

Global Diplomacy Lab

**Memory in Presence:  
Memorial sites as places for peacebuilding**

Hosted by GDL member [Julie August](#) and [Banu Pekol](#)

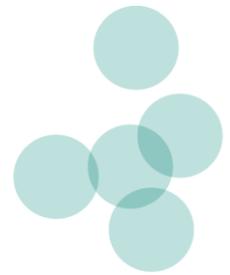
Proposed date and location: June – November 2022, in-person and hybrid event in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Societies can be traumatised by social conflicts, wars, dictatorships, colonialism, slavery, racism and even pandemics, as we are well aware. Given the fact that this cocktail is a breeding ground for extremist attitudes, building a resilient society is crucial. Too many social crises stem from unresolved post-conflict situations. Efforts to address them must acknowledge the relationship between the past and the present in order to achieve long-term resolution and help repair the social bonds. For diplomats and officials, it is essential to have the capacity to deal with such traumas.

With this in mind, Julie August and Banu Pekol, members of the Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL), propose to develop a training course for a specialist audience from the diplomatic sphere. This project, intended to be carried out in conjunction with the Museo Sitio de Memoria de la ESMA, the Museo de la Memoria de Rosario, the Parque de la Memoria and the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, builds on the ideas of the GDL's 2017 Curriculum "Memory, Truth and Justice" on mass atrocity prevention at the local level and a training course given by GDL members during the 21<sup>st</sup> European Diplomatic Programme hosted by the Federal Foreign Office.

The project started with a preparatory phase in June 2022, followed by an online Incubator phase from June onwards. The first part consists of a series of online cine-debates (virtual exchanges on fiction and documentary films that deal with the subject matter), through which participants will be able to familiarise themselves with the broader topic. Subsequently, several online meetings will be held, in the course of which participants will examine the scope of the topic and explore tools for analysing different educational practices. All participants are expected to contribute their own reflections and ideas to the debate and to help develop innovative and experimental approaches while establishing a productive exchange with the institutions involved.

The Impact phase, an in-person meeting in Argentina, including diplomats, museum staff, civil society workers and GDL members, will take place from 7 to 12 November 2022. Different methodologies will be applied, such as guided visits, discussions, workshops and meetings with stakeholders from various institutions and human rights organisations, and a training session drawing on the results from the online workshops will be held. It will target future diplomats



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who are still in training, while taking into account the evaluation and analysis of the “rehearsals” performed the previous day with experienced diplomats.

Through the project, participants will learn methods and tools for approaching different stakeholders and how to positively transform potential conflict into dialogue and peace. Furthermore, the strategies learned will serve as a toolbox for future training sessions on the topic.

**About Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL):** The nature of diplomacy is evolving. It is no longer the strict purview of national governments and international organisations. The Global Diplomacy Lab is a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics. Against this backdrop, creative professionals from diverse fields are needed to explore new communication tools based on mutual trust and to reformulate an agenda for collective action.

Host members:

**Julie August**, born in Germany in 1970, is a graphic designer for several publishing houses and a curator of contemporary art. Since 2013, she has lived in Buenos Aires with her wife Liliana Furió, who is co-founder of the collective Historias Desobedientes (relatives of genocides for memory, truth and justice). Julie participated in the GDL’s 2017 Curriculum “Memory, Truth and Justice” on mass atrocity prevention at the local level and, together with Banu Pekol and Vesna Terselic, developed a training course for young European diplomats for the 21<sup>st</sup> European Diplomatic Programme. She currently plays an active role in Asamblea Desobediente and takes part in exchange events with desobedientes from other countries, such as Chile, Germany and Spain. She will represent Asamblea Desobediente within the context of a project at the Berghof Foundation in 2023. CONTACT: grafik@julieaugust.de

**Dr Banu Pekol’s** work focuses on peacebuilding and conflict transformation in relation to contested cultural heritage. Her work spans cultural heritage research on difficult pasts and projects that produce creative and research-based results, specialising in cultural diplomacy, contested heritage interpretation and management. Currently responsible for the work of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt in MENA, she previously worked on intercultural and inter-religious conflict transformation and peace education at the Berghof Foundation. She was a Historical Dialogue and Accountability fellow at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University. Banu is a co-founder of the Association for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, a trainer for the 21<sup>st</sup> European Diplomatic Programme, a former elected member of the GDL Advisory Council and a BMW Responsible Leader. CONTACT: Banu.Pekol@bmw-foundation.org