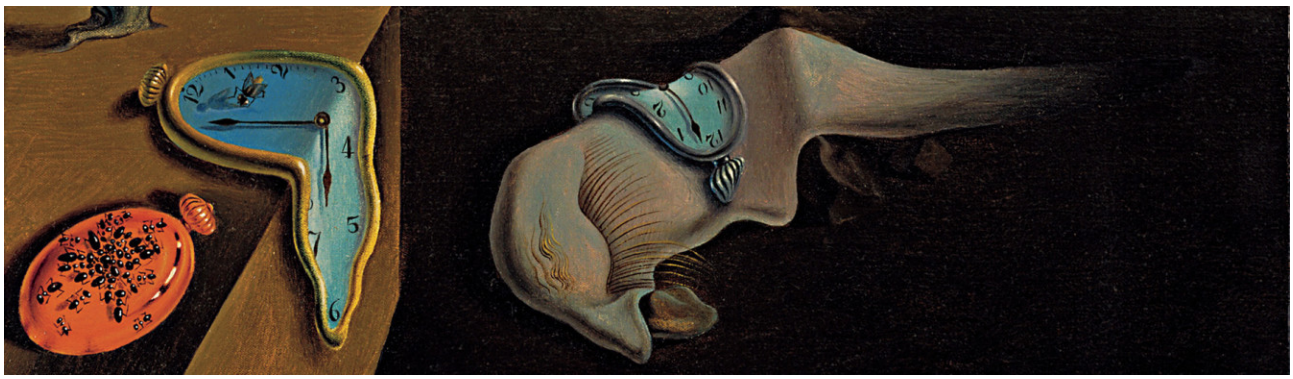

"Memory and Trauma"
International Conference

5-6 December 2026
Birkbeck, University of London & Online

organised by
London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research
in collaboration with
Italian National Research Council (CNR) –
Institute of History of Mediterranean Europe (ISEM)
and
Università Internazionale delle Pubbliche Amministrazioni –
Republic of San Marino

Programme

Saturday, 5 December

In-person Sessions, Birkbeck:

9:00-10:15 Session 1A:
Chair: Kristine Sheets

Kautar Fecha, University of Trento (Italy)
Broken Narratives: Traumatic Memory and the Assessment of Credibility in Asylum and Trafficking Law

Sharon Rapaport, Narrative Therapist and Documentary Filmmaker (Israel)
Narrating Traumatic Memory: Practice-Based Findings on Remembering, Trauma, and Documentation

Dalim Kalam Azad, Royal Holloway University of London (UK)
Impacts of Intergenerational Trauma in the British Bangladeshi Community and Their Experiences of Therapy

9:00-10:15 Session 1B:
Chair: Josiah David Quising

Marilena Ricciardi, Donata Rega, Università degli Studi di Salerno (Italy)
Reconfiguring Family Memory: Ambiguous Loss and Historical Reconstruction

Gianluca Sardi, University of Teramo (Italy) / London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (UK)
Memory, Trauma, Bioethics and Resilience in Sports. The Interdisciplinary Example of the Avanhard Stadium in Pripyat

Deborah Kant, University of Cambridge (UK)
Memories and the Collective Trauma of Industrial Decline Among Prison Staff

10:15-10:30 Tea/Coffee

10:30-12:00 Session 2A:
Chair: Marilena Ricciardi

Saide Harb-Ranero, University of the Balearic Islands (Spain)
Distorted National Identity and Traumatic Memory in Tana French's *The Likeness*

Paige Wallace, Laurel Ridge Community College (USA)
The Sun Don't Shine Down the Mouth of the Mine: Application of Trauma Theory to Appalachian Literature

Nela Merva, Masaryk University (Czechia)
Intergenerational Transmission of Historical Trauma in Dramatizations of Contemporary Czech Prose

Yermek Adayeva, Nazarbayev University (Kazakstan)
Postcolonial Trauma in Contemporary Kazakh Women's Prose

