

Transgenerational legacies of Collective Violence.
Observations from Germany.

PTSD as an outcome of war has reached medical and public attention only in the 1980s, the aftermath of the Vietnam war in the USA. Psychological and biographical research on both victims and perpetrators of the holocaust show that the problems do not necessarily end with the lifetime of those who were personally involved, but sometimes even increase in the generation of their grandchildren. I will try to describe how the transgenerational transfer of PTSD and other emotional or psychosomatic burdens work and I will discuss how silence and secrecy affected this process.

A special issue of my presentation will be the concept of *collective guilt* that has dominated German politics, memorial culture and public education since 1945. It lead to a division of public and private memory which was often contradictory. How do families, teachers and students deal with it? In the context of peace-education the emotional competences and self-awareness of teachers and trainers are highly requested.

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