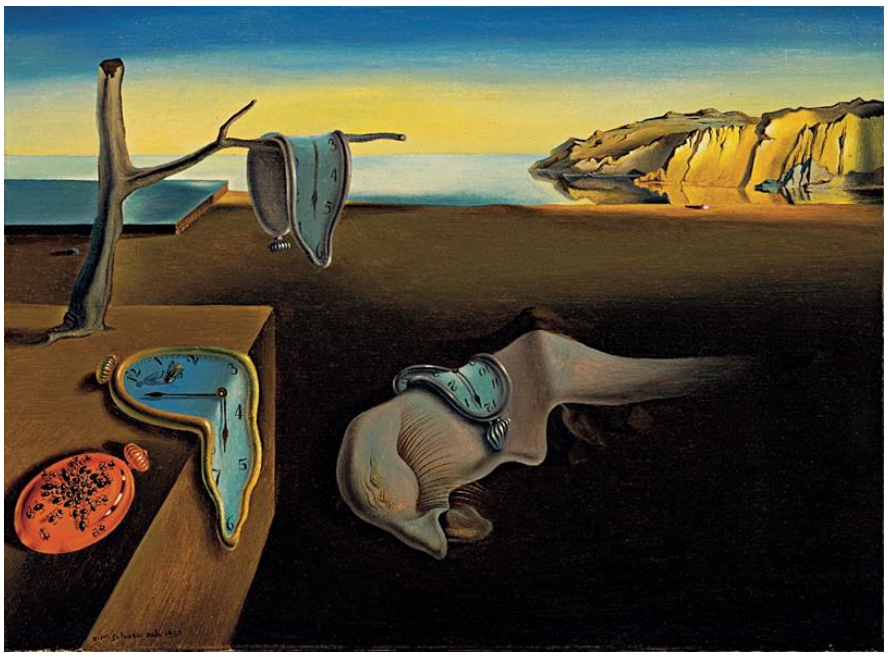

"The Place of Memory and the Memory of Place" International Conference

20-21 June 2026
Birkbeck, University of London / Online

organised by
London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

Programme

Saturday, 20 June
In-person Sessions

9:30-10:45 Session 1A: Memory, Place and Urban Heritage
Chair: Ulrike Ehret

Giseli Rosa de Souza, Tamara de Souza Campos, University of Grande Rio (Brazil)
The Vila Histórica De Mambucaba Building Complex: A Picturesque Element Inside of a Tropical Paradise or 18th Century Building Complex?

Javier Rodes Sillué, Museos de Mequinenza (Spain)
Memory and Ruins: The Lost Old Town of Mequinenza (Spain)

Michelle S. Johnson, The Institute of Public Scholarship (USA)
Hearing Memory and Shaping Presence

9:40-10:30 Session 1B: Memory, Affect and Cultural Representation
Chair: TBC

MaryEllen Higgins, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg (USA)
Trauma, Memory, Choreography: Kivu Ruhorahoza's Father's Day

Cindy Soldan, Lakehead University (Canada)
Hysterical Nostalgia: Memory, Identity, and the Emotional Geography of Pokémon Collecting

10:45-11:00 Tea/Coffee

11:00-12:15 Session 2A: Museums, Heritage and Cultural Memory
Chair: TBC

Ekavi Whitlock Blundell, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Taste as an Interpretative Tool in the Context of Museum Exhibitions

Ulrike Ehret, Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism (Germany)
What is Your 'Baggage'? The Role of Memory and Emotions in Museum Learning

Rita Keresztesi, University of Oklahoma (USA)
Restitution and Cultural Heritage: Dahomey (Mati Diop, 2024)

11:00-12:15 Session 2B: Displacement, Home and Memory Narratives
Chair: MaryEllen Higgins

Sarah Aly, University of South Carolina (USA)
Homecoming and "Memory Anticipated": A Deconstruction of Homecoming Journeys in André Aciman's *False Papers*

Rainy Taha, University of Sussex (UK)
Nests of Displacement: Ecological Nakbamorphosis in Selected Palestinian Students' Poems

K.V.J. Koshalee, University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka) / University of Otago (New Zealand)
Chandima Bogahawatta, University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka)
N.D.H. Sandakanthi (Sri Lanka)
Childhood Memory of Place: Mapping Memory Through Drawings by Primary School Children in Sri Lanka

12:15-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:15 Session 3A: Memoryscapes, Monuments and Geopolitics
Chair: Rita Keresztesi

Garima Goyal, Chirec International School, Hyderabad (India)
Heterotopias of Memoryscape: The Politics of Place and Spatial Imaginations

Štěpán Rybák, Charles University, Prague (Czech Republic)
A Monument to What War? The Impact of Russian Aggression on Czech Memoryscape

Carla Melo, Autónoma University of Lisbon (Portugal)
The Relevance of Memorial Sites in Northeast Asia: Domestic and International Uses

13:00-14:15 Session 3B: Gernika and Basque Memory Landscapes
Chair: TBC

Mari Jose Olaziregi, University of the Basque Country (Spain)
Rewriting Place and Trauma: Gernika and the Making of a Feminist Site of Memory

Miren Ibarluzea Santisteban, University of the Basque Country (Spain)
The Role of Temporality and Place in Shaping Gernika's Representations in Basque Improvised Oral Poetry

Ismael Manterola-Ispizua, Andere Larrinaga-Cuadra, University of the Basque Country (Spain)
Representations of Gernika: Transmission of a Lieu de Mémoire Through Generations of Basque Visual Artists