10:30-12:00 Session 2B:
Chair: Ikram Ben Talha

Pedro Caetano Eboli Nogueira, State University of Campinas (Brazil) / University of Reading (UK)
Embodying the Spoken Word: Tensions between Eduardo Coutinho and Claude Lanzmann

Gerardus Bukkems, Center for Community Emergence & Regeneration, Asten (Netherlands)
Portable Vessels of Memory: Community Filmmaking as Youth-Led Mediation of Silenced Wartime Trauma

Rebecca Carr, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Laughing at Stasi and Nazis? Re-presenting Trauma through Parody and Pastiche in *Kleo* and *Hunters*

Hope Georgia Watt, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
The Affective Corporeality of Cancer: Mapping Trauma and Counter-Narratives in the Self-Portraiture of Hannah Wilke and Tracey Derrick

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-14:00 Session 3A:
Chair: Pedro Caetano Eboli Nogueira

Hannah Buchanan Mackenzie, Independent Scholar (UK)
Trauma and Child Abuse in Roald Dahl's Children's Novels

Darik Mohamed, Salah Chig, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fes (Morocco)
Memory, Trauma, and Healing through Family in *The American Granddaughter* by Inaam Kachachi

Brahim Barhoun, Ikram Ben Talha, Abdelmalek Essaadi University (Morocco)
Decolonizing Trauma: Magical Realism, Gender, and Queer Resistance in Mhani Alaoui's *Dreams of Maryam Tair*

12:45-14:00 Session 3B:
Chair: Sharon Rapaport

Fanny Söderbäck, Södertörn University (Sweden)
Minor Stories, Archival Erasures: Narrating Black, Jewish, and Palestinian Lives Subjunctively

Kristine Sheets, University of Exeter (UK)
Echoes of Sumud: Postmemory and Resistance in the Palestinian Diaspora

Josiah David Quising, Far Eastern University (Philippines)
Sugar, Spice, and Sacrifice: A Historical Analysis of the Continuing Oppression of Sugar Farmers in Negros Island, Philippines

14:00-14:15 Tea/Coffee

14:15-15:45 Session 4:
Chair: Rebecca Carr

Wafa Mekhaznia, Abbes Laghrour University of Khenchela (Algeria)
Remembering Before History: Pre-Archival Memory and the Formation of Colonial Subjectivity in *A Mercy*

Caterina Cassano, University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy)
False Testimony and the Narrative Construction of Memory: Javier Cercas's *The Impostor*

Lucie Macalíková, Masaryk University (Czechia)
The Representation of Memory in Czech Samizdat Proses Written During the Normalization

Zhanar Abdigapbarova, Nazarbayev University (Kazakstan)
Silenced Memory: Colonial Trauma, Censorship, and the Politics of Remembering in Mukhtar Auezov's *Qily Zaman* (*The Hard Times*)

Online Sessions, Zoom:

9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks:

Prof. Paola Avallone, The Institute for the History of Mediterranean Europe of the National Research Council (Italy)

Prof. Gianluca Sadun Bordoni, Università Internazionale delle Pubbliche Amministrazioni (San Marino)

Dr Annabel Kay Ruiz, London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (UK)

9:15-10:45 Zoom Session 1:
Chair: Athina Ntoulia

Rizwana Sarwar, University of Management and Technology, Lahore (Pakistan)
From Myth to Memory: Reconstructing Women's Identities in The Penelopiad and The Goddess Chronicle: A Feminist Stylistic Analysis of Memory and Trauma

Salomia Mary Peter, Kulamangalam Thiyagarajan, Tamilmani Nehru Memorial College, Bharathidasan University (India)
Short-Circuited Selves: Neural Fractures and Traumatic Memories in Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*

Bismi Nizar, Gigy J Alex, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram (India)
Who Owns the Past? Gendered Mnemonic Sovereignty in *Bougainvillea* and *Kishkindha Kaandam*

