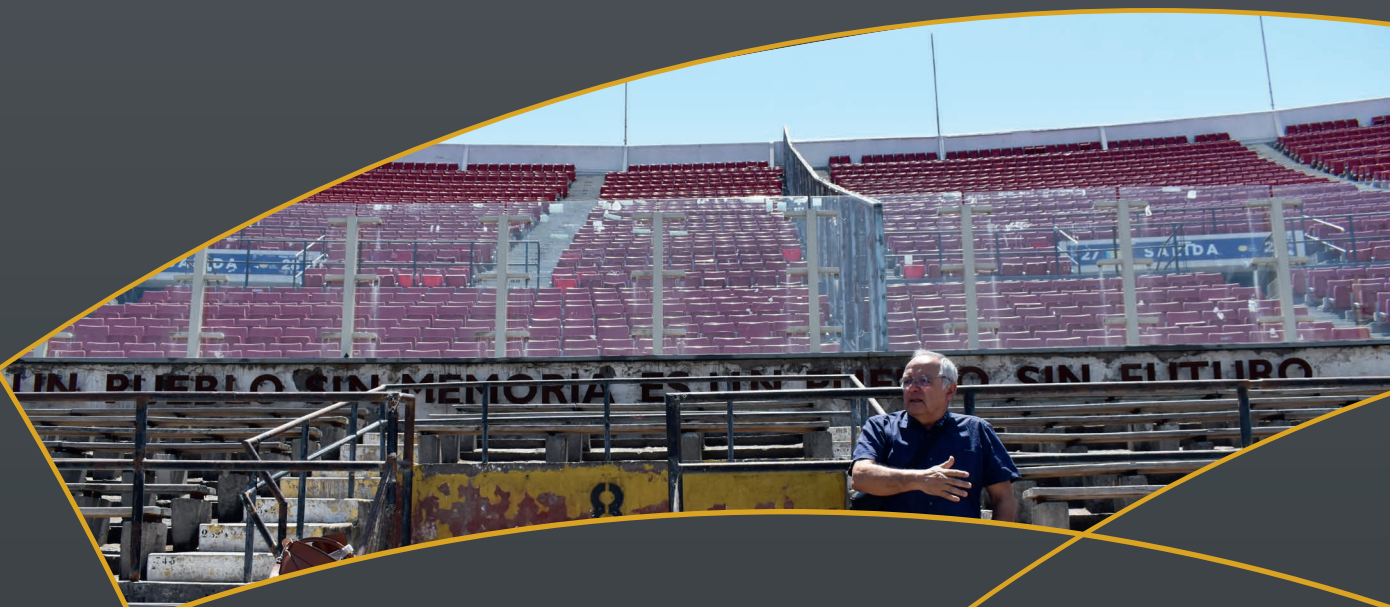




ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FOREWORD

2023: a year of diverse and intensive encounters in various regions of the world, in countries in South America and Africa, in Poland and Germany. A year of learning, getting to know each other and exchanging ideas at memorial sites, former crime scenes and places of legal prosecution. Moments of deep distress have alternated with insight, understanding and respect. The dialog at the various locations will influence and promote our work.

In addition to the fruitful encounters, we were able to present long-term educational projects. Our two exhibitions have now been on display since the end of 2023. Several years have passed from planning to realization. Covid-19-related obstacles, changing organizational conditions and personnel responsibilities on the part of the partner organizations, the elaboration of the texts and their illustrations have taken a lot of time. We are all the more pleased that we were able to organize an exhibition opening in Berlin with a great response and that in Argentina the exhibition is already receiving a lot of recognition.

Our biographical research on the victims of the clandestine detention and torture center *El Vesubio* in Buenos Aires has been published and is attracting attention as an intercultural German-Argentinean project, especially in Argentina. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone who has contributed to this.

MEMORIA Legal Working Group and MEMORIA Grupo de Trabajo Sitios de Memoria, our interdisciplinary and intercultural expert groups, have been developing steadily and for the first time are becoming active externally. The MEMORIA groups are forming an intercultural and interdisciplinary bridge between Latin America and Germany.

