

Museums and Memory Working Group

MUSEUMS, MEMORY, POLITICS

24-25 January 2025

Day 1: <https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/81289905039>

Day 2: <https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/89884267960>

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the inaugural conference of the MSA Working Group Museums and Memory: Museums, Memory, Politics. As coordinators of the group, we are thrilled to welcome you and wish you all engaging and thought-provoking discussions.

The incredible response to this event, with exciting and diverse abstracts submitted from around the globe, affirms the mission of our working group. We look forward to your continued involvement in future online and in-person events. Keep an eye out for our email newsletter, which we send about eight times a year, to stay informed and engaged.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Memory Studies Association for its generous support, to our keynote speakers for sharing their invaluable expertise, and to the conference chair and organizing committee for their tireless efforts in making this inaugural conference a reality.

Let's make this a truly inspiring and memorable event!

Warm regards,

Stephan Jaeger, Alexandra Pucciarelli, and Amy Sodaro

A FEW NOTES ON ZOOM

To keep the number of links to a minimum, this conference will be run using a single Zoom link per day, with three breakout rooms. Rooms A, B, and C correspond to the panel sessions listed in the program.

You can leave and enter them at any time.

We ask that everyone please keep their microphones muted unless they are presenting or asking a question. When you enter a room, please be mindful of any discussion that is still going on. If some panels run over, you are welcome to enter the room for the next session, but again, please do not disturb the panel that is finishing.

There will always be someone from the committee in the main room if you have any questions. If you private message "Museums and Memory Conference", someone will respond as soon as possible. Each room will also have one or more co-hosts, who you can direct any questions towards.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Friday, 24 January 2025

<https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/81289905039>

Time (GMT)	Room A	Room B	Room C
10.30am-10.45am	Welcome		
11am-12.15pm	Reclaiming silenced memories in the museum	Archives as a site of reconciliation	Chinese memory politics
12.30pm-1.45pm	Musealizing memories of Socialism/Communism	Museums and memorials as sites of memory activism	De-Colonizing Curation
2pm-3pm	Break		
3pm-4.15pm	Keynote: Emma Martin, University of Manchester (Room A)		
4.30pm-5.45pm	Community memory in the museum	Memory and civic identity	The politics of memory cultures in the museum
6pm-7.15pm	Alternative museum practices and narratives	Politicization of contemporary museums about conflict	Confronting colonial pasts and their legacies
7.30pm-8.45pm	Facilitating dialogue through the museum	Charged Presences and Contested Identities: (De)constructing Objects in Memorial Museums	Memorializing sites of trauma

saturday, 25 january 2025

<https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/89884267960>

Time (GMT)	Room A	Room B	Room C
10.30am-10.45am	Welcome		
11am-12.15pm	Post-Soviet memory	Material identities	Cross-border representations of difficult history
12.30pm-1.45pm	Roundtable: Museums under pressure and museums for hope. Perspectives from East-Central Europe	Museum Representation of the Communist Past after 1989	Holocaust memory cultures
2pm-3pm	Break		
3pm-4.15pm	Keynote: Natalia Romik and Martin Vaino, in conversation with Stephan Jaeger and Amy Sodaro (Room A)		
4.30pm-5.45pm	Museum practices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine	Memories of migration	Curating memory
6pm-7.15pm	Marginalized memory	Curating digital memory	Memory and Religious Identity
7.30pm-8.45pm	Forced forgetting	Inter-generational memory	

DAY 1
FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

<https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/81289905039>



Welcome
10:30-10.45 AM GMT

Samantha Vaughn, Chair of the Museums and Memory
Conference Organizing Committee

Stephan Jaeger, Amy Sodaro, Alexandra Pucciarelli,
Co-Chairs of the Museums and Memory Working
Group

