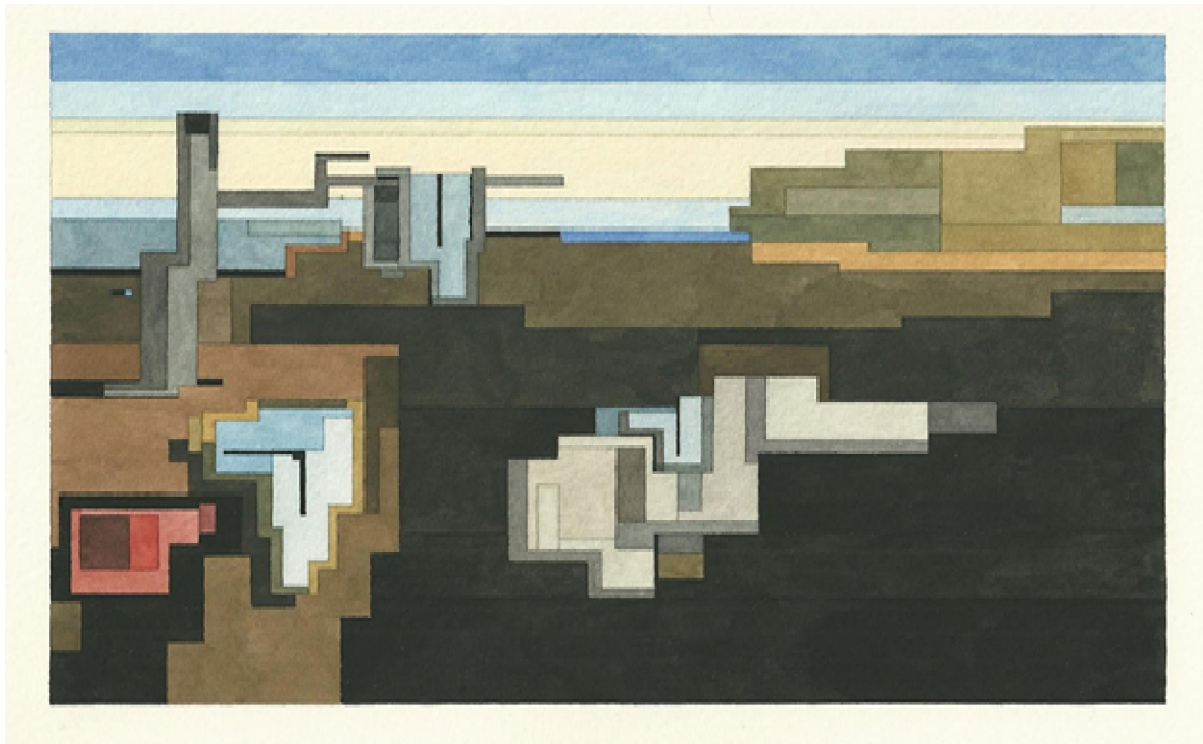


**Department of Germanic and Romance Studies
University of Delhi
International Conference: Of Remembering and Forgetting:
Perspectives on History and Memory
7- 9 March 2019**

Venue: Room no. 22
Faculty of Arts,
University of Delhi.
Delhi-110007



Though history and memory have always grown in each other's shadows, from 1970s onwards the academic 'turn to memory' has developed a somewhat antagonistic relationship between the two. Since then, subjective or collective, social or personal, blocked, manipulated or obligated, public or private, official or counter, memories have become new sites of investigation for a number of disciplines such as History, Anthropology, Sociology, Literary and Cultural Studies. There has been a steady investment and reappraisal of memorial consciousness in opposition to academic historical discourses that have often relegated memory to a secondary quasi-mythical status.

