

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

Mediating the past: Memory practices between social cohesion and fragmentation

Braunschweig (Germany), 14 – 16 March 2012

Convened by:
Felicitas Macgichrist^① and Geert Jacobs^②

① Georg-Eckert-Institute for International Textbook Research, Braunschweig, Germany
② Department of Linguistics, Ghent University, Belgium





The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 72 Member Organisations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. The Mission of ESF is to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to advance European research and to explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

The main objectives of ESF for the years 2006-2010 (extended to 2011 and 2012) as defined by its current *Strategic Plan* are to promote Science Strategy and Science Synergy, paving the way for initiatives across disciplinary and geographic boundaries in the European Research Area (ERA).

The Exploratory Workshops scheme is one of the key instruments of the Science Strategy “pillar”. Each year, ESF supports approximately 50 Exploratory Workshops across all scientific domains. The focus of the scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure, also of interdisciplinary character. Workshops are expected to open up new directions in research or new domains. It is expected that a workshop shall conclude with plans for follow-up research activities and/or collaborative actions or other specific outputs at international level.

European Science Foundation

1 quai Lezay Marnésia
BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
<http://www.esf.org>

ESF Exploratory Workshops:

Paul Egerton

Corporate focal point for Peer Review and Evaluation

Valerie Allspach-Kiechel

Senior Administrator

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 36

Isabelle May

Senior Administrator

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 46

Email: ew-office@esf.org

<http://www.esf.org/workshops>

Convenor:

Felicitas Macgilchrist
macgilchrist@gei.de

Georg-Eckert-Institut for International
Textbook Research
Celler Str. 3
38114 Braunschweig
Germany

Co-convenor:

Geert Jacobs
geert.jacobs@ugent.be

Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Ghent University
Tweekerkenstraat 2
9000 Ghent
Belgium

Main Objectives of the Workshop:

‘Memory’ has become a powerful concept in the study of contemporary human life. The ability to remember and draw elements of the past into the present enables us to plan the future. Tensions between the memories of diverse social groupings play a significant role in the sense of exclusion and inclusion within and among societies. Different patterns of memory practices across Europe lead to different forms of social cohesion/fragmentation. Yet, despite the large number of studies across a range of disciplines, surprisingly few empirical studies have investigated how interpretations of the past are actually mediated and engaged in specific everyday and institutional settings. This question is increasingly important, given the wide-spread perception that today’s world is constantly changing at great speed. The world appears ever more interconnected, diverse and fragmented. It no longer affords a single master narrative of the past. This in turn threatens the long-held political desire to define a stable shared ‘national’ memory, and opens up a myriad of alternative memory practices. Today’s societies are shaped by conflicts between attempts to stabilise cultural memory and practices of destabilising cultural memory.

Memory studies has embraced heterogeneity and controversy, investigating for instance the contradictory joint construction of family memory. Exciting steps have been taken by interview studies which have identified tensions between family and official memories. Nevertheless, empirical studies observing how people perform or ‘do’ memory by reconstructing the past in naturalistic, real-life settings are still very rare. Calls made since the 1990s for research which investigates the practices of interacting with collective memory objects have as yet remained largely unanswered.

The main objective of this three-day workshop is thus to bring together for the first time experts from memory studies and linguistic ethnography to explore how to open up ‘memory practices’ as a substantive field of enquiry. The former have expertise in the dynamics and mediation of memory; the latter in how language and interaction figure in struggles over meaning, processes of inclusion and exclusion and the mediation of social cohesion and fragmentation.

Workshop Agenda

Since remembering is impossible without mediation, our focus is on how students and teachers, journalists, other media workers, artists, etc. and also the general public in their capacity as news consumers, internet users, cinema-goers, etc. engage with officially legitimised versions of history.

Participants are invited to discuss how their own research relates to some or all of the following research questions:

- Which dynamic memory practices map the fault lines of contemporary socio-cultural configurations across Europe (e.g. in conflicting memories of migration and diversity; among generations, minority and majority groups, states and nations, the local and the national, European regions, etc.)?
- How do these memory practices figure in everyday practices and perceptions of cohesion/fragmentation in general and inclusion/exclusion and/or misrepresentation in particular?
- Which specific innovative methods utilizing new technologies (e.g. video-supported observations, computer-assisted ethnography) could (i) provide new insights into situated memory practices, and (ii) enhance the impact which humanities-based memory research can have on public or political debates?

