Coordinator"

Start Date: October 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

Overview:

Our research team is seeking a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) in support of organizing an online workshop for an international team of scholars. The workshop titled “The Grey Zone of the Ultimate Rescue and Liberation of the Holocaust survivors by the Soviet Army. Tabooed history of Sexual Violence” will be organized in January 2023. The workshop aims to open a space for a team of Holocaust scholars to discuss their work in progress and receive constructive feedback from project participants as a vital step towards publishing the edited volume by Purdue University Press in 2024.

Research topic to be discussed at the workshop:

Global memory approaches the 1945 liberation of the Holocaust survivors by the Red Army as an ultimate rescue from Nazi terror or as a Hollywood-style happy ending. The happy ending survival myth has been also routinely prioritized for educational purposes and is deliberately at the core of some important oral testimonies collections such as Visual History Archive (VHA) which canonizes "exemplary" and "most dramatically compelling" Holocaust survivor testimonies. (Jeges,2020) This project challenges these canonized narratives and the mnemonic culture embedded in the myth of joyous liberation by the heroic Red Army. Our goal is to demystify the 1945 liberation of Holocaust survivors and offer a more nuanced interpretation of liberation as a grey zone by exploring individual and local history and memory of liberation embedded in the oral testimonies and memoirs of Holocaust survivors.

Without Red Army's push against the Wehrmacht, the Allies would not defeat Nazi Germany and its racial order. However, the undeniable and well-documented logic of this historical meta-narrative does not often prompt inquiry into the microcosm of interactions on the ground. In the public domain, the



liberation metanarrative is not approached as an evolving process but rather as a "rapturous moment in time" (Jeges, 2020) when Nazi evil was instantly eradicated by the appearance of the Red Army on the scene. The glorification of the Red Army is at the core of Russian identity. Putin's mnemonic wars weaponize 1945 liberation to establish memory alliances and mobilize support in the region. This project directly challenges the myth of 1945 joyous and heroic Red Army liberation and by doing so, it A) fills the void in historiography as the topic of sexual violence against the Holocaust survivors has been bypassed in silence and B) it directly challenges Russia's celebration of the Red Army and instrumentalization of 1945 history for its 2022 unjust colonial war against Ukraine.

This is a casual position, with flexibility, starting **October 1, 2022**, until the end of January, i.e. completion of the workshop. During this time GRA will work about **30 hours**.

Rate of pay commensurate on experience and collective agreement provisions (ranging from a salary range of \$18.50-\$20.50/hr).

The primary job duties for GRA will include

- Creating poster with the program for the event
- Sending invitations to join the workshop with ZOOM link, updates, and reminders about the workshop to the participants
- Provide technical support for the workshop on ZOOM platform
- Monitor online workshop and assist participants with technical issues

The successful candidate will work with, and directly report to, Dr. Nina Paulovicova at Athabasca University.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience with ZOOM is required.
- Previous experience with the organizing of online events is preferred but not necessary.
- self-motivated and able to work on own
- experience collaborating with others



- excellent oral and written communication skills
- strong organizational skills
- attention to detail
- good time management

Amount of Hours:

About 30 hours in total.

Location:

GRA will be working remotely online and the applicants can be located anywhere in Canada.

How to apply:

Qualified individuals are encouraged to submit their application by email to Dr. Nina Paulovicova at npaulovicova@athabascau.ca . Applications should include (as a single PDF file) a brief cover letter that summarizes your skills, interests and experience; a current resume or curriculum vitae.

Evaluation of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. All applicants are thanked for their interest in this position; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

We are committed to employment equity and encourage applications from women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities.

For more information on this Research Assistant Opportunity, please contact Nina Paulovicova, PhD at the npaulovicova@athabascau.ca