

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITIES, OPEN SCHOOLING, AND THE FORMATION OF
LOCAL MEMORIAL LINKS FOR EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE

CU
REMEMBER

September 29, 2025

14.30-19.00

**Spazio SISSA Medialab, Trieste Centrale train station
Piazza della Libertà, 8, Trieste**

**Persecution and discrimination based on gender and sexual
orientation under Nazi-Fascism in Italy and Austria**

A half-day event for citizens, associations, educators and anyone interested, to explore how Nazi-Fascism in Italy and Austria discriminated against—and in many cases persecuted—women and members of the LGBTQI+ community, and to learn how to discuss this history.

Participation is **free of charge**, but **registration is recommended** via the [online form](#) or by scanning the QR CODE on the side.

It is possible to register for all modules, or just one or two.

Priority will be given to registered participants; any remaining spots will be available on site.



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Programme

“Spazio SISSA Medialab”, Trieste Centrale train station ([directions here](#))

14.30 - 15.00

Welcome and presentation of the [CU-Remember](#) project by SISSA Medialab and the Department of Humanities of the University of Trieste.

15.00 - 16.00: Module 1

Forbidden Relationships: The Persecution of Female Homosexuality in Austria under National Socialism

With: Natascha Bobrowsky, historian, Department of History, University of Vienna

Before, during and after National Socialism, women in Austria were arrested, sentenced and imprisoned for engaging in same-sex relationships. The talk will examine the legal frameworks governing homosexuality in Germany and Austria during the Nazi era with particular attention to the specific challenges faced by homosexual women in Austria as part of the 'Deutsches Reich'. By analyzing relevant court files, the talk will highlight stories and biographies that have largely been overlooked in historical research. Finally, the necessity of an intersectional perspective will be emphasized to understand the persecution of homosexual women as arising from Austria's particular legal framework and the simultaneous intensification of discrimination, persecution and punishment imposed by the Nazi regime.

Short Bio: Natascha Bobrowsky studied art history, gender studies, and history at the University of Vienna. She currently works as a university assistant at the Department of History at the University of Vienna and is writing her dissertation, which focuses on the persecution of female homosexuality in Austria (1938-1945). In January 2025, her monograph was published by mandelbaum verlag: “Verbotene Beziehungen. Weibliche Homosexualität im nationalsozialistischen Österreich”. Her research focuses on women's and gender history, Austrian history of the 20th century, and legal history.

16.00 - 16.15: Break

16.15 - 17.15: Module 2

The Pink Triangle as the Peak of a Long History of Discrimination

With: Marco Reglia, historian, writer and activist

The talk aims to reflect on the archetype of the “other” — the homosexual — and its better-known alter ego, the Jew. Throughout history, both of these “differences” have attracted discriminatory, often violent, attention: from the Theodosian Code's first anti-homosexual statutes to the ultimate violence of the Shoah for Jews and the pink triangles for gay men. The presentation will trace these chronological links, including ancient ones, and focus on the nineteenth-century counter-types that laid the cultural



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groundwork for Nazi and Fascist discrimination in the twentieth century. It will also show how, unlike antisemitism, which began to diminish at the end of the war, the struggle for homosexual rights had to wait until the post-'68 movements.

Short Bio Marco Reglia was born in 1963 in Trieste. His historical research on masculinity and homosexuality began in 2005, following the installation of a plaque bearing a pink triangle at the Risiera di San Sabba. His scholarly journey includes a PhD from the University of Primorska in Koper, whose dissertation inspired this publication and was awarded an honourable mention at the 21st Franca Pieroni Bortolotti Prize. He has delivered numerous public talks on these themes and published articles both as an LGBT activist and as a historian.

17.15 - 18.00: Coffee break offered to participants.

18.00 - 19.00: Module 3

Science, Discrimination, Resistance: The Story of Enrica Calabresi

With: Simone Petralia, Science journalist, teacher and writer

Simone Petralia retraces the life journey of Enrica Calabresi, a zoologist who was persecuted and discriminated against for being both Jewish and a woman. Her life was cut short by the racial laws, yet she also embodied moral integrity and intellectual resistance in an era of exclusion and violence. This talk offers a chance to revisit her story through the lens of intersectional feminism.

Short bio: Simone Petralia is a journalist and teacher. He serves on the scientific committee of CIRSD, the Interdisciplinary Research Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Turin. In 2024 he published "Le ribelli: otto scienziate che hanno cambiato il mondo".



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