Further objectives of the workshop are to:

- sketch the contours of a new field emerging from what could be called a paradigm shift from a traditional focus on relatively static cultural ‘products’ and ‘representations’ to dynamic and heterogeneous cultural ‘processes’ and ‘practices’,
- establish a network of expert EU scholars with shared interests across disciplines,
- develop a clear focus for high-impact breakthrough research on memory practices, i.e. a research agenda for those issues which should be consolidated to have the highest breakthrough impact on both scholarly and public debates, and
- establish the groundwork for future collaborative actions

Delegates will be able to prepare, in advance of the workshop, by reading a selection of papers on the issues, methods and theories touched upon in the presentations and working groups. This Reader will be made available at least one week before the Workshop.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 March 2012

Afternoon *Arrival*

8pm *Informal drinks; dinner and snacks also available (Siebenschläfer Bar, Scharnstrasse 22, 38100 Braunschweig, www.siebenschlaefer-bar.com)*

Wednesday 14 March 2012

10.00-10.10	Welcome by Conveners Felicitas Macgilchrist (Georg Eckert Institute, Germany) Geert Jacobs (Ghent University, Belgium)
10.10-10.20	Welcome by Director of the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research Simone Lässig
10.20-10.40	Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF) TBA (Standing Committee for the Humanities, SCH)
10.40-11.00	Participant introductions
11.00-11.15	<i>Coffee /Tea Break</i>
11.15-12.30	SESSION 1: Memory Studies
11.15-12.00	Title tba Andrew Hoskins (University of Glasgow, UK) Led by Felicitas Macgilchrist (Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig, Germany)
12.00-12.45	Discussion
12.45-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-15.30	SESSION 2: Practices
14.00-14.40	Memory Practices: Remembered pasts, Former presents Endre Dányi (University of Lancaster, UK) Felicitas Macgilchrist (Georg Eckert Institute, Braunschweig, Germany)
14.40-15.30	Discussion Led by Leon Barkho (Jönköping University, Sweden)
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>
16.00-18.00	SESSION 3: Linguistic Ethnography
16.00-17.00	Linguistic ethnography: Understanding practitioners' perspectives Geert Jacobs (Ghent University, Belgium) Daniel Perrin (Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland)
17.00-18.00	Discussion Led by Kornelia Konczal (Polish Institute Berlin, Germany/Poland)
19.00	<i>Dinner</i>

Thursday 15 March 2012

09.30-12.30

SESSION 4: Memory Conflicts

Parallel Working Groups:

09.30-11.15

Memories of conflicts: Narration of trauma and guilt in Lithuanian borderline areas

Jurga Jonutyte (Vytauto Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania)

09.30-11.15

Digital memories of the Holocaust: Jewish identity in Belgrade

Nevena Daković (University of Belgrade, Serbia)

09.30-11.15

Unraveling memory practices: The multiperspectivist case of a teacher. A hands-on discussion of theory and practice.

Alexanda Binnenkade (University of Basel, Switzerland)

11.15-11.30

Coffee / Tea Break

11.30-12.30

Discussion

12.30-14.00

Lunch

14.00-17.00

SESSION 5: Cultural Memory and Social Change

Parallel Working Groups

14.00-16.00

Memory work, professional vision and expertise

Tom Van Hout (Leiden University, Netherlands)

14.00-16.00

The cyclicity of news: How memory motivates news practice

Colleen Cotter (Queen Mary University of London, UK)

14.00-16.00

Watching contemporary history: Methodological explorations

Sabine Moller (University of Flensburg, Germany)

16.00-17.00

Discussion

17.00-17.30

Coffee / Tea Break

14.00-17.00

SESSION 6: Memorias Urbanas

17.30-18.30

Memorias Urbanas: Art and Memory

Juan Garaizabal (Memorias Urbanas Project, Spain)

19.30

Dinner

Friday 16 March 2012

09.30-12.00

SESSION 7: Follow-up activities

09.30-12.00

Discussion of follow-up activities and future plans

12.00-18.00

EXCURSION

12.00-18.00

Excursion to Berlin: Memorias Urbanas Art Project

Including simple lunch

18.30

End of Workshop and departure from Berlin

European Science Foundation

Objectives of the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

The main tasks of the **ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)** are:

- to encourage interdisciplinary work through the independent evaluation of collaborative research proposals emanating from the scholarly community;
- to identify priority research areas and to play an integrative and co-ordinating role by creating links between research communities which in the Humanities are often small and fragmented.
- to contribute to the development of the ESF science policy agenda and to provide expert advice on science policy actions at the European level in the field of its responsibilities.

The Committee is well aware that the ESF is the only European Agency where the Humanities have a place next to the other sciences and where European projects are reviewed, developed and subsequently operated.

The Committee considers it all the more important to be heard as the voice of the Human Sciences in Europe and to continue pleading for a more prominent place for the Humanities in the European landscape.

ESF Humanities and Social Sciences Unit:

Nina