**International Seminar for Inter-University Advanced Master in Literary Studies**

**New Trends in Cultural Memory Studies**

**Teacher: Prof. Dr. Ann Rigney (Utrecht University),** **a.rigney@uu.nl**

**Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Stef Craps (Ghent University),** **stef.craps@ugent.be**

**Ghent University, 21-24 April 2015**

In this series of talks and seminars we will explore a number of hot topics in the field of cultural memory studies, the interdisciplinary field of research into the cultural production of shared memories and identities with the help of a variety of media, including literature. Whereas the question ‘how do societies remember?’ was initially posed in relation to nation-states (i.e. how do nations remember?), increasingly attention has shifted to the question how shared memories are being produced at a time of advanced globalisation, postcoloniality, mass migration and of communication technologies that are radically changing our experience of distance and proximity. Linking our various meetings, then, will be an overarching concern with exploring the cultural production of collective memory from a *trans*national perspective.

Each seminar session will begin with an introduction to the topic by Ann Rigney. This will be followed by a group discussion of the theoretical topic of the day. Our discussion will be based on the prescribed readings and on concrete examples of memory practices from a range of different media and platforms with which we will critically engage.

Participants in the seminar are expected to have read the prescribed texts in advance of the seminar, to have identified key passages as well as those which are puzzling, to have formulated at least 2 points for discussion, and to be ready to present these in class.

Those looking for an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of cultural memory studies will find Olick et al. 2011 and Erll 2011b useful for background, but a familiarity with the field is not a prerequisite for participation.

The assessment will take the form of a formal 3000-word research paper on a topic of your choice pertinent to the course. Ideas for paper topics can be discussed during the final seminar session. The research paper must be submitted by email to both a.rigney@uu.nl and stef.craps@ugent.be by the beginning of the examination period (8 June or 17 August). It will be assessed jointly by Ann Rigney, Stef Craps, and one additional UGent or KU Leuven faculty member.

Tuesday 21 April

**Seminar session**, Faculty Room (Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Blandijnberg 2, first floor, right above the main entrance), 2 – 5 p.m.

Topic 1: Transnationalism and Memory Studies

* De Cesari and Rigney 2014
* Erll 2014
* Rigney 2014
* *Recommended*: Erll 2011

**Public lecture**, Auditorium D (Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Blandijnberg 2, ground floor), 5.30 – 7 p.m.

Title: “Public Apology as Transnational Performance: Bloody Sunday 1972-2010”

In the last half century public apology has become a transnational template for conflict resolution across the globe. This talk will build a bridge between transitional justice and cultural memory studies by examining public apology both as a technology of reconciliation and as a historically-specific cultural practice. In particular, it will show what a cultural analysis focussing on the role of media, performance, and narrative might bring to our understanding of the transformative potential of such events. It does so by offering a detailed analysis of the apology offered by the British Prime Minister on 15 June 2010 in relation to the Bloody Sunday massacre in Northern Ireland in January 1972. It is argued that the force of this apology lay in the highly-mediated circumstances in which it was performed, but also in the asymmetries of its interpretation among multiple (trans)national constituencies.

Wednesday 22 April

**Seminar session**, Faculty Room, 2 – 5 p.m.

Topic 2: Multidirectional Articulations

* Rothberg 2011
* Kennedy 2014
* *Recommended*: Warner 2002; Rothberg 2014; Craps 2010

Thursday 23 April

**Seminar session**, Faculty Room, 2 – 3.45 p.m.

Topic 3: Memory and Transnational Activism

* Assmann and Assmann 2010
* Ross 2002
* *Recommended:* Kirschenblatt-Gimblett and Shandler 2012

**Screening** of *The Act of Killing*, Auditorium A (Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Blandijnberg 2, ground floor), 4 – 6.30 p.m.

Friday 24 April

**Seminar session**, Faculty Room, 2 – 5 p.m.

Topic 4: (Post)Human Rights and the ‘Global Memory Imperative’

* *The Act of Killing* (dir: Joshua Oppenheimer 2012)
* Kirn 2014
* Schwenkel 2014
* *Recommended*: Rothberg and Moses 2014; Levy and Sznaider 2011

**Closing dinner**, Brasserie Ha’ (Handelsbeurs, Kouter 29), 6 p.m.

**If you are unable to attend the dinner, please notify Stef Craps by 15 April.**

Readings

Assmann, Aleida, and Corinne Assmann. 2010. “Neda - The Career of a Global Icon.” In *Memory in a Global Age: Discourses, Practices and Trajectories*, edited by Aleida Assmann and Sebastian Conrad, 225-42. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

De Cesari, Chiara, and Ann Rigney. 2014. “Introduction.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, edited by Chiara De Cesari and Ann Rigney, 3-25. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Erll, Astrid. 2014. “From ‘District Six’ to *District 9* and Back: The Plurimedial Production of Travelling Schemata.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, 29-50.