Maria Kobielska, Executive Committee of the Memory
Studies Association

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

First panel sessions 11am-12.15pm GMT

Panel 1a: Reclaiming silenced memories in the museum

Chair: Alsená Kokalari

Izabela Paszko, *Weaving between contemporary social emergencies, civic networks and narratives of violence: the NS Doku in Munich in perspective of infrastructures of memory*

Xatziri Peña Licea, *"Esta flor va en tu honor y a tu memoria": A Qualitative analysis of the messages to the detainees-disappeared in the visitor's books at the museum Casa de la Memoria Indómita.*

Ritu Bhagat, *Visualizing Memory: India's Partition and curating narratives in Partition Museums*

Panel 1b: Archives as a site of reconciliation

Chair: Tadek Wojtych

Sabine Mannitz, *Approaches to the colonial archive by Canadian museums*

Alma Nishtar, *The archive as a site of conflict: collective memory, identity, and trauma in the Iraqi Jewish Archive*

Joseph Donica, *Searching for Columbus in Spain: The Loud Silence of the Archive*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Panel 1c: Chinese memory politics

Chair: Heather Proctor

Ezra Kücken, *What Catastrophes to Learn from? - The Nanjing Memorial Hall and Politics of Memory in China (Part of a LOEWE funded project at the University of Marburg)*

Nattaporn Luangpipat, *Visualizing Collective Memories of Chinese People in Thailand through the Lens of National and Local Museums*

Second panel sessions

12.30pm-1.45pm GMT

Panel 2a: Musealizing memories of Socialism/Communism

Chair: Samantha Vaughn

Andrei Zavadski and Ksenia Robbe, *Workshopping Memories of Postsocialist Transformation in Museums of Germany and Poland*

Claudia-Florentina Dobre, *Curating Communist Nostalgia: Tales of Communism Museum, Braşov, Romania*

Liucija Verveckiene, *(Un)closing the door of uncomfortable past: home museums between irritating narrativity and slow responses to change*

DAY 1

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Panel 2b: Museums and memorials as sites of memory activism

Chair: Trina Cooper-Bolam

Eric W. Ross, *Memories of Violence in Post-Colonial South Korea*

Clara Martín Rivero, *The War and Women's Human Rights Museum (Seoul): challenges in memory transmission through activism in museums*

Anthony Thottungal, *Preactive Memory, Preactive Memorials: Memory making of the present, for the future*

Panel 2c: De-Colonizing Curation

Chair: Alexandra Pucciarelli

Boluwatife Akinro, *Representation and Elite Hegemony in Nigerian Private Museums*

Kacper Dzieka, *Russia's Hawaiian adventure or rather Hawai'i's Russian adventure?*

Albert Cavallaro, *Love After Andijan: Changed Collections, Changed Visitors and a Changed Museum in Russian Colonial Tashkent, 1898-1907*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Keynote: Emma Martin

3pm-4.15pm GMT



Emma Martin is a Senior Lecturer in Museology at University of Manchester and from 2003-2020 was Senior Curator for National Museums Liverpool (NML). This role accounted for a significant part of more than 25 years of experience as a curator of collections from South Asia, the Himalayas and Tibet. Her research sits at the intersection of colonialism(s), Tibetan Studies, museum activism, and materiality and moves between contemporary museum practice in Tibetan exile contexts and historical research on Tibetan materiality in British colonial archives. As a practice-based researcher, Emma is currently the curatorial advisor to the museum at the Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan and Ancient Indian Wisdom in Bodhgaya, India. Between 2017-2023, she acted as curator/advisor to the Tibet Museum, a major museum development for the Central Tibetan Administration, otherwise known as the Tibetan government-in-exile (opened in 2022). Her forthcoming book for Routledge is *The Dissident Museum: Oppositional Curating at The Tibet Museum*.

