

PAULI ARO

BA MA MRes PhD

Postdoctoral researcher



Institution

Institute of Contemporary History
University of Vienna
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Areas of Research

- Central European History from the 19th to the 21st century
- Nationalism and nationalist mobilisation
- Social action, welfare, humanitarianism
- Histories of migration
- Memory cultures



Languages

I speak, read, and write German, English, and French. I have a good command of Italian. Furthermore, I have a good working knowledge of Finnish and Czech.



Education

PhD Program of the Department of History | EUI, Florence, Italy

09/2018 – 10/2023¹

Dissertation title

Imagined Countrymen. German Migrants between Nationalist Claims and Daily Life Experiences in Austria, 1900-1960

Supervised by Pieter M. Judson

Master of Arts (MA) | University of Vienna

04/2013 – 06/2016²

MA thesis

Zwischen politischem Erinnern und ,Revisionismus. Geschichtserzählung im Werk des rechtsextremen sudetendeutschen Schriftstellers Ernst Frank

Supervised by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Philipp Ther, M.A.

Bachelor of Arts (BA) | University of Vienna

10/2008 – 03/2013

¹ Preceding enrolment at the EUI: Preliminary research in Prague as a CEEPUS fellow (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies) – Univerzita Karlova, 04/2018 – 05/2018

² Erasmus term at Université Paris Diderot / Paris 7 (today part of Université Paris Cité), 09/2014 – 01/2015

Publications

Edited volumes

Aro, Pauli. 'Looking for a Viennese Swabian Village. Landsmannschaft Migrant Activism and Its Limits in Interwar Vienna'. In *Ethnicizing Europe. Hate and Violence after Versailles*, edited by Éva Kovács, Raul Cârstocea, and Gábor Egry. Central European Studies. West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 2025.



Academic research and project participation

Postdoctoral Research

2023

University of Vienna
GLORE. Global Resettlement Regimes. ERC Research Group
Project supervised by Kerstin von Lingen

Post-Research Organisation (Archival Sources)

2020

ERC Advanced Grant Projekt: Social Politics in European Borderlands. A Comparative and Transnational | Supervised by Laura Lee Downs | Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute

Organising team

25 – 29 May 2020

European University Institute, Florence
14th Graduate Conference in European History (GRACEH):
“Adjusting the Focus: Scales, Spaces and Trajectories in European History”

Organising team

26 – 28 April 2018

University of Vienna
12th Graduate Conference in European History (GRACEH): “People and Ideas on the Move: Interaction, Interconnection and Entanglement”

Literature Research

April 2017

for Univ.-Prof. Dr. Philipp Ther, M.A., a part of the preliminary work on his book: Philipp Ther, *Die Außenseiter: Flucht, Flüchtlinge und Integration im modernen Europa*, 2. Aufl. (Berlin: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2017)

Tutor

2015-2016

University of Vienna
Aiding teaching activities of em. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Klaus Ottomeyer and Dr. Habil. Jordanka Telbizova-Sack, Sir Peter Ustinov visiting professors at the Institute of Contemporary History



Project participation in Public History

Das Wiener Modell der Radikalisierung. Österreich und die Shoah

15 Oct. 2021 – 03 Apr. 2022

Curators: Michaela Raggam-Blesch, Heidemarie Uhl, Isolde Vogel; free open air exhibition at Heldenplatz, Vienna; an English version of the exhibition will be touring abroad, https://www.hdgoe.at/wiener_modell_der_radikalisierung.

Nur die Geigen sind geblieben – Alma und Arnold Rosé

10 Nov. 2018 – 12 May 2019

Curators: Michaela Raggam-Blesch, Monika Sommer und Heidemarie Uhl; first temporary exhibition of the new House of Austrian History (HdGÖ)
https://www.hdgoe.at/alma_und_arnold_rose.

