

Regimes of Culture and Historical Preservation

Graduate Course (MA and PhD)

Winter Semester 2023

2 credits

Mondays, 3:30-5:10pm

Instructors:

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(Please register on Moodle [here](#))

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Office hours: Tuesday @ 3:15-4:15 or by appointment

Summary Description:

The course offers an introduction to contemporary politics and policies of memory, preservation, and “heritage”. Our approach is resolutely interdisciplinary, combining readings in social theory, sociology, anthropology, history, and policy studies. The purpose is to clarify as systematically as possible the collective dynamics (interactions, controversies, conflicts, symbolic and physical violence) that make memory/heritage/culture salient notions and realities in globalized, modern and contemporary societies. Readings, lectures, and conventional discussion sessions will be supplemented with several guest lectures by authors and practitioners in the field of memory, heritage, and historic preservation.

Learning outcomes:

—Substantive skills:

*literacy in basic concepts and debates in memory and heritage studies, incl. the definitions and issues associated with: collective memory/constructivism; narrative; materiality/new materialism; ambivalence/forgetting; trauma; vicarious memory; postmemory; structural vs. relational; structural vs. historical; nostalgia; authenticity; ideology; commodification/enclosure.

*knowledge of the functions and impact of key policy organizations and institutions in charge of heritage and culture at both national and international level, as well as the basic ways in which they interplay and form a (global) heritage system; definition and use of “scale”

*basic historical knowledge of the global development of the field of memory/heritage since the early modern era, as a product of nation-building, imperialism/colonialism, capitalist markets, and science-formation.

*historical knowledge of the development of memory/heritage studies and of its problematics since the 1980s.

—**Portable skills:**

*ability to analyze heritage and “memory” critically, i.e. as the products of contingent, contested, often latent, always power-driven processes, which it is a matter to analyze and explain.

*ability to formulate research questions, working hypotheses, and elaborate empirical tests.

*critical awareness of Eurocentric and intellectualistic biases inherent in heritage and heritage studies.

*interdisciplinary approach to real-world cases, issues and debates, combining 1) a solid sense of which disciplines produce what kind of research and tools and 2) openness to and skill combining the latter through research and writing (i.e. interdisciplinarity anchored in distinct, discipline-based, and outcome-specific corpuses and repertoires)

*ability to construct a dialogical and critical argument and write an essay, especially as a work of “public anthropology” or sociology (academic writing for online outlets);

*Other academic skills: bibliographic research; autonomous but informed thinking. For PhD students: initiation to the writing of a bibliographic essay or review essay (requirement for ABD status)

Assignments for MA students (in person class):

1. **Attendance and participation** in all meetings of the class when class meets in person; through online fora, online meetings, and/or weekly assignments for students taking the online version. One unjustified absence or miss won't be penalized. **30%**
2. **One presentation on (all) the readings of any given week 20%**
3. **One academic essay for online publication** on a topic of your choice, if possible with contemporary currency. Think of it as an academic blog post. The best posts will be edited and uploaded on the class website. Length: max. 2500 words (no exceptions) + relevant bibliography of sources incl. at least 3 references from the class, any number of your own references, as well as relevant hyperlinks to online sources. Draft abstract and working title due Week 5. Presentation of advanced drafts due week 12. **50%**

Assignments for PhD students (in person and online):

1. **Attendance and participation** See above. **20%**
2. 3 reaction papers including discussion questions to be submitted prior to related sessions. Sessions of your choice. **30%**
3. **Bibliographic essay** on a question related to the subject of your PhD thesis. Think of it as a literature review (20 references at least, including at least 10 from the course), on a problématique of your choice or crafting. Topic due Week 3. Draft Abstract and paper, including outline, due Week 6. **50%**

READINGS AND SCHEDULE

“Olick reader” in the reading list below refers to:

Jeffrey Olick, K, Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi and Daniel Levy. 2011. *The Collective Memory Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press.