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Third panel sessions 4.30pm-5.45pm GMT

Panel 3a: Community memory in the museum

Chair: Alsená Kokalari

Melisa Lio, *"Circular de Morelia", a site of memory from Mexico's recent history*

Natalie Heidaripour, *Through Their Eyes: approaches and challenges to exploring traumatic and contested history in museums created by those who lived it.*

Red Chidgey, *Museums and Protest Memory: A Framework*

Panel 3b: Memory and civic identity

Chair: Catalina Delgado Rojas

Eunah Lee, *Making Visible Marginalized Histories and Identities: On the Birth of WongAvery Asia Pacific Peace Museum*

Gretel Mejía Bonifazi, *Envisioning the creation of a museum for historical memory for the victims of the Ixil genocide in Guatemala: preliminary reflections from a collaborative project*

Ricardo Velasco, *Transforming Cultural Institutions with Fabrics: The Cultural Activism Practices of the Sewing Group Unión de Costureros at Colombia's Center for Memory, Peace and Reconciliation.*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Panel 3c: The politics of memory cultures in the museum

Chair: Chloé Josse-Durand

Veronika Ivanova, *Guarding the Past: Memory Estatism and Museum Collections*

Zofia Wóycicka, *Museums as a tool of cultural diplomacy. The case of three Sugihara Museums in Japan and Lithuania*

Javier Rameix, *From Representation to Impact: How Inclusive Practices Strengthen Memorial Museums in South America*

Fourth panel sessions

6pm-7.15pm GMT

Panel 4a: Alternative museum practices and narratives

Chair: Joyce Apsel

Savina Sirik, *Complex or Ideal Victims? Memorializing Victims in Khmer Rouge Museums and Exhibitions*

Anne Kretsinger-Harries, *Curating the Long History of U.S. Civil Rights: The Smithsonian's Recontextualized March on Washington*

Paul Leworthy, *Mass objects, mass complicity and museum practices: Disposing of Hitler. From the Celler to the Museum at the HdGÖ*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Panel 4b: Politicization of contemporary museums about conflict

Chair: Maria Kobielska

Tetiana Hranchak, *Construction of Historical Memory By Russian “Special Military Operation” Museums*

Arleen Ionescu, *Appealing to a Global Audience: The Case of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre*

Stephan Jaeger, *A Return to Antagonistic Memory? Politics and Armed Forces in Newest Military History Exhibitions in Dresden, Fort Belvoir, and London*

Panel 4c: Confronting colonial pasts and their legacies

Chair: Catalina Delgado Rojas

Orly Lael Netzer, *Monumental Confrontation: Archives, Publics, and Inheritance*

Mischa Twitchin, *Masks, Museums, and Memory*

Marie-Pierre Caquot Baggett, *Leur Algérie: Algerian Immigration and Memorial Void in France*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Fifth panel sessions

7.30pm-8.45pm GMT

Panel 5a: Facilitating dialogue through the museum

Chair: Eunah Lee

Robert Obermair, *The towering castle with the dark past*

Orly Orbach, *Handcrafted memories: community-run cultural heritage centres as a study of micromuseology in Israel*

Caroline Cassinelli and Ana Catalina Correa, *Museum, Action, Reaction (M.A.R): Introducing the Toolkit*

Panel 5b: Charged Presences and Contested Identities:

(De)constructing Objects in Memorial Museums

Chair: Stephan Jaeger

Markéta Bajgerová Verly, *Replicas, Dioramas, and Artworks as Authenticators of Chinese “Historical Truth”: Custom-Made Objects in Museums on War of Resistance against Japan*

André Hertrich and Frauke Kempka, *The Belt and the Hood – Civilian Objects in Japanese War-Related Memorial Museums*

Ljiljana Radonić, *Heroicizing and Victimizing Objects – The Musealization of the Post-Yugoslav 1990s Wars in Croatia and Bosnia*

Eric Sibomana, *Anonymity and Plurality of Narrative Frames: Human and Material Remains as Polysemic Mnemonic Objects in Rwandan Genocide Memorial Museums*