Amira Ehrlich, Levinsky- Wingate Academic College (Israel)
Remembering through Music: Raves as Practices of Collective Memory after the Nova Massacre

11:00-12:15 Zoom Session 2:
Chair: Neha Jain

Inese Eglīte, University of Latvia, Daugavpils University (Latvia)
New Sincerity and the Representation of Childhood Trauma in Contemporary Children's Original and Translated Literature

Athina Ntoulia, University of Ioannina (Greece)
Memory and Trauma in Children's Literature: Child Protagonists, Forced Migration, and Narrative Strategies of Witnessing

Ledia Dushku, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of Albania (Albania)
Trauma, Memory, and Collective Identity: Childhood Memories of the 1944 Cham Exodus

12:30-14:00 Zoom Session 3:
Chair: Bismi Nizar

Neha Jain, Mahindra United World College of India, Pune (India)
The Moving Target: Precarious Bodies as a Site of Traumatic Memory in Francophone Literature of the Contemporary Extreme

Brahim Benmoh, Mohammed V University Rabat (Morocco)
Beyond the War on Terror: Trauma, Memory, and Violence in Hassan Balasim's *The Corpse Exhibition* and Kevin Powers' *The Yellow Birds*

Kay Miller, University of Southampton (UK)
Networked Histories: Trauma, Memory, and the Character Network in Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor's Dust (2013)

Radhia Hachani, Kasdi Merbah University of Ouargla, Boukerrou Lamia, University of Constantine 2 (Algeria)
Traumatic Memory in Kateb Yacine's Nedjma

14:15-15:45 Zoom Session 4:
Chair: Chandler Taylor

Velga Vevere, Anna Freiberga, Paula Elmere, Latvian Academy of Culture (Latvia)
Trauma of Conversion in Latvian Philosophy During the Early Soviet Period (1944-1953)

Iulia Armencea, University of Bucharest (Romania)
Cultural Industries as an Instrument of Control of the Communist Regime. The Circulation of French Cultural Production in Romania between 1968 and 1980

Deepa K V, Kumaran.A, Central University of Kerala (India)
Disaster Memory in a Post-Disaster Context: An Ethnographic Study of Business Owners

Rian'aina Razafimandimby Rabarihoela, University of Antananarivo (Madagascar)
Silent Trauma and Impact of Colonial Memory on Today's Road Circulation Use and Governance in Antananarivo, Madagascar

16:00-17:15 Zoom Session 5:
Chair: Iulia Armencea

Fotis Dousos, Univeristy of Crete (Greece)
The Implied Author and the Narration of Trauma in Piedad Bonnett's *What Has No Name*

Katia Botta (Italy)
Landscape and Land without a 'Heimat'. Günther Stern Anders's Journey to Breslau [Wrocław] amidst the Ruins of War and the Landscapes of Memory

Joel Gabriel Ngameleu Ngameni, Washington University in St. Louis (USA)
Autobiographical Testimony as the Writing of Trauma: The Case of *Genocidé* by Sévérien Rurangwa

17:30-18:45 Zoom Session 6:
Chair: Deepa K V

Chandler Taylor, Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (USA)
At the Edge of Calamity: Northeast Ohio Remembers 9/11

Rachel Ziff O'Brien, McMaster University (Canada)
Bringing Holocaust Memory Home in Peter Rushforth's *Kindergarten* (1979)

Alexandra Rush, SUNY Empire State University (USA)
Amidst the War Rubble: An Alchemy of Loss and Remaking

Sunday, 6 December
Online Sessions, Zoom:

9:00-10:30 Zoom Session 7:
Chair: Lidia Mihaela Necula

Alina Neculachi, University of Bucharest, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi (Romania)
Memory and Trauma in the Novels of the 1960's Generation (*Lumea în două zile*, *Galeria cu viţă sălbatică*, *Vânătoarea regală*)

