



History, Heritage, Memory and beyond – fuzzy boundaries or productive synergies?

Workshop & Roundtable

Tuesday 18th April 2023

The Boiler House, Newcastle University, Haymarket Campus,
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Convenors: Dr Susannah Eckersley, Newcastle University

Dr Achim Saupe, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam

Supported financially by:

Leibniz Research Alliance 'Value of the Past'

***Newcastle University's Humanities Research Institute Pioneer Fund, the
Centre for Heritage, the HASS Faculty Global Fund and the Cultures of
Memory Research Group***

Places are limited, please register for this event here: <https://forms.office.com/e/xLjr05wzz5>

History, Heritage, Memory and beyond – fuzzy boundaries or productive synergies?

This workshop will discuss the challenges and opportunities inherent to the inter-disciplinary fields of Memory Studies, (Critical) Heritage Studies, (Public) History, and beyond. What problems are created by the often 'fuzzy' boundaries between these fields, and what productive synergies are enabled? What is changing in terms of boundary-keeping between disciplinary communities? What new inter-disciplinary communities are developing and where? Do separate definitions and identities serve a useful purpose and within which contexts? Are new fields, concepts and forms of knowledge developing, and if so, with what aims and ambitions?

From the 1980s, with the memory and heritage boom, many scholars (including Pierre Nora, Aleida Assmann and David Lowenthal) focussed on attempting to differentiate between "history and memory" or between "history and heritage". In these debates, sharp contrasts were often drawn, for example: memory and heritage were seen as being more concerned with the effects of the past on the present than with the past itself; history was considered to be 'truth'-oriented and academic; heritage was perceived as user-oriented, aiming at identity production. In other words, academically, memory and heritage were often perceived as dynamic but potentially flimsy, while history tended to be seen as more steadfast but also brittle.

Subsequent scholarship has taken up the conceptual oppositions posed then and moved the concepts forward into the broader fields of Critical Heritage Studies, Contemporary History, Memory Studies and Public History today. While firm disciplinary distinctions led to the emergence of such new interdisciplinary fields, contemporary research addressing the past within the present relies on receptivity to mutually complementing concepts, in order to open up new methodological avenues and analytical frames. In recent years, the 'old' dichotomies have broken down even more and sharp boundaries between memory, heritage and (public) history can hardly be postulated today. But does this dissolve all differences between them? What differing approaches are there in Memory Studies, (Critical) Heritage Studies, and (Public) History? Do we need greater interdisciplinary work or are disciplinary boundaries already irrelevant? How might these more dynamic critical approaches influence and shape the field of history in the present and future? What is the significance of historical distance (both temporal and emotional) to contemporary memory and heritage-based approaches to the past, which often rely on resonance in the present? Is such distance ever possible, or is it merely another epistemological claim?

The workshop aims to spark discussion on the future directions of inter-disciplinary working across these fields – where will the future take us and what synergies will be important? What boundaries remain, which are needed and why, or why not?

Programme

9.00	<i>arrive & coffee</i>	
9.15 - 9.30	Welcome	Prof Chris Whitehead , Newcastle University, HASS Faculty Dean of Global
9.30 - 10.00	Introduction	Dr Achim Saupe , Leibniz Research Alliance 'Value of the Past' Dr Susannah Eckersley , Media, Culture, Heritage, Newcastle University
10.00 - 11.00	Presentations & discussion	moderated by Achim Saupe & Susannah Eckersley Dr David Harvey , Aarhus University, Denmark " <i>Navigating disciplinary terrains: a geographical approach to 'doing heritage' and 'policing Heritage'</i> " Jun. Prof. Juliane Thomann , Regensburg University, Germany, <i>Co-Creation, Collaboration, Participation. Modes of knowledge production in Public History</i>
11.00 - 11.30	<i>break</i>	
11.30 - 13.00	Presentations & discussion	moderated by Achim Saupe & Susannah Eckersley Dr Francesca Lanz , Northumbria University, UK " <i>Researching at the intersection of architecture, museums, and heritage studies</i> " Prof Graham Smith , Newcastle University, UK " <i>The contribution of oral history to history and memory and why it is forgotten</i> " Dr Joanna Wawrzyniak , Warsaw University, Poland " <i>Memory, Heritage, History: Mapping Alliances and Antagonisms</i> "
13.00 - 13.45	<i>lunch</i>	
13.45 - 15.30	Roundtable	moderated by Achim Saupe & Susannah Eckersley Prof Sophia Labadi , University of Kent, UK Prof Thomas Cauvin , Luxembourg University, Luxembourg Prof Wulf Kansteiner , Aarhus University, Denmark Prof Rhiannon Mason , Newcastle University, UK
15.30 - 16.00	<i>break</i>	
16.00 - 17.00	Book launch	<i>Diversity of Belonging in Europe</i> , with the editors: Dr Susannah Eckersley , Newcastle University Dr Claske Vos , University of Amsterdam and guests: Prof Claire Sutherland , Northumbria University Prof Wulf Kansteiner , Aarhus University
17.00 - 18.00	<i>Closing drinks</i>	