DAY 1

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2025

Panel 5c: Memorializing sites of trauma

Chair: Jill Strauss

Stephanie Wolfe, *Memorializing Trauma: The Development of Genocide Memorials in Rwanda (1994-2004)*

Chloé Josse-Durand, *The Contested Museographies of Sites of Colonial Incarceration in Kenya*

Linda Levitt, *Preserving cultural memory at the Topaz Internment Camp*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

<https://newcastleuniversity.zoom.us/j/89884267960>

Welcome
10:30-10.45 AM GMT

Samantha Vaughn, Chair of the Museums and Memory Conference Organizing Committee

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Sixth panel sessions 11am-12.15pm GMT

Panel 6a: Post-Soviet memory

Chair: Samantha Vaughn

Dmitrijs Andrejevs, *The museum afterlife of iconoclasm: history museums and the cultural memory of the Lenin monument in Latvia*

Berikbol Dukeyev, *Contested Memories: Privatization, Memorialization, and the Great Terror in Almaty*

Lea Garcia, *Negotiating a new take on history. Actualizations of the Soviet past in Vilnius' historical museums*

Panel 6b: Material identities

Chair: Jill Strauss

Felicidad Galang-Perena, *Maestro Pitok's Chiaroscuro/ Palette and Piety: The Museum of Filipino Genre Painter Jose V. Blanco (1932-2008)*

Maria Korschake, *Contaminating Memories: An Artistic Reflection on the Power of Objects in Museum's Collections*

Matvey Lomonosov, *Imperialism in the Service of the National(ist) Museum: Unintended Contributions of Western Archaeology to Nationalism in Albania and Beyond*

Kristin Mikalsen, *Museums and mediation - How do museums change memory?*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Panel 6c: Cross-border representations of difficult history

Chair: Maria Kobielska

Julia Håkansson, *The Holocaust and the Second World War in Scandinavian Museums*

Ulrike Schmieder, *Museums as a Place of Healing of the Traumas of Enslavement? Responses from Cuba, Martinique and Curaçao*

Aniruddha Kar, *Politics of Remembering the Partition: A Comparative Analysis of Museums in Indian and Pakistani Punjab*

Mario Cepeda-Caceres, *Materializing truth narratives: from Truth Commissions to the development of Memory Spaces in South America*

Seventh panel sessions

12.30pm-1.45pm GMT

Panel 7a: Roundtable: Museums under pressure and museums for hope. Perspectives from East-Central Europe

Chair: Samantha Vaughn

Opening remarks: **Maria Kobielska**

Responses/comments: **Ene Kõresaar, Ljiljana Radonić, Joanna Wawrzyniak**

This roundtable conversation brings together different approaches to museum studies in order to revisit established perceptions of East-Central European memory wars and to explore opening potential of museums in the region facing local and global challenges of our time. We will discuss several inspirations from research on the boom of historical museums in Poland and other ECE countries.

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Panel 7b: Museum Representation of the Communist Past after 1989

Chairs: Ina Belcheva & Petra Hudek

Simina Badica, *From Transitional to Transnational Museologies of Communism*

Petra Hudek, *Musealisation of Communist-era Monuments in Post-1989 Czechoslovakia*

Ina Belcheva, *Taking Care of Socialist Art: Between Harm and Repair*

Caterina Preda, *Private Museums of Daily Life During Communism in Romania and the Entrepreneurs of Nostalgia*

Panel 7c: Holocaust memory cultures

Chair: Joanne Sayner

Mary Fulbrook, *The ghettoization of Holocaust representations?*

Michalina Musielak, *Hacking the Contemporary - Effective Displays in Holocaust Memorial Museums in Poland and Germany for Gen Z*

Radmila Svarickova Slabakova, *Czech memorials and museums of the Second World War: the Holocaust between national story and universal evil*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Curator and Designer Keynote Discussion 3pm-4.15pm GMT

Designing, curating, and programming of
exhibitions: memory politics and
commemoration in Eastern Europe.