We were moved by Chancellor Olaf Scholz's sign of remembrance for the victims of the Argentinian military dictatorship, including Elisabeth Käsemann, during his state visit to Argentina.

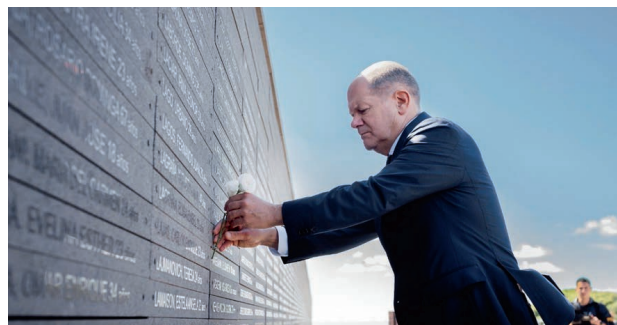


Foto: © Bundesregierung / Zahn

*Left: Exhibition Niños robados. Gestohlene Kinder. Stolen children
Right: The German Chancellor in January 2023 at the memorial in the Parque de la Memoria, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Photo on the first page: Victor Hugo Espinosas in the former torture and detention center Estadio Nacional in Santiago de Chile. He is a survivor of the Chilean military dictatorship and the stadium. After years in exile in France, he traveled to the site in February 2023 for the first time. Website of the Estadio Nacional memorial, Memoria Nacional: ► [Website](#)

EXHIBITIONS IN BERLIN AND BUENOS AIRES

Since 2019 and 2021, we have worked on the two exhibitions, *Niños robados. Gestohlene Kinder. Stolen children.* in cooperation with the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany in Berlin and *Víctimas de Origen Alemán en la ESMA* in cooperation with the Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA (ESMA Memorial Museum) in Argentina. They have been on public display since October and November 2023.

Niños robados. Gestohlene Kinder. Stolen children.

When parents and children are forcibly torn apart, it is one of the most painful experiences families can go through. In the exhibition *Niños robados. Gestohlene Kinder. Stolen children.*, the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation and the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany present biographies of people from six countries who were victims of violent child and parental abduction. The exhibition tells the biographies of those affected in their historical context in Argentina, Germany, El Salvador, Canada, the Soviet Union and Spain and illustrates the devastating consequences for the victims.

Opening of the exhibition in Berlin in the Rotes Rathaus and the German Bundestag

Numerous institutions in the various federal states and abroad have already requested the exhibition.

It can be ordered in German and from March 2024 in Spanish and English here : ► [Website](#)



Leonardo Fossati at the opening of the exhibition in Berlin's Rotes Rathaus on November 22, 2023. Leonardo was one of Argentina's missing children. He was adopted as a baby and given a new identity. At the age of 28, on August 11, 2005, a genetic test confirmed who his biological parents were: Inés Ortega and Rubén Fossati. They are victims of the Argentinean military dictatorship and are disappeared to this day.

Víctimas de Origen Alemán en la ESMA

During the civil-military dictatorship that ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983, numerous people of German origin were victims of crimes against humanity. Women and men of German descent also suffered in the notorious detention and torture center Escuela de Mecánica de la Armada, ESMA, the mechanics school of the navy.



MUESTRA TEMPORARIA

Visítala de martes a domingo, de 10 a 17 h

The exhibition, which was conceived by the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation in collaboration with the Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA, presents the biographies against in the context of German-Argentinean relations during the military dictatorship in three chapters: Complicity, Solidarity and Justice. Under these headings, the exhibition deals with the so-called “silent diplomacy” of the Federal Republic of Germany towards the crimes of the dictatorship, the civil society protests in Germany and the opening of investigations by German courts through to the German government’s accessory prosecution in Argentinean proceedings against former perpetrators. The exhibition is based on information provided by survivors of the ESMA, relatives of disappeared persons of German origin and human rights activists.