14:15-14:30 Tea/Coffee

14:30-15:45 Session 4A: War, Trauma and Memory Landscapes
Chair: TBC

Gjiltinë Isufi, Gisèle Gantois, KU Leuven (Belgium)
In Space We Read Trauma: Disclosing Spatial Memories of Political Force at the Trepça Mine, Kosovo

Njomëza Mulhaxha, KU Leuven (Belgium)
After the War, Another Loss: Memory and Institutional Misrecognition at the Rilindja Press Palace

Sara McDowell, Ulster University (UK)
Affective Afterlives: The Maze/Long Kesh Prison as a Contested Post-Conflict Memory

14:40-15:30 Session 4B: Literary Memory and Trauma
Chair: Rainy Taha

Cristina Pividori, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
Christina Howes, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Spain)
In the Shadow of War: Classed Postmemory and Affective Domesticity in Beverly Gologorsky

Emmett Baumgarten, Indiana University (USA)
Trauma as a Recurrent Narrative Arc in Hoffmann's *Der Sandmann*

15:45-16:00 Tea/Coffee

16:00-16:50 Session 5: Memory, Archives and Digital Heritage
Chair: TBC

Chiara Mastroianni, IULM, Milan (Italy)
From Storage to Stage: The Archive as a Displayed Site of Memory

Leila Pazargadi, Nevada State University (USA)
ReTracing Memory: Archiving Life Writing Testimony in Satrapi and Abirached's Graphic Memoirs

Online Sessions:

12:45-14:00 Zoom Session 1: Memory, War and Commemorative Landscapes
Chair: Lieza Louw

Martin Gabriel, University of Klagenfurt (Austria)
Remembering Mets Yeghern – Memorial Sites of the Armenian Genocide

Laura Herța, Babeș-Bolyai University (Romania)
The Sarajevo Roses in the Pavement. Do They Still Carry Meaning and Memory of the War Today?

Nerea Eizagirre, University of the Basque Country (Spain)
Guernica as a Multidirectional Memory Site

14:15-15:45 Zoom Session 2: Displacement, Postwar Memory and the Afterlives of Place
Chair: Raluca Bibiri

Karen E. Andreasen, Aalborg University (Denmark)
Refugee Camps as Places for Memories – German Refugees' Memories of Their Stay in Refugee Camps in Denmark 1945–1949

Lieza Louw, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
Traces of WWII Italian POWs on Farms in South Africa

Susanne Kranz, Zayed University (UAE)
Ostalgie and the Afterlife of Place: Memory, Loss, and the Spatial Remains of the GDR

David Williams, University of South Carolina (USA)
The Archive Unbound: Grassroots Holocaust Memory in the Digital Age

Sunday, 21 June
(Online Sessions, Zoom)

11:00-12:30 Zoom Session 3: Embodied Memory and Spatial Experience
Chair: Laura Herța

Stella Medvedeva, Independent Researcher (Greece)
Performing the Monument as Embodied Becoming: A Temporal Encounter with Historical Memory

Zoe Latham, University of Plymouth (UK)
Ritual Bodies and Riverscapes: Memory, Embodiment and the Making of Place

Mine Sevinc Kayahan, Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (Türkiye)
Embodied Memory and Feminised Space: Reading Sahar Khalifeh's *The Passage to the Plaza* through Feminist Geography

Keiko Kimura, Kobe Women's University (Japan)
Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*: Memory and the Construction of Subjectivity

13:00-14:30 Zoom Session 4: Memory, Institutions and Social Frameworks
Chair: TBC

Raluca Bibiri, University of Bucharest (Romania)
Recalling What? Shaping Frameworks of Remembering

Hugues Séraphin, Robert van der Veen, Christian Ehrlich, Oxford Brookes University (UK)
Events and the Inner Child: The Importance of Experience

José Antonio Villarreal Velásquez, FLACSO (Ecuador)
The Craft of Necessities and the Sacred Goods: Constructing Statehood and Urban Memory from Below in Guayaquil (1990–2000)

Timothy Anne Burnside, National Museum of African American History and Culture (USA)
Anchoring Memory in Place: The Role of Museums in Shaping Collective Remembrance

14:45-16:00 Zoom Session 5: Literary and Diasporic Memoryscapes
Chair: Raoudha Zaraï

Peter Zervos, The American College of Greece – Deree College (Greece)
Oh Memory, I begged…" History, Memory, and the Place of Poetic Synthesis in C. P. Cavafy's "Craftsman of Wine Bowls

Esther O. Ohito, Rutgers University – New Brunswick (USA)
Dialogic Return: Diasporic Memory and the Making of Place in Cape Coast

Nidal Chebbak, Sidi Mohammed ben Abdellah University (Morocco)
Echoes from the Past in Moroccan Travel Accounts: Al-Andalus as a Site of Memory and Trauma

16:15-17:30 Zoom Session 6: Haunting, Trauma and Postmemory in Literature
Chair: Esther O. Ohito

Agata Handley, University of Lodz (Poland) / University of London (UK)
"… of the Ghosts, to the Ghosts and with Them": The Landscape of Burial Places in Tony Harrison's *Muffled Bells*

Raoudha Zaraï, Higher Institute of Languages of Tunis (Tunisia)
Trauma Resilience and Space: Memory Sites in Louise Erdrich's *The Round House*

Allison McCausland, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (USA)
The Hauntological Presence of the USSR in Chernobyl and Stalker