

NWO Conflict Studies

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During the symposium organised by NWO, within the research program "Conflict and Security" Iwona Gusc gave a presentation on antisemitism and memory conflicts.

Antisemitic frames in the war of memories.

During the first two decades after the liberation in 1945 Polish war veterans were among the biggest migrant communities actively participating in the public war commemorations in the Netherlands. Only in the 70s an anti-militarist tendency manifested itself as a serious challenge to their heroic vision of war. Once the war became mainly associated with the immense suffering of civilians and especially with the persecution of the Jews, the veteran stories lost their appeal to the majority of Dutch society. In this presentation I will shed some light on antisemitic frames that have been evoked among Polish veterans by this tension between a specific group memory and the changing war memory (and commemoration) in the Netherlands.