The exhibition will be on display at the Museo Sitio de Memoria ESMA in Buenos Aires until the end of 2024. ► Website



PUBLICATION

2023 the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation published a collective biography *Verschunden und ermordet* in which seven authors tell the life stories of ten European men and women who, during the civil-military dictatorship in Argentina, campaigned in different ways for a revolutionary break-up of the centuries-old structures of injustice in Latin America. This commitment cost them their lives. They all became victims of the clandestine detention and torture center *El Vesubio*, which was one of the most notorious and brutal camps of the Argentine dictatorship.

Despite solidarity initiatives in Germany, France and Austria, they could not be rescued. The crimes against humanity committed against them are now being investigated by the Argentinian justice system. European governments also participated or are participating in the proceedings and are cooperating with the Argentinian judiciary in bilateral exchanges.



The book is available in German and Spanish in the Fritz Bauer Forum store:

- ▶ German
- ▶ Spanish

Book presentation at the Goethe-Institut, Buenos Aires, Argentina

On June 23, the collective biography was presented at the Goethe-Institut in Buenos Aires. Due to the European-Argentinean background of the victims, the event was received with great by the Argentinian audience. The Argentine judge Dr. Daniel Rafecas and the survivor of the *El Vesubio* center Susana Reyes took part in the subsequent panel discussion.



Article by Deutsche Welle (DW): „Argentina: un libro que honra a las víctimas de la dictadura“, by Maricel Drazler ▶ [Website](#)

VISIT OF THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR TO ARGENTINA

During his official visit to Argentina at the beginning of February, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz paid tribute to the victims of the Argentinean military dictatorship. One of the thousands of victims was the German Elisabeth Käsemann. At the memorial in the Parque de la Memoria in Buenos Aires, in which the names of all known victims of the dictatorship are inscribed, the Chancellor commemorated her fate with a flower on her name plaque.



Foto: © Bundesregierung / Zahn

MEMORIA

MEMORIA Legal Working Group

In 2023, the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation's MEMORIA Legal Working Group, consisting of distinguished German and Argentinian lawyers, launched a new series of events: MEMORIA TALKS.

The topic of the kick-off event of the virtual series on November 27 was the German arrest warrants against Jorge Rafael Videla, Emilio Eduardo Massera and Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason 20 years ago on November 28, 2003.

A promotional poster for a virtual event. It features the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation logo on the left, which is a circular emblem with a cross-like design. The text on the poster reads: "1st MEMORIA TALK OF THE ELISABETH KÄSEMANN FOUNDATION", "The Argentine Junta Regime on Trial in Germany – 20 Years after the Issuance of Arrest Warrants against Jorge Videla et al.", "DATE Monday, 27th of November 2023", "2 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. (CET)", "10 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (Argentina)", "LANGUAGE English", and the foundation's name "ELISABETH KÄSEMANN STIFTUNG" with its logo at the bottom right. The background of the poster shows a blurred image of people in a meeting or conference setting.

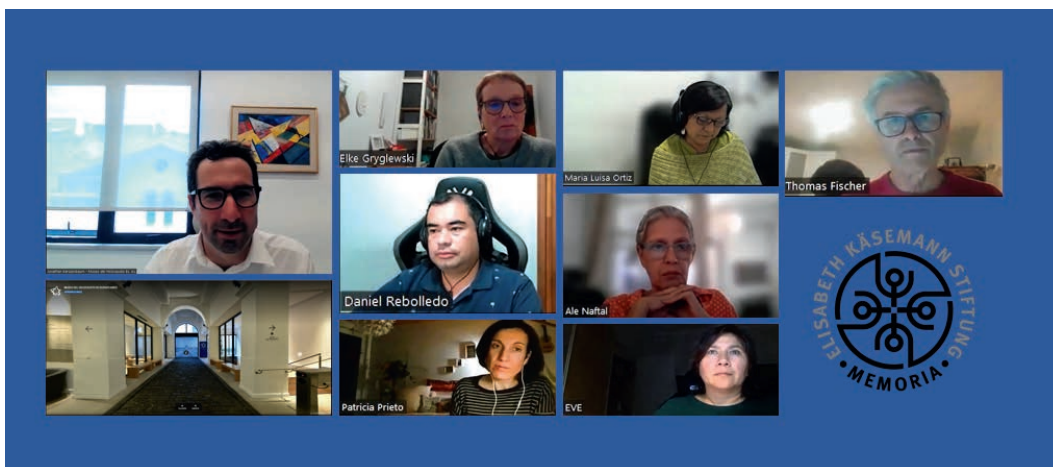
Julia Geneuss, Stefan Herbst, Wolfgang Kaleck, Federico Efron and Alberto Zuppi looked back on the historical developments and discussed their impact on international criminal law. ▶ Programm ▶ Video