General background references:

G. Fairclough, Harrison, R., Jameson, and J. Schofield (eds.) 2007. *The Cultural Heritage Reader*. NY: Routledge.

Rodney Harrison. 2014. *Understanding the politics of heritage* (Understanding Global Heritage MUP)

Maire-Louise Sorensen and John Carman. 2009. “Heritage Studies: an outline” in *Heritage Studies: Methods and Approaches*. NY: Routledge

Week 1 (Jan 9). Introduction

No Reading. Introduction of the course, syllabus, assignments. Memory and heritage as academic fields of study: a brief history.

Optional reading:

Winter, Jay. 2000. “The Generation of Memory. Reflections on the Memory Boom in Contemporary Historical Studies” *German Historical Institute* 27.

I. How Societies Remember

Week 2 (Jan 16). Collective Memory, Matter and the Senses

Paul Connerton. 1989. *How Societies Remember* (Chap. 1 Social Memory, p. 1-40)

Nadia Seremetakis. 1994. “The Memory of the Senses” in *The Senses Still* (I: Marks of the Transitory)

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/10/29/the-myth-of-whiteness-in-classical-sculpture>

Supplementary:

Halbwachs, Maurice. 1992. *On Collective Memory*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Olick, Jeffrey K. 1999. "Collective Memory: The Two Cultures." *Sociological Theory* 17(3): 1-16.

Michael Stewart. 2004. "Remembering without Commemoration: The Mnemonics and Politics of Holocaust Memories among European Romas" *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 10(3): 561-582.

Virág Molnár. 2018. "The Mythical power of everyday objects: The material culture of radical nationalism in post socialist Hungary"

Maurice Bloch. 1998. *How we think they think. Anthropological Approach to Cognition, Memory and Literacy*. (Chap 6 The Resurrection of the House Amongst the Zafamaniry of Madagascar p. 85-99 + 7 Time Narrative and the Multiplicity of the Past p. 100-113)

Week 3 (Jan 23). Monument and historic monument

Choay, Françoise. *The Invention of the Historic Monument*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 1-16, 63-117.

Supplementary:

Paul Connerton. 1989. *How Societies Remember* (Chap. 2 Commemorative ceremonies, p. 41-71)

Krisztof Pomian. 1990. *Collectors and curiosities : Paris and Venice, 1500-1800*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Young, James Edward. 1993. *The Texture of Memory. Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*. New Heaven: Yale UP. (section TBA)

Eviatar Zerubavel. 2003. *Time Maps. The Shape of the Social Past*. (Chap 1. The social shape of the past)

Week 4 (Jan 30). Heritage, narrative, and authority

Pierre Nora. 1984. Introduction, *Realms of Memory*. Pantheon.

Arjun Appadurai. 1981. "The Past as a Scarce Resource" *Man* 16: 201-219.

Supplementary:

Laurajane Smith. 2006. "Authorizing institutions" in *Uses of Heritage*, Routledge. ("The Heritage Discourse", pp. 11-43)

Barbara Kirschenblatt Gimblett. 2004. "Intangible Heritage as Metacultural Production" *Museum International* 56:1-2: 52-65.

Week 5 (Feb 6). Oblivion, Distortion, Erasure

M Schudson. 1997. "[Dynamics of distortion in collective memory](#)" in Daniel Schacter ed. *Memory distortion _ how minds, brains, and societies reconstruct the past*, HarvardUP.

Marc Augé. 2001. *Oblivion* [In Olick, pp. 473-474]

Rolph Trouillot. 2000. *Abortive Rituals: Historical Apologies in the Global Era* (In Olick 458-464)

NB: Abstracts of projects due this week.