The newfound interest in memory can be traced to three phenomena. Firstly, Structuralist scholars such as Halbwachs, Klein and Schudson shifted the emphasis away from individual, subjective memories to collective memory. According to them though remembering is an individual activity, it is conditioned by certain mnemonic practices, rituals and patterns

inscribed in the society. The collective roots of memory define the elements that are to be preserved or effaced, in contrast to earlier psychoanalytical beliefs that remembering depends on subjective capacity of an individual's consciousness. Halbwachs even claimed that it is the present that shapes our understanding of the past and orients the way we constitute our identities. Secondly, postmodern and postcolonial cultural critics, challenged the hegemony of western positivist historiography that deems communitarian memory of the past, the customs, belief systems and genealogies of the indigenous population as dubious. The Eurocentric approach to record history based on objective documentation was dismantled paving the way to a critical appraisal of local and regional commemorative practices in order to dissociate from the victor's history by putting forward alternative versions of history from the margin. Thirdly, studies in memory started being recognised as an important tool to denounce the efforts of official history to silence the memories of past injustices meted out by the ruling establishments. Thus counter-memories in opposition to official memory were studied with greater sincerity in order to understanding how people lived through the dark times that political institutions tried hard to hide and communicated those memories to future generations.

Memory has thus become a multifarious term, often difficult to define due to the ambivalent status that it has been invested with by various disciplines. Nevertheless, in recent times, memory has emerged as an efficient tool to trace history, being a powerful reservoir of counter knowledge, a counter discourse, that offers a voice to the "Others" of the Western phallogocentric academia.

Just as its content, nature and scope, Memory Studies have also been concerned with the mediums through which individual, social or collective memories are recorded and transmitted. Memory can be stored through numerous kinds of cultural mediums, such as customs, rituals, music, art, photography, cinema, memorials, museums and a range of literary forms. The critic Paul Ricœur showed how memory represents itself through two modes, analytical and narrative, while the former is the domain of the historian and the critic, the latter is that of writers. Testimony, Autobiography, Biography, Memoir, Diary, Chronicle, Journal, Confession, Log, Letters and Correspondences, Story, Anecdote along with traditional shorter and longer fictions are some of the literary genres that have established themselves as effective mediums to narrate recollections of the past. In the past one century, a number of authors have explored the effective means of remembering and have also highlighted the gaps, holes, silences and missing links through which memory operates. They have drawn our attention to a series of questions such as, what to do when memory fails? How to retrieve memory that has been affected by traumatic experiences? When there is an excess of memory, how do we make a selection?

The present conference seeks to investigate such complex issues involved in remembering and forgetting at individual, cultural and collective levels. It will be also useful to examine in what way memory studies provide us with an alternative vision to analyse our past and present. The conference seeks to reflect on various possibilities to reimagine the troubled relationship between memory and history in the contemporary period through an interdisciplinary Approach.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 7th March 2019

10:00-10:15	Introductory Remarks	Ena Panda <i>University of Delhi</i>
10:15-10:45	Aparna Balachandran	Collective Memory, Urban History and Colonialism: The Case of Coronation Park
10:45-11:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11:15-12:45	Panel 1 Ashraf Alam, Department of Education, University of Delhi, Saahil, Wuhan University of Technology, China, Meena Kumari, Central University of Jharkhand, Shamsher Alam, Indian Institute of Technology, Patna	Chair: Kusum Aggarwal Finding Meaning in Memory: Towards Creating a Novel Discipline of “Memory Studies”
	Soumya Choudhury CES, JNU	W.G. Sebald’s <i>On the Natural History of Destruction</i> : Allied bombings, Agency and Representation
	Judith Misrahi-Barak, University Paul Valéry Montpellier 3	The Memory Script of the Diasporic Body in a Selection of Short Stories by Edwidge Danticat
12:45-13:45	LUNCH BREAK	
13:45-14:45	Panel 2 Tarun K. Saint	Chair: Judith Misrahi Barak Remembering the “Endless” Partition
	Mahua Bhaumik	The Other Side of History: Partition and Repressed Memory

