

*University of Florida*  
*Department of Anthropology*  
**ANG 6186 & ANT 4930**

**Social Memory: A Materially Based Approach**

Prof. Peter R. Schmidt  
441 Grinter Hall

Thurs 2:15-3:45 PM  
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This seminar explores the historical contingencies in which social memory takes shape. We will read a variety of treatments that draw on the role of materiality in social memory, including the ways that culturally constructed landscapes inform social memory. A wide range of phenomena elicit, inform, and help to conserve social memory—monuments, heirlooms passed on within families, exhibits of cultural trophies, archaeological “sites” and ruins, regalia, photographs, buildings, pathways and avenues, keepsakes and war memorabilia—these are but a few of the full gamut of such interrelationships with human memory. The institutionalization of devices that ensure the conservation of social memory such as shrines, the conferral of place names laden with tropic meanings, and subaltern and oppositional perspectives submerged by such devices also capture our attention.

Our concerns will also touch on how social memory is sometimes retained at the expense of weaker histories that do not sustain popularity or are not concertized in the material world. Forgetting is an active process, the counterpart of memory that figures prominently in any social memory retention. We will also examine how social memory is embodied through dramatic performance and dance, ritual performance, masquerades, and gestures. The interplay of sacred places with ritual and other rites also compel inquiry, especially the exclusions of certain social groups thus ensuring forgetting as well as memory retention. A key theoretical concern, right from the beginning of the course and throughout, is the question of whether or not there is a separation between social memory and history. For those who maintain that there is, we pose counter questions: Is not such a separation the consequence of a literary tradition that divides history from the non-material forms of remembering history, and does such a separation help or hinder us from understanding how non-literate peoples sustain social memory in the absence of written history? The silencing of history also enters into our discourse, with an inquiry into how and why certain memories are forgotten while others are valorized and retained.

**Organization and Expectations**

Each seminar participant will be expected to help lead two seminars (one for undergrads) during the semester. This will entail a comprehensive, critical reading of the reading assignment for that particular week, guiding the seminar discussion, and producing a 5-7 page paper (3-5 for undergrads) on the readings; we may sometimes have multiple papers at one seminar. Each graduate

student seminar participant is expected to submit three (3) critical questions to the instructor each week 24 hours in advance of the seminar, e.g. by 5 PM every Monday; each undergraduate will submit 2 questions. These questions will be compiled by the instructor and returned to all participants to use in preparation for the seminar discussion no later than 7 AM the next morning but usually Monday evening between 7 and 11 PM.

All seminar participants will write research papers, preferably on topics that can be researched in the UF community or Gainesville—topics such as the 34<sup>th</sup> St. wall and its role in social memory; the organization of the Swamp (Ben Hill Griffin Stadium) and collective memory; mnemonics in the household—ceramics as familial social memory; war memorabilia; contemporary ritual embodiments of social memory, pictures as familial/individual memory, etc.

### **Grading**

Grading of class assignments:

- Class presentations/Short paper(s) 20%
- Weekly Questions 20%
- Discussion in class 25%
- Research paper: 35%

### **Books: For Purchase Online**

Connerton, P. 1989. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Feld, S. and K. Basso, eds. 1996. *Senses of Place*. SAR Press: Santa Fe.

Halbwachs, M. 1992. *On Collective Memory*, ed. And trans by L. A. Coser. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Huyssen, A. 2003. *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. {Recommended}

Stewart, P. J. and A. Stratnern, eds., 2003. *Landscape, Memory and History*. London & Sterling, VA: Pluto Press. {Recommended}

Trouilllot, M-R. 1995. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Beacon Press, Boston, 1995.

Van Dyke, R. and S. E. Alcock, eds. 2003. *Archaeologies of Memory*. Blackwell, Malden MA.

### **Other Books for possible independent purchase.**

Cole, J. 2001. *Forgetting Colonialism?: Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Cattell, M. and J. J. Climo. 2002. Meaning in Social Memory and History: Anthropological Perspectives. In *Social Memory and History*. Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press.

Mills, B. and W. Walker. 2008. *Memory Work: Archaeologies of Material Practice*. Santa Fe: SAR Press.