II. Actors

Week 6 (Feb 13). Memory entrepreneurs; media

Guest Speaker: Daniel Ziss, "Jewish Traces in Southern Morocco: Preservation efforts in the Sahara Desert"

Readings:

Robyn Autry. 2017. *Desegregating the Past. The Public life of memory in the United States and South Africa* Columbia UP (Excerpts from Chap. 1 Memory entrepreneurs)

Marianne Hirsch. 2012. *The Generation of Postmemory: writing and Visual culture after the Holocaust* (Definition of Postmemory p. 4-6)

Andreas Huyssen. 2000. *Present Pasts: Media, Politics, Amnesia* [In Olick pp. 430-436]

Week 7 (Feb 20). Policy makers; businesses; tourist industry

Lynne Marie Dearborn and John Charles Stallmeyer. 2009. "Revisiting Luang Prabang: Transformations under the influence of World Heritage designation." *Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* 7:4, 247- 269.

John Collins. 2011. "Culture, Content and the Enclosure of Human Being. UNESCO's 'intangible heritage' in the new millennium" *Radical History Review* 109 (Winter), 121-135.

Supplementary:

Rosemary J. Coombe and Lindsay M. Weiss. 2015. "Neoliberalism, Heritage Regimes and Human Rights" in Lynn Meskell ed. *Global Heritage: a Reader*. Wiley Blackwell.

Piece on China in Meskell

Week 8 (Feb 27). Social movements (citizens)

Chiara de Cesari and Michael Herzfeld. 2015. "Urban Heritage and Social Movements" in L. Meskell ed., *Global Heritage: A Reader*, p. 171-195

Priti Singh. 2018. "Global Configurations of indigenous identities, movements and pathways" Thesis Eleven.

Supplementary:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/these-indigenous-movements-are-forcing-the-us-to-reckon-with-its-past/>

On the George Floyd Memorial (document): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1imey1mzBoCn-mhaV1JhQ5GPy1dfqeTEL8/view?fbclid=IwAR3KAJZEPdtxWvijyAmYHWUDui0RUc3aT-PJmLpgtcz2DwriW_5SFQw5jluU

III. Politics and regimes of memory and heritage

Week 9 (March 6). TBA

Week 10 (March 13). Nation: unity through homogeneity

Aykaç, Pınar. "Contesting the Byzantine Past: Four Hagia Sophias as Ideological Battlegrounds of Architectural Conservation in Turkey." *Heritage & Society* 11.2 (2018): 151-178.

Banu Pekol, "Destabilizing National Heritage: Preserving Turkey's non-Muslim architectural Heritage," in *Architectures of Emergency in Turkey: Heritage, Displacement and Catastrophe* ed. Eray Çaylı, Pınar Aykaç, Sevcan Ercan pp. 43-67.

Supplementary:

Alexandra Kowalski. 2012. "The nation, rescaled: Theorizing the decentralization of collective memory in contemporary France" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 54:2

Eric Hobsbawm. 1983. Introduction in Hobsbawm and Ranger eds. *The Invention of tradition*, Cambridge UP. [also excerpted in Olick 271-73]

Terrence Ranger. 1993. "The Invention of Tradition Revisited: The Case of Colonial Africa" [in Olick reader 275-78]

David Lowenthal. 1985. *The Past is a Foreign Country*. Cambridge UP. (“Nostalgia” and “Repossessing the past” p. 4-19)

Christa Salamandra. 1992. *A New Old Damascus. Authenticity and Distinction in Urban Syria*. (“Authenticity” and “Arab and Middle Eastern Authenticities” pp. 15-19)

Sophia Labadi. 2010. “World Heritage, Authenticity and Post-authenticity: International and national perspectives.” In *Heritage and Globalization*, edited by Sophia Labadi, and Colin Long, Routledge. (pp. 66–84)

Week 11 (March 20). International/global heritage regime

Guest speaker: Veronika Poier, University of Vienna

The SyrHer (Syrian Heritage Team), *Handbook*

Robert Bevan. 2016. “Introduction: The Enemies of Architecture and Memory” in *The Destruction of Memory*, U of Chicago Press (Introduction).

Rob Norland, “2 Giant Buddhas Survived 1,500 Years. Fragments, Graffiti and a Hologram Remain.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/18/world/asia/afghanistan-bamiyan-buddhas.html>

Week 12 (March 27). Student presentations