

**“On the uses of history in post-war Germany and post-cold war Denmark”,  
double seminar in the Modern Europe research program:**

**Wulf Kansteiner: *About Invisible Perpetrators and Presumptions of Innocence:  
German Television and the Memory of the Holocaust***

(West) Germany’s historical culture in general and public television in the Federal Republic in particular have developed remarkably self-critical perspectives on WWII and the Nazi crimes. But Germany’s celebrated self-reflexive visions of Nazi genocide have all too often evaded the key moral challenge left behind after the collapse of the Third Reich. Despite their best intentions and as a result of quite peculiar intellectual and emotional dynamics, TV professionals, viewers, and historical eyewitnesses, including Holocaust survivors, failed to take an unflinchingly look at the millions of Nazi perpetrators. As a result, the narrative worlds of Nazism, which have filled so many hours of prime time broadcasting, convey subtle, pervasive, and primarily visually constituted fantasies of German innocence. That lacuna might explain why generations of German viewers have displayed a remarkable willingness to see their country’s crimes unfold on the screen over and over again.

**Rosanna Farbøl: *Cold War Cultural Memory Sites in Denmark***

The Cold War continues to shape and define national identities and international relations, yet it has not received much attention in memory studies. This is particularly obvious when compared to studies of commemorations of conventional ‘hot’ wars, such as the First and Second World Wars. It has been argued that the Cold War does not easily lend itself to commemoration and remembrance because of its peculiar character, as a *cold* war. Yet, at the same time we are witnessing a seemingly contradictory process: the number of Cold War museums and Cold War heritage sites are increasing; this is not least true in the Danish Case, where the transformation of Cold War installations into heritage and museums has gained momentum and strong political support in the last decade. The museum and heritage sites are central in the processes of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, of “mastering the past”, that are often intertwined in political debates about the “right” interpretation of the past, and the lessons to be learned and used in the present. In her presentation Rosanna Farbøl will present some of the Danish Cold War heritage sites and museums, and discuss the way they contribute to the ongoing debate about how to understand the Cold War and Denmark’s role in the conflict.