Lowenthal, D. 1985. *The Past is a Forgotten Country*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **Schedule of Meetings and Readings**

**Week 1: January 10:** Discussion of the Syllabus and Assignments for the semester

### **Week 2: Jan. 17: The Guiding Light?**

Halbwachs, M. 1992. *On Collective Memory*, ed. and trans. by L. A. Coser. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cole, J. 2006. "Modernity and Memory." In *A Companion to Psychological Anthropology: Modernity and Psychocultural Change*, eds. C. Casey and R. B. Edgerton, pp. 103-120. **TBP**

### **Week 3; Jan. 24: The Second Point of Inspiration.**

Connerton, P. 1989. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Crumley, C. 2002. Exploring Venues of Social Memory. In *Social Memory and History*, pp. 39-51. **TBP**

Mills, B. and Walker, W. 2008. Introduction: Memory, Materiality, and Depositional Practice. In *Memory Work*, pp. 3-24. **TBP**

### **Week 4; Jan. 31: A Separation Between History and Social Memory?**

Nora, P. 1989. "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire." *Representations*, No. 26, Special Issue: Memory and Counter-Memory, pp. 7-24. Electronic resource available through UF Libraries.

Casey, E. S. 1996. "How to Get from Space to Place in a Fairly Short Stretch of Time." In *Senses of Place*, pp. 13-52.

Huyssen, A. "Introduction." In *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*, pp. 1-10.

Lowenthal, D. 1985. "How We Know the Past." In *The Past is a Foreign Country*, pp.185-219 (part of chapter 5). **TBP**

Cole, J. 2001. "Between Memory and History." In *Forgetting Colonialism?: Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar*, pp. 102-134 (Chapter 4). **TBP**

Cattell, M. G. and Climo, J. J. 2002. Introduction: Meaning in Social Memory and History: Anthropological Perspectives, In *Social Memory and History*, pp. 1-35. **TBP**

**Week 5; Feb. 7: Week Off:** Researching paper topic, abstract of which is to be presented in class Feb. 14.

**Week 6: Feb. 14: Power, Silencing: History and Social Memory**

Trouilllot, M-R. 1995. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Beacon Press, Boston.

Walz, J. 2007. "Archaeologies of Disenchantment. In *Postcolonial Archaeologies in Africa*." In *Postcolonial Archaeologies in Africa*, ed. P. R. Schmidt, pp. 21-38. Santa Fe: SAR Press. **TBP**

Schmidt, P. and J. Walz. 2007. "Silences and Mentions in History Making." *Journal of Historical Archaeology* 41(4):129-146. **TBP**

**Week 7; Feb. 21: Power, Society, and Monumentalizing**

Dietler, M. 1998. "A tale of three sites: the monumentalization of Celtic oppida and the politics of collective memory and identity." *World Archaeology* 30(1):72-89. Available online.

Huysen, A. "Monumental Seduction: Christo in Berlin. In *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*, pp.30-48.

Rowlands, M. 1999. "Remembering to Forget: Sublimation as Sacrifice in War Memorials." In *The Art of Forgetting*, eds. A. Forty and S. Kuchler, pp. 129-146. **TBP**

Bradley, R. "The Translation of Time." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 221-227.

Papalexandrou, A. 2003. "Memory Tattered and Torn: Spolia in the Heartland of Byzantine Hellenism." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 56-80.

Pauketat, T. and S. M. Alt. 2003. "Mounds, Memory, and Contested Mississippian History." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 151-179.

**Week 8; Feb. 28: The Collective Role of Mnemonics in Social Memory**

Schmidt, P. 2006. "Social Memory, Mnemonics, and Historical Archaeology." Chapter 4 in *Historical Archaeology: Representation, Social Memory, and Oral Traditions*. **TBP**

Meskel, L. 2003. "Memory's Materiality: Ancestral Presence, Commemorative Practices and Disjunctive Locales." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, eds. R. Van Dyke and S. Alcock, pp. 34-55.

Lowenthal, D. 1985. "How We Know the Past." In *the Past is a Foreign Country*, pp. 238-259 (Sections on Relics, etc). **TBP**

Lillios, K. T. 2003. "Creating Memory in Prehistory: The Engraved Slate Plaques of Southwest Iberia." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 129-150.

Kellaher, Francis, D. et al. 2002. Cemetery: A Site for the Construction of Memory, Identity, and Ethnicity. In *Social Memory and History: Anthropological Perspectives*, eds. J. J. Climo and M. G. Cattell, pp. 95-126. **TBP**

### **Week 9; March 6: Spring Vacation**

### **Week 10; March 13: Built Landscape and Social Memory**

Ambridge, L. 2007. "Inscribing the Napatan Landscape: Architecture and Royal Identity." In *Negotiating the Past in the Past*, ed. N. Yoffee. **TBP**

Villamil, L. P. 2007. "Creating, Transforming, Rejecting, and Reinterpreting Ancient Maya Urban Landscapes: Insights from Lagartera and Margarita." In *Negotiating the Past in the Past*, ed. N. Yoffee. **TBP**

Küchler, S. 1993, "Landscape as memory: the mapping of process and its representation in a Melanesian society." In *Landscape: Politics and Perspectives*, ed. B. Bender, pp. 85-106. **TBP**

Van Dyke, R. 2003. "Memory and the Construction of Chacoan Society." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 180-200.