Dr. Natalia Romik, Architect,
designer, and artist on
Jewish memory and
commemoration of the
Holocaust in Eastern Europe



Martin Vaino, Curator and
Head of Exhibitions,
Vabamu Museum of
Occupations and
Freedom, Tallinn, Estonia

In conversation with:

Stephan Jaeger, University of Manitoba

Amy Sodaro, Borough of Manhattan Community College

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Eighth panel session
4.30pm-5.45pm GMT

Panel 8a: Museum practices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Chair: Albert Cavallaro

Ksenia Lavrenteva, *Digital Heritage and Ideological Control: Russian Museums in the Post-Invasion Context*

Kacper Radny, *Polish, Ukrainian, or Russian? Imperial identity entanglements in the 21st century museum practice*

Olga Kiyan, *Frozen Exhibition, Hot Conflict: Representing and Reckoning with the Soviet Past through the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst*

Valentyna Kharkhun, *Museum Without Identity: Post-Soviet Transformations of the Soviet Museum*

Panel 8b: Memories of migration

Chair: Stephan Jaeger

Lena Opfermann, *Sharing Stories, Food and Passports: Forced Migration, Museum and Memory Activism in Contemporary Germany*

Julia Golachowska, *Politics of the Sybiraks' Discourse: Polonocentrism and the Decolonial Potential of Deportation Memory*

Daniela Flesler, *Displaying and Constructing Collective Memory at Spain's National Sephardic Museum*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Panel 8c: Curating memory

Chair: Catalina Delgado Rojas

Maria Siciliano, *The Poetics and Politics of Memory in
Martinez's Museum of the Americas*

Archana Ravi, *Reflections on the Bauhaus: Collaboration,
Implication, and Resistance*

Fiona Robertson, *Regenerating Memory? The case of Perth
Museum, Scotland and the Stone of Destiny*

Ninth panel session

6pm-7.15pm GMT

Panel 9a: Marginalized memory

Chair: Jill Strauss

Sophie Decroupet, *Mobilizing memorial displays in natural
history museums*

Emily G. Makas, *Compartmentalized Memories and Urban
Identities in Bosnian City History Museums*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Panel 9b: Curating digital memory

Chair: Arleen Ionescu

Peter Krapp, *Computer Museums and Collective Memories of Digital Culture*

Anna Calise, *The legacy of Benin heritage: before and after digital media*

Sebastian Graf, *Digital Art and Affect: Walking through Ukrainian Virtual Museums of War*

Panel 9c: Memory and Religious Identity

Chair: Trina Cooper-Bolam

Julia Roos, *Museums, Politics, and Jewish History: Three Case Studies from the Federal Republic of Germany*

Emily Arledge, *Downsizing Saints: Constricting Memory at American Catholic Museums*

Aditi Mantri, *Enduring Patronage: Tracing the Role of Museums in Rekindling Collective Memory*

DAY 2

SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY 2025

Tenth panel session
7.30pm-8.45pm GMT

Panel 10a: Forced forgetting

Chair: Amy Sodaro

Graziela Ares and Denise Grinspum, *The Museum as an Instrument to Forgetting: The Case of 'In Memoriam 1956. Október 25' in Budapest, Hungary*

Tetiana Boriak, *Holodomor and its memorialization in Ukraine: Paving the way to collective memory about the genocide*

Kelly Porter, *The Afterlife of White Supremacist Monuments: Museums React to Demands for the Preservation of Fallen Confederate Statues*

Panel 10b: Inter-generational memory

Chair: Arleen Ionescu

Ann-Marie Foster, *Family Memory and Museums: collections, digitisation, and history-making*

Mirah Langer, *Loved ones murdered during the war remained part of the family': The Representation and Role of Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors in Museums*

Beyza Kiziltepe, *Northern Part of Cyprus' Memory Places: Generational Remembering and Place Experiences*