MEMORIA Grupo de Trabajo Sitios de Memoria

The memory site working group was able to expand last year and gain new high-profile members. Alejandro Olivera and Daniel Rebolledo from the Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi learning and memorial site in Santiago de Chile and Jonathan Karszenbaum, director of the Holocaust Museum in Buenos Aires, are contributing to a multifaceted intercultural exchange on ways and challenges in dealing with and communicating crimes against humanity.

Information on the MEMORIA working groups: ▶ Website

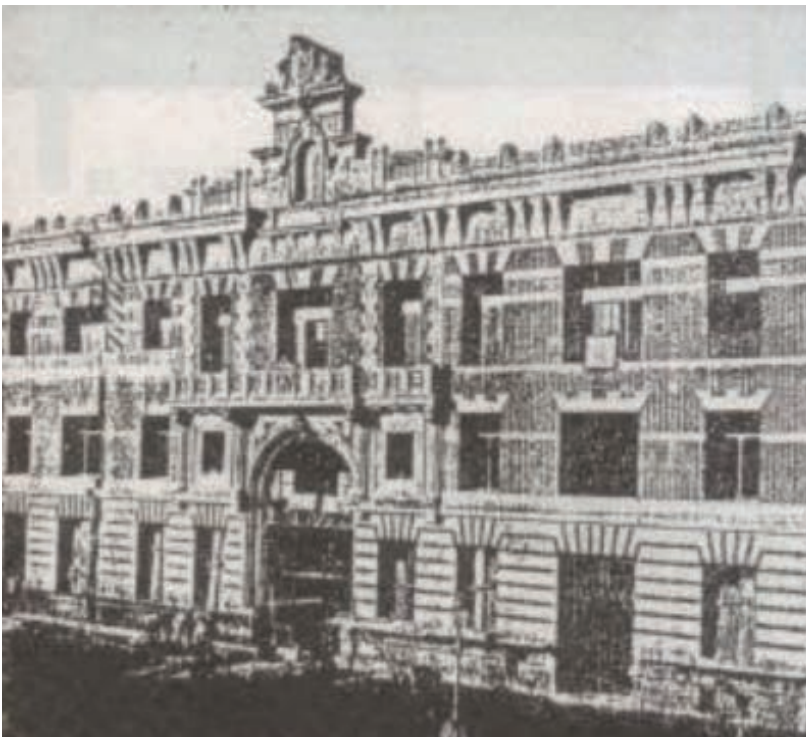


VISITS TO PLACES OF REMEMBRANCE, LEARNING AND JUDGMENT IN ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY, GERMANY, POLAND AND TANZANIA

Our trip to places of learning and national remembrance yielded new insights. How do the different countries remember and learn from past phases of violence? What is the state framework for enabling civil society to look back into the past and how is this view linked to raising awareness of democracy and democratic consciousness?

Club Atlético, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Among other things, we visited the team and the memorial site of the clandestine detention and torture camp *Club Atlético* in Buenos Aires. During the civil-military dictatorship (1976–1983) in Argentina, the detention and torture center was housed in the basement of a three-story building on Avenida Paseo Colón between Cochabamba and San Juan in Buenos Aires from the beginning until December 1977. The building complex was the headquarters of the supply service and the workshops of the federal police. It is estimated that around 1,500 people were victims of the clandestine center because of their political, social and trade union activities. It is assumed that Elisabeth Käsemann and her friend Diana Austin



were among the victims.