Yashar Abdulselyamoglu, Sofia University (Bulgaria)
Halabja as a Catalyst of Memory: Remembering, Forgetting and the Reconfiguration of Kurdish Collective Trauma in Western Asia

Zeliha Bayrakçi, Osmaniye Korkut Ata University (Turkey)
From the Square to the Screen: Collective Memory, Prosthetic Memory and Social Trauma in the 2011 Egyptian Revolution through *The Square* Documentary

Polina Trifonova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)
Silenced Memories: The 1980s Forced Assimilation Campaign in the Collective Memory of the Crimean Tatars in Bulgaria

10:40-11:30 Zoom Session 8:
Chair: Zeliha Bayrakçi

Katie-Louise Giles, Univeristy of Southampton (UK)
The Lively Image of My Grief": Curative Spectacles in John Ford's *The Lover's Melancholy*

Karmen Kovačević, University of Zadar (Croatia)
Representing the Past in Contemporary Spanish Cinema: Parallel Mothers (2021) and The Teacher Who Promised the Sea (2023)

11:45-13:00 Zoom Session 9:
Chair: Alina Neculachi

Celestine Mannuthy Babu, University of Salamanca (Spain)
Representation of Postdictatorial Memory and Trauma in Mariana Enriquez's Horror Fiction *Nuestra Parte de Noche*

Lidia Mihaela Necula, *'Dunărea de Jos'* University of Galaţi (Romania)
When Memory Stops Listening: Discarnation, Trauma and the Unmaking of the Sensing Self in David Lodge's *Deaf Sentence*

Iris Rusu, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu & University of Bucharest (Romania)
Public Secrets and Moral Geographies in Kazuo Ishiguro's *When We Were Orphans*

13:30-14:45 Zoom Session 10:
Chair: Celestine Mannuthy Babu

Alona Tron, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland)
When the War Settles in the Body: Embodied Trauma in the Oral Testimonies of Ukrainian Refugees after 2022

Nadia Ahmed Firoz, Carleton University, Ottawa (Canada)
"Still I Am Suffering": Embodied Memory, Gendered Trauma, and the Ethics of Listening in Rohingya Women's Oral Histories

Webster B. McDonald, University of Kansas (USA)
Archival Weight: History in and on the Body; Towards an Anti-colonial Scaffold for Offloading Colonial Templates of the Human

15:00-16:30 Zoom Session 11:
Chair: Nadia Ahmed Firoz

Li-Da Kruger, Reconnecting Cambodia (UK), Christine Su, University of Massachusetts, Lowell (USA) and Kara Uy Has, Cambodian American Resource Agency (USA)
Reclaiming Identity, Restoring Lineage, Reconnecting Cambodia: Using Science and Story to Reunite Cambodian Families

Claudine Kuradusenge-McLeod, American University (USA)
"Remembering while Wanting to Forget": Family Narratives of Love, Loss, and Trauma in a Post-Genocide Society

Kelly Berry, East Central University, Cornel Pewewardy, University of Central Oklahoma (USA)
Federal Indian Boarding Schools in the USA (1819-1960s) and the Intergenerational Impacts within Indigenous Peoples Communities and Culture: Perspectives from Two Indigenous Scholars

Anna Kokareva, University of North Texas (USA)
Alone with the Ghosts: Revealing Untold Stories of Volga German Women

16:45-18:00 Zoom Session 12:
Chair: Anna Kokareva

Amanda Baker-Vande Brake, Pacifica Graduate Institute (USA)
Recalling the Sacred: Traumatic Overwhelm, Memory, and Representation in C. G. Jung's *The Red Book* and the Medieval Text *The Book of Margery Kempe*

Prosper Ifeanyi, Hilary Akunburunwa, University of Alabama (USA)
Collective Sites of Memory in Contemporary African Exilic Poetic Imaginations

Colleen S. Harris, Texas A&M International University (USA)
Addictive Memory: Horror Cinema and the Compulsion to Re-Experience Trauma