ZEITUHR 1938 - 11./12. MÄRZ 1938 - ONE DAY / ONE NIGHT / ONE COUNTRY,
11/2017 – 03/2018

Artistic supervision: Dr. Frederick Baker, Scientific supervision: PD Dr. Phil.
Heidmarie Uhl, <http://zeituhr1938.hdgoe.at/>. – Project won the Europa Nostra
Award 2019



Voluntary work in history education

Editorial work

10/2017 - 2021

for the journal „Gedenkdienst. Verein Für Historisch-Politische Bildungsarbeit Und
Internationalen Dialog“

Two short articles were published during this time:

Pauli Aro, ‘,Volksdeutsche‘ Flüchtlinge in Österreich’, *Gedenkdienst. Verein Für
Historisch-Politische Bildungsarbeit Und Internationalen Dialog* 81, no. 2/2017 (2017):
4.

Pauli Aro, ‘Rezension von: Forschungsgruppe Ideologien Und Politiken Der
Ungleichheit (FIPU) (Ed.), Rechtsextremismus. Band 2: Prävention Und Politische
Bildung (Wien 2016)’, *Gedenkdienst. Verein Für Historisch-Politische Bildungsarbeit
Und Internationalen Dialog* 76, no. 1/2016: 7.



Community service and social work

Care Worker

2008-2012

Lebenshilfe Niederösterreich, Teilbetreutes Wohnen Bruck an der Leitha

Austrian Community Servant

2006-2007

Lebenshilfe Niederösterreich, Wohnhaus Bruck an der Leitha



Conference presentations

Telling People Apart: Distinguishing, Categorizing and Representing Displaced Persons and Refugees between Europe and Asia in the Twentieth Century. Anne Friedrichs and Kerstin von Lingen Workshop at Vienna University

15 November 2024

Department of Contemporary History, University of Vienna

The “Banats Affair”. Ethnic German refugees between Ambiguous Categories and
French Labour Recruitment

Making Refuge. Place and Space in Refugee History

11 – 12 April 2024

Vila Lanna, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
“Out of the barracks ... and back to agriculture”! Ethnic German expellees as farmers
and settlers in post-1945 Austria

‘Building a Nazi Racial Community in the South-East: Mobility and Transnational Transfers between Nazi Germany and the South-Eastern European ‘Volksdeutsche’

7 – 9 July 2022

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

For the suffering children of Vienna. Vienna’s Banat Swabian Community between
German solidarities

27th Transatlantic Doctoral Seminar in German History

14 – 17 June 2022

German Historical Institute, Washington D.C.

Looking for a Viennese Swabian village. Who was represented by German Landsmannschaften in interwar-Vienna?

2022 Conference of the Austrian Studies Association

12 – 15 April 2022

New Orleans

Paper: Looking for Vienna's German Tribes. Efforts to Mobilise Ethnic Germanness in Interwar Austria

Transnational Germans: Local Actors and Global Spaces, Global Actors and Local Spaces

30 Sept. – 04 Oct. 2021

Seminar as part of the 45th German Studies Association Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana

Paper: "Alle Schwaben heraus aus dem Versteck!" Landsmannschaften, Kinderfürsorge und die Mobilisierung deutscher Einwanderer im Wien der Zwischenkriegszeit

Vienna Wiesenthal Conference

6 – 8 July 2021

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute

Paper: 'In our Viennese Swabian village'. Banat Swabian activism, loyalty and empathy in Austria, 1918-1938.

Österreichischer Zeitgeschichtetag,

16 April 2020

Universität Innsbruck / Online

Paper: 'Die größere Familie. Volksdeutsche Selbstorganisation und Vereinswesen in Österreich' – Part of a jointly submitted panel on associations and international organisations in the History of Migration.

11th Annual Graduate Conference in European History, GRACEH

28 April 2017

European University Institute, Florence

Paper: 'After the Expulsion. Post-War Austria and "Ethnic German" Refugees'

Österreichischer Zeitgeschichtetag

11 June 2016

Karl Franzens Universität, Graz

Paper: 'Zwischen Politischem Erinnern Und "Revisionismus"'

10th Graduate Conference in European History, GRACEH

23 April 2016

Central European University

Paper: 'Continuity and Resilience of Right-Wing, National Socialist Ideology in the Writings of Ernst Frank'