The building was completely demolished and a multi-lane road was built over the foundations. Today, archaeological excavations are being carried out in an attempt to uncover the structural remains of *Club Atlético*.

► Website of the preservation initiative:

The photo shows the now uncovered, partially destroyed staircase that led to the torture cellars. It can be assumed that this is the staircase Diana Austin refers to in her report to Amnesty International.

Report on the “disappearance” and detention of Elisabeth Käsemann and Diana C. Houston-Austin, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 1977 to Amnesty International, Casas no. 2320 2318 O.A.S.-Inter-American Commission on Human Right, Archiv Elisabeth-Käsemann-Stiftung, Ordner III.3, Mappe 1, S. 81.



International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and African Court on Human and Peoples Right in Arusha, Tanzania

The archive of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, IRMCT, formerly the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ICTR, offers law students an extensive collection of documents on the proceedings against Rwandan perpetrators and international criminal law. The UN body was scheduled to cease operations at the end of 2023. The future of the building is uncertain.

Not only the Criminal Court, but also the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights is based in Arusha.

► Website



RESEARCH

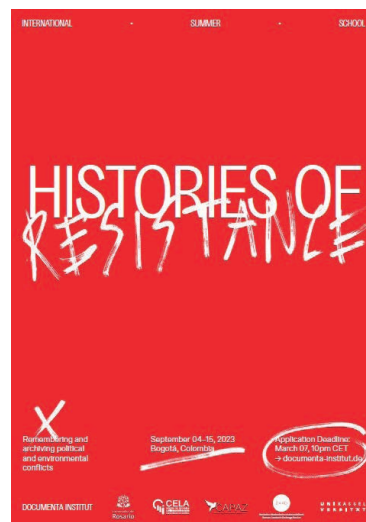
In December, historian PD Dr. Daniel Stahl worked on his research project „Reinventing the Nuremberg Trials. On the significance of traditions for the transnational transformation of criminal law.“ in the archive of the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation. The archive contents documents and files on the German-Argentinean extradition proceedings in connection with the murder of Germans and persons from German descent available to researchers.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

From September 4 to 15, 2023, the University of Kassel, in cooperation with the Universidad del Rosario, the Escuela de Ciencias Humanas and the documenta Institute Kassel, invited master's and doctoral students, artists and committed individuals from the various fields of the humanities and arts to Bogotá, Colombia. The Summer School “Histories of resistance: remembering and archiving political and environmental conflicts” offered participants from different countries a framework for an international and interdisciplinary exchange on political and environmental conflicts.

Taking Colombia – a country rich in biodiversity and with a long history of violent conflicts – as a starting point, the meeting was intended to encourage reflection on contradictory cultures of memory in the global present.



María Amparo Gomar Vidal

The Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation enabled the artist María Amparo Gomar Vidal to participate in this creative and dialogical format, which sought new approaches in dealing with a past of violence.



Scholarship from the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation

María Camila López Salazar and Sebastián Suárez Cruz received this year’s scholarship for students on the „Conflict, Memory and Peace“ Master’s degree course offered by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in cooperation with the Universidad del Rosario in Bogotá. María López is a lawyer, Sebastián Suárez is a political scientist and also studied philosophy. Both have a degree from the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellín, Colombia.



Elisabeth Käsemann Prize

Rebecca Gorenflo received the Elisabeth Käsemann Prize 2023 from the Wildermuth Gymnasium in Tübingen for her sense of social and societal responsibility in her class, in the school first aid service and in the school community.



Photo: Rebecca Gorenflo with the representatives of the Elisabeth Käsemann Prize Christa Oroz, Dorothee Weitbrecht, Martin Ulrich Merkle

Website *Gewaltsames Verschwindenlassen*

In 2023, the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation continued to support the Website *Gewaltsames Verschwindenlassen* (Forced Disappearances). It is a relevant source of information for German institutions, organizations and private individuals working on a topic of great topicality and importance.

