

The aim of the conference is to draw attention to the realms of memory that exist apart from the grand (national) narratives and are more or less independent of them.

After a period of intensive work on (European) national memory cultures, several disciplines have recently shown a growing interest in memory as a social and an individual practice. Striking in this latest research is its concentration on specific memory complexes, i.e., those connected with war, persecution and expulsion. In a sense, the “Holocaust memory”, i.e., the trauma, represents the paradigmatic phenomenon for the whole research endeavour. It is also progressively seen as constitutive of a global memory community and memory practice, transcending national memories and mediating universal values.

The conference diverges from this pattern by devoting itself explicitly to objects of memory that have been less prominent in research and in public discourse in general. This widening of perspective allows for a more complete view of the link between public and private memory. Of particular interest here are familial memory processes. Among the topics to be discussed in this perspective in an interdisciplinary frame (history, social and cultural sciences) are:

1. Objects of public and private remembering

The links, concordances and ruptures between public and private narratives will be envisaged in the context of different “memories”. Aside from the “major historical event”, these include above all the experience of change and the accompanying sense of loss or, conversely, social advancement and emancipation. By comparing these individual fields of memory we can identify the time substrata – historical and non-historical/familial – that co-exist in familial memory practice, and ask how their interplay is affected by more and more powerful public memory offerings.

2. Memory and generational relationship

The fact that research concentrates on traumatic memories and their familial formation suggests a specific conception of the “historical witness” – where historical authenticity is guaranteed, as it were, by virtue of participation in the traumatic event – and at the same time influences the notion of generational relationship and familial communication. Here too, the opening up of the research field for other memory complexes allows for a more multifaceted image of familial memory production. Among the more compelling topics are, for example, the relevance of shared memory horizons, intra-familial memory competition and memory loss in the grandchild generation.

3. The social constitution of memory communities

Peripheral memories also encompass narratives that are suppressed in public discourse. The history of women comes to mind. Another, perhaps more topical, example is migration memories and their non-integration into national narratives. However, efforts to make these memories “visible” – perhaps as elements of urban memory culture – are at the same time evidence that memory collectives are often created, perpetuated or revived by external forces, i.e., by (national) memory politics and the media. This leads to the question of how public identification and mediatization impact on processes of family tradition. Do family memories assimilate to the new or rediscovered collective identity? Or will communicative remembering gradually be replaced by cultural memory?

4. Concepts and research methods

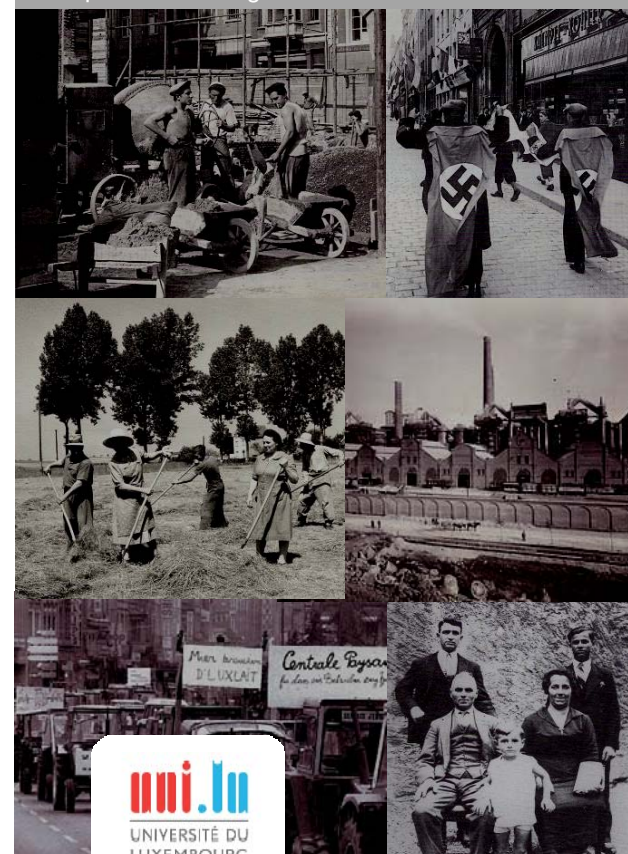
Finally, the conference intends to encourage methodological reflections. Contributions containing research approaches on non-discursive modes of (familial) memory are particularly welcome.

