

## Forgetting / Remembering (Dunedin, 25–26 Jun 15)

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, Jun 25–26, 2015

Deadline: Apr 27, 2015

Jean Marie Carey, Universitetet i Stavanger Arkeologisk Museum

Call for Papers

Forgetting/Remembering

Postgraduate Symposium hosted by the University of Otago

Department of Languages and Cultures

We welcome presenters from any area of humanities research. Postgraduate and graduate students as well as emerging and independent scholars and visual and performing artists are invited.

"A [Paul] Klee painting named Angelus Novus shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed."

Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History, 1940

The Forgetting/Remembering symposium sets out to explore the productive tensions between forgetting and remembering and their effects on culture.

Preserving and handing down history and its influence on the cultural memory of modern societies is the conventional provenance of the humanities scholarship. At the same time, the construction of any historical narrative assumes the erasure of any competing narrative, an erasure that is forgetting.

If we assume that cultural memory is built upon suppression and forgetting, then memory as a personal and collective reality implies that the past is not simply there in memory, but it must be articulated to become memory.

We may thus challenge the assumption that cultural identity is about

creating a narrative on one's own place in history and what happened in the past: it might rather be that what cultures treasure as memory is important for identity formation as much as what it is forgotten.

Possible areas of enquiry:

- The role of power in constructing memory (censorship and canon/ dissent and subversion)
  - Redemption as 'citability' of one's own past (narratives of personal and national identities)
- Digital memory and identities (avatars, role play games, cosplay)
- Gendered memory
  - Archives as repositories of memory (genealogy, journalism, new media)
  - Contested memories (subalternity, gender issues)

Memory and progress

- Performative memories (commemorations, re-enactments)
- Counterfactual memories (authentic vs. fictional memory)
- History and historiography
- Anthropocene and post-human re-inscription of memory (systematic memory, automatic memory)
- Psychoanalysis (memory, trauma, remembering violence)
- Memory and the philosophical subject
- Non-verbal memory transmission (visual communication, imitation, animal behaviour)
- Translating memory

We particularly encourage papers which bring together more than one of these areas, and entail inter-disciplinary research in postgraduate work.

The deadline for proposals is 27 April 2015.

We aim to deliver feedback within two weeks.

Proposals need to be presented in the form of a 250 word abstract, which should also include your name, brief CV, institutional affiliation, email address and proposed paper title. These should be sent as an email attachment to [forgettingremembering2015@gmail.com](mailto:forgettingremembering2015@gmail.com).

We also offer the opportunity to present in alternative formats.

For more information on the symposium in general, please visit the web site <http://forgettingremembering.webnode.com>

We would be pleased to offer our help to find a home-based accommodation in Dunedin if needed.

Abstract deadline: 27 April 2015

Committee and contacts:

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Reference:

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