„Enforced disappearance is a particularly cruel, multiple human rights violation and is often used as a strategy to systematically spread terror and fear in a society or a particular section of society. According to Article 24 of the UN Convention, the victim of enforced disappearance is ‘a disappeared person and any natural person who has been subjected to enforced disappearance as a direct consequence thereof.’ The relatives of a disappeared person are not only confronted with the agonizing uncertainty about the whereabouts of their loved ones, but also with the inaction of the state, which in many cases is itself the perpetrator.“

► Website

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo 'gewaltsames Verschwindenlassen' and the tagline 'Wo sind sie?'. The navigation menu includes: Startseite, Basisinformationen, Themen, Internationaler Rahmen, Aktivismus, and Länderberichte. Below the menu are three featured articles:

- Article 1:** Features portraits of Antonio Díaz Valencia (Ministro y líder comunitario) and Ricardo Arturo Lagunes Gasca (Abogado defensor de DDHH). The text below reads: 'Pressemitteilung von Deutsche Menschenrechtskoordination Mexiko und Koalition gegen Verschwindenlassen'.
- Article 2:** Features a graphic titled 'NARRATIVE VON UNTEN: GESCHICHTEN UND ERINNERUNGEN'. The text below reads: 'Narrative von unten: Geschichten und Erinnerungen an das Verschwindenlassen in Mexiko. Weit über hunderttausend Menschen'.
- Article 3:** Features a graphic titled '„LEBEND HABT IHR SIE UNS GENOMMEN, LEBEND WOLLEN WIR SIE ZURÜCK!“'. The text below reads: '„Bis wir sie finden“ – zum Internationalen Tag der Opfer des Verschwindenlassens. Seit dem 15. Januar 2023 fehlt von dem'.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE MONTE GRANDE CEMETERY, ARGENTINA

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Argentine coup on 24th of March in 1976, in the presence of the Mayor of Esteban Echeverria, Fernando Gray, Matias Barraza, the head of the Human Rights Office of Esteban Echeverria, Silvia Saladino from the victims' organization Comisión Vesubio y Puente 12, Maria del Carmen Ojea from the Colectivo de Educación Por la Memoria, Verdad y Justicia and Luisa Wettengel, representing the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation, inaugurated a memorial plaque on the wall of the Monte Grande cemetery. It commemorates the 16 victims, including Elisabeth Käsemann, who were shot in Monte Grande on May 24, 1977, and buried in the cemetery.



DIALOG AND NETWORK

For the work of the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation, contact and exchange with Latin American state representatives is of crucial relevance. In addition to our work on site, we learn about opportunities and challenges in their countries in the area of dealing with crimes against humanity. We are grateful and appreciate the fact that we have this access, which can never be taken for granted and needs to be strengthened again and again.

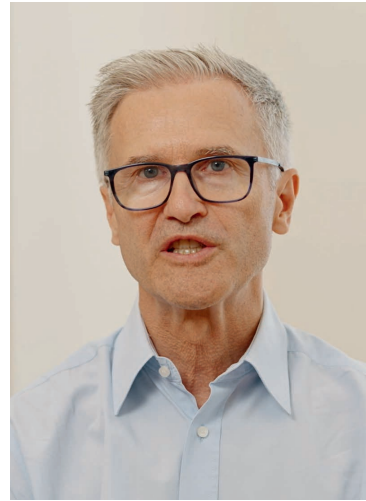


VIDEO PORTRAIT

With our profile video, which was produced in collaboration with art educator and filmmaker Valentin Henning, we would like to try to get to the point of the demanding and complex work of the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation in an understandable way. Three of our members explain the aims and work of the foundation.

Many more people and experts in Germany and Latin America who support the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation with their academic expertise, which they contribute to intercultural dialog, or with joint transnational cultural policy initiatives in Latin America, especially in Argentina. They are the network without which the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation would be inconceivable.

► Video



For more information on current activities of the Elisabeth Käsemann Foundation go to NEWS on the foundation's homepage:

LEGAL NOTICE

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