Kennedy, Rosanne. 2014. “Moving Testimony: Human Rights, Palestinian Memory, and the Transnational Public Sphere.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, 51-78.

Kirn, Gal. 2014. “Transnationalism in Reverse: From Yugoslav to Post-Yugoslav Memorial.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, 313-338.

Kristin Ross. 2002. “Establishing Consensus: May ‘68 in France as Seen from the 1980s.” *Critical Inquiry* 28 (3):650-676.

Rigney, Ann. 2014. “Ongoing: Changing Memory and the European Project.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, 339-360.

Rothberg, Michael. 2011 “From Gaza to Warsaw: Mapping Multidirectional Memory.” *Criticism* 53 (4):523-548.

Schwenkel, Christina. 2014. “Imaging Humanity: Socialist Film and Transnational Memories of the War in Vietnam.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, 219-244.

Recommendations

Craps, Stef. 2010 “Wor(l)ds of Grief: Traumatic Memory and Literary Witnessing in Cross-Cultural Perspective.” *Textual Practice* 24 (1):51-68.

Erll, Astrid. 2011. “Travelling Memory.” *Parallax* 17 (4):4-18.

Erll, Astrid. 2011b. *Memory in Culture*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara, and Jeffrey Shandler, eds. 2012. *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Levy, Daniel, and Natan Sznaider. 2011. “Cosmopolitan Memory and Human Rights.” In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Cosmopolitanism*, edited by Maria Rovisco and Magdalena Nowicka, 195-209. London: Ashgate.

Moses, Dirk, and Michael Rothberg. 2014. “A Dialogue on the Ethics and Politics of Transcultural Memory.” In *The Transcultural Turn: Interrogating Memory Between and Beyond Borders*, edited by Lucy Bond and Jessica Rapson, 29-38. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Neiger, Motti, Oren Meyers, and Eyal Zandberg, eds. 2011. *On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a New Media Age*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Olick, Jeffrey K., Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi, and Daniel Levy, eds. 2011. *The Collective Memory Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rothberg, Michael. 2009. *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Rothberg, Michael. 2014. “Multidirectional Memory in Migratory Settings: The Case of Post-Holocaust Germany.” In *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales*, edited by Chiara De Cesari and Ann Rigney, 123-145. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Warner, Michael. 2002. “Publics and Counterpublics.” *Public Culture* 14 (1): 49-90.

Biographies

Ann Rigney holds the chair of Comparative Literature at Utrecht University, the

Netherlands. She coordinates the Utrecht Forum in Memory Studies ([www.utrechtmemorystudies.nl](http://www.utrechtmemorystudies.nl)) as well as NITMES (Network in Transnational Memory Studies; [www.nitmes.net](http://www.nitmes.net)). She has published widely in the field of cultural memory studies, philosophy of history, and historical fiction. She is author of *The Rhetoric of Historical Representation* (Cambridge UP, 1990), *Imperfect Histories* (Cornell UP, 2001) and *The Afterlives of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move* (OxfordUP, 2012). Recent (co)edited collections include a special issue of *Memory Studies* on reconciliation and remembrance (2012; with N. Immler and D. Short), *Commemorating Writers in Nineteenth-Century Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014; with Joep Leerssen), and *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales* (De Gruyter, 2014; with Chiara De Cesari). She is currentlydeveloping a new project relating to the cultural memory of protest. [www.rigney.nl](http://www.rigney.nl)

Stef Craps is a research professor (“docent BOF-ZAP”) in English and American literature and culture at Ghent University, where he directs the Cultural Memory Studies Initiative ([www.cmsi.ugent.be](http://www.cmsi.ugent.be); formerly the Centre for Literature and Trauma). He is the author of *Postcolonial Witnessing: Trauma Out of Bounds* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and *Trauma and Ethics in the Novels of Graham Swift: No Short-Cuts to Salvation* (Sussex Academic Press, 2005), and has guest-edited special issues of *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* (2011; with Michael Rothberg) and *Studies in the Novel* (2008; with Gert Buelens) on the topics of, respectively, transcultural negotiations of Holocaust memory and postcolonial trauma novels. His next book projects are an introductory guide to the concept of trauma for Routledge’s New Critical Idiom series and an edited collection provisionally titled *Memory Unbound: Tracing the Dynamics of Memory Studies* (with Lucy Bond and Pieter Vermeulen). [www.stefcraps.com](http://www.stefcraps.com)