GRAND & PERIPHERAL NARRATIVES & MEMORIES

On the Connection between
Cultural Memory and Familial Remembering

International Conference
26 - 28 November 2009

Laboratoire d'Histoire
Campus Walferdange



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Grand Narratives and Peripheral Memories

26 - 28 November 2009
University of Luxembourg
Campus Walferdange

Programme

Thursday, 26 November 2009 (Room Piaget)

14h00 Welcome: Michel Margue

Keynote:

Anne Muxel: Les fonctions de la mémoire familiale dans la construction de l'identité

15h00 - 19h00

Panel 1: Objects of public and private remembering

Elizabeth Carnegie: Curating people? Museum mediated memories and the politics of representation

Fabienne Lentz: Zwischen privater Erinnerung und öffentlichen Repräsentationen – italienische Immigration in Luxemburg

Gabriel Koureas: Private and public memory in the divided space of Nicosia, Cyprus

16h45 - 17h15 Coffee Break

Lars Breuer: German and Polish "memory from below"

Maria Pohn-Weidinger: „Heroisierte Opfer?“ Wie erinnern nicht-jüdische Frauen in Österreich den Nationalsozialismus und die Nachkriegszeit in ihren Biographien?

Anne Heimo: The (trans)formation of family memories of civil war into the grand narrative of communal and national history

20h00 Dinner

Friday, 27 November 2009 (Room Latomus)

9h00 Keynote:

Christian Gudehus: Über zwei Modi, Vergangenheit zu erzählen

9h45 - 13h15

Panel 2: Memory and generational relationship

Daniela Koleva: Remembering socialism, living post-socialism: gender, generation and ethnicity

Jan Lohl: „Wohin die Sprache nicht reicht“: Überlegungen zur Affektdimension der Tradierung des Nationalsozialismus

11h00 - 11h30 Coffee Break

Joseph Maslen: Family memory and communist memory in Post-War Britain

Elisabeth Boesen: Erfahrungen des Wandels und familiäre Erinnerungsgemeinschaft in der bäuerlichen Welt

Daniela Jara: Memory and post-memory in Chile

13h15 Lunch

14:30 – 18:30 (Room Piaget)

Panel 3: The social constitution of memory communities

Suzanne Bunkers: Trauma, silencing, 'illegitimacy' and the recuperation of peripheral memories: In search of Susanna

Jeanette Hoffmann: Erzählte Geschichte(n) im interkulturellen Kontext – zum Umgang von Jugendlichen in Deutschland und in Polen mit den Spannungsverhältnissen zwischen kommunikativem und kulturellem Gedächtnis

Delyth Edwards: Remembering the home: searching for my mother?

16h15 - 16h45 Coffee Break

Rita Garstenauer: Private, semi-public, published: rural autobiographies within the family and beyond

John Foot: Memory and place. The history of a Milanese house

Denis Scuto: Kollektive Erfahrungen im Stahlarbeitermilieu

20h00 Dinner

Saturday, 28 November 2009 (Room Piaget)

9h00 -13h30

Panel 4: Concepts and research methods

Alena Pfoser: Geschichte als Identitätsstifterin? Nationale Identitätskonstruktionen und Geschichtsbilder von Jugendlichen mit Migrationshintergrund in Österreich

Lesley Anne Bleakney / Jens Kroh / Sophie Neuenkirch: Methodological tools in the comparative analysis of family narratives on occupational biographies in Luxembourg, Germany and the USA

Libora Oates-Indruchova: Memory, ethics and narrative voice

10h45 - 11h15 Coffee Break

Renée Wagener: Familiengespräche in der Erinnerungsforschung zum Zweiten Weltkrieg – Erwartungen und Enttäuschungen

Gerd Sebald: Interpenetrations of social memories – questioning the concepts of communicative and cultural memories

13h00-13h30

Concluding Discussion

Christian Gudehus

13h30 Lunch

Conference languages: German / English (translation from German to English).

Registration fee:

30 € (10 €/day), students: 15 € (5 €/day)

(includes light lunch on Friday and Saturday)

Please register by mail before 23 November 2009 at the Laboratoire d'histoire: lux-id@uni.lu

Informations: <http://www.lux-id.uni.lu>