

LECTURE/WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Greece, North Macedonia, Bulgaria - Sofia 2023

Speaker: Joel Kotek – Cartoons as a propaganda tool: how to deal with them in a classroom?

Every crime against humanity, every genocide begins with a crime against the face. What is a racist caricature, if not a refusal of the face in the Levinasian sense of the term, that is to say, of an individualized, plural face endowed with a voice and a look. The deformed face becomes a real attack on the individual, denied, henceforth reduced to the state of a nuisance. The caricature of hate denies the individual, bestializes and dehumanizes him and, by doing so, prepares him for crime by presenting a face that is now a grimace. In caricature as in politics, hatred is the worst advisor. Just like words, the image can prepare for the worst. We will remember the Nazi or Hutu caricatures that announced and prepared for the worst. The objective of the workshop will be to determine what differentiates a cartoon (obviously) critical of a given situation from a racist and/or anti-Semitic cartoon.