14:45- 15:15

Tea Break

15:15- 16:15

Panel 3

Chair: Manmohan Singh

Debjani Sengupta,
Department of English,
Indraprastha College for
Women, DU

A Metropolis of Hunger:
Representations of the Great Famine of
1943

Devapriya Sanyal and
Gopa Bhardwaj, SHSS,
Galgotias University

Narrating Nation, Self and the Other
through Literature and Film: Reading
Manto and Khushwant Singh

Friday, 8th March 2019

10:00-11:30

Panel 4

Chair: Rama Paul

Surendra Singh Negi,
Department of Hispanic
and Italian Studies,
EFLU

The generation of postmemory in
Guillermo Calderón's *Villa*

Durba Banerjee,
Independent Researcher

Memory of exile: The case of Mercè
Rodoreda

Nilesh Saran
Research Scholar,
Department of
Germanic and Romance
Studies, DU

"*Calle de la Memoria*" in Sincelejo,
Colombia: A symbolic step towards a
community's reconciliation with its
traumatic historical-collective memory of
the violent past. A case Study

11:30-12:00

**TEA/COFFEE
BREAK**

12:00-13:30

Panel 5

Chair: Célia Mendes

Poonam Singh,
Department of English,
Satyawati College (M)

Dalit Hindi Autobiographies: An
Informed Strategy to reconstruct History
from the perspectives of Marginalized

Sushmita Banerjee,
Department of History,
Miranda House, DU

Spiritual Genealogies, Memories of the
Pious and Didactics: *The Historical
Imagination in Nizam al-Din Awliya's*

	Nina Gogate, Department of French, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded	<i>Discourses</i> The Exploration of Memory in the Works of Assia Djebar: An Act of Resistance, Transgression and Reclamation
13:30-14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30-15:30	Panel 6 Mousumi Choudhury, Dept. of Political Science, Diphu Govt. College Diphu.	Chair: Jyoti Sabharwal Trauma and the Trail- A study on the Human dimension of forced migration of refugees in Cachar district of Assam
	Mehar Wafa, CELAS, JMI	Trauma, Memory and Testimony: A Study of two Post-Dictatorship Argentine Novels
15:30-15:45	Tea Break	
14:45-14:45	Panel 7 Aamir Qayoom Wani, Comparative Indian Literature, DU	Chair: Maneesha Taneja Of Musings and Memories: Exploring The Politics of Translating Reminiscences in Select Women Memoirs from Kashmir.
	Ashaq Hussain Parray, Aligarh Muslim University	In Search of 'Other' His-tory: Reading Nigah-i-Anjum as a Counter-Discourse

Saturday, 9th March 2019

10:00-11:30	Panel 8 Smriti Handoo, M.Phil Latin American studies at Jamia Millia Islamia	Chair: Vijaya Venkataraman Testimonial Narratives of State Violence in Guatemala and Kashmir: Memory as an Impressionistic Echo
	Rishab Basu,	History, Memory of Trauma in the Film

	Independent Scholar Iqbal Abhimanyu, CSPILAS, JNU	‘Hiroshima Mon Amour’ Memory as a postcolonial tool of subverting the dominant discourse in the stories of Subcomandante Marcos
11:30-12:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
12:00-13:30	Panel 9 Margit Köves Department of Slavonic and Finno- ugrian Studies	Chair: Tanya Roy History, Memory, Photography, ”Illuminated Details, Reminiscences from the life of a narrator” by Péter Nádas
	Swati Babbar, Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, DU	Songs as sites of Memory in the Carvalho Detective Series
	Ramesh Kumar Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, DU	Reconstruction of a new identity through <i>The theatre of memory</i> by Leonardo Sciascia
13:30-14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30-15:30	Panel 10	Chair: Farida Irani
	Ena Panda Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, DU	Memory as a tool to shape “narrative identity” in Scholastique Mukasonga’s <i>Ce que murmurent les collines</i>
	Aarti Paul, DGRS, DU	History and Memory in Shenaz Patel’s <i>Le Silence des Chagos</i>

Closing Remarks: Manmohan Singh