Blake, E. 2003. "The Familiar Honeycomb: Byzantine Era Reuse of Sicily's Prehistoric Rock-Cut Tombs." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 203-220.

Lowenthal, D. "Changing the Past." In *The Past is a Forgotten Country*, pp. 263-361.  
Recommended\*

### **Week 11: March 20: Landscapes, Remembering History**

Smith, A. 2003. "Landscape Representation: Place and Identity in Nineteenth-Century Ordnance Survey Maps of Ireland." In *Landscape, Memory, and History*, pp. 71-88.

Schmidt, P. 2006. "Moving Historical Archaeology to Symbolic Space." Chapter 6 in *Historical Archaeology: Representation, Social Memory, and Oral Traditions*. **TBP**

Harper, J. 2003. "Memories of Ancestry in the Forests of Madagascar." In *Landscape, Memory, and History*, pp. 89-107.

Guo, P. 2003. "‘Islands Builders’: Landscape and Historicity among the Langalanga, Solomon Islands." In *Landscape, Memory, and History*, pp. 189-209.

Hirsch, E. 1995. "Introduction." In E. Hirsch and M. O’Hanlon, eds. *The Anthropology of Landscape: Perspectives on Place and Space*, pp. 1-30. **TBP**

### **Week 12: March 27: Landscape: Sound, Place, and Nature in Social Memory**

Kahn, M. 1996. "Your Place and Mine: Sharing Emotional Landscapes in Wamira, Papua New Guinea." In *Senses of Place*, pp.167-196.

Stewart, K. 1996. "An Occupied Place." In *Senses of Place*, 137-165.

Basso, K. 1996. "Wisdom Sits in Places: Notes on a Western Apache Landscape." In *Senses and Place*, pp. 53-90.

Lassiter, L. E. 2002. "Kiowa: On Song and Memory." In *Social Memory and History*, ed. M. Cattell and J. Climo, pp. 131-142. **TBP**

### **Week 13; April 3: The Embodiment of Social Memory and Forgetting: Ritual and Performance, Present and Past**

Argenti, N. "Ephemeral Monuments, Memory and Royal Sempiternity in a Grassfields Kingdom." In *The Art of Forgetting*, pp. 21-52. **TBP**

Küchler, S. 1999. "The Place of Memory." In *The Art of Forgetting*, pp. 53-73. **TBP**

Prent, Mieke. 2003. "Glories of the Past in the Past: Ritual Activities at Palatial Ruins in Early Iron Age Crete." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 81-103.

Joyce, R. A. 2003. "Concrete Memories: Fragments of the Past in the Classic Maya Present (500-1000 AD)." In *Archaeologies of Memory*, pp. 104-125.

Joyce, R. A. 2008. "Practice in and as Deposition." In *Memory Work*. **TBP**

Mills, B. 2008. "Remembering while Forgetting: Depositional Practices and Social Memory at Chaco." In *Memory Work*. **TBP**

Cole, J. 2001. "Memory: Official and Unofficial." *Forgetting Colonialism?: Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar*, pp. 170-222 (Chapter 6). **TBP**

### **Week 14; April 10: Social Memory and Trauma**

Webner, R. "INTRODUCTION: Beyond Oblivion: Confronting Memory Crisis." In *Memory and the Postcolony*, pp. 1-17. **TBP**

Webner R. "Smoke from the Barrel of a Gun: Postwars of the Dead, Memory and Reinscription in Zimbabwe." In *Memory and the Postcolony*, pp. 71-102. **TBP**

Yoneyama, L. 1994. "Taming the Memoryscape: Hiroshima's Urban Renewal." In *Remapping Memory*, ed. J. Boyaren. Minneapolis, Univ. Minnesota Press, pp. 99-135. **TBP**

Longman, T. and T. Rutagengwa. 2006. "Memory and violence in postgenocide Rwanda." In *States of Violence: Politics, Youth, and Memory in Contemporary Africa*, eds. E. Bay and D. Donham. Charlottesville: Univ VA Press. **TBP**

Huyssen, A. 2003. "After the War: Berlin as Palimpsest." In *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*, pp. 72-84.

Huyssen, A. 2003. "Twin Memories: Afterimages of Nine/Eleven." In *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory*, pp. 158-164.

Natzmer, C. 2002. Remembering and Forgetting: Creative Expression and Reconciliation in Post-Pinochet Chile. In *Social Memory and History*, pp. 161-180. **TBP**

Schmidt, P. R. 2010. Trauma and Social Memory in NW Tanzania: Organic, spontaneous community collaboration. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 10(2):255-279. Online.

**Week 15; April 17:** Presentation of Papers

**Week 16; April 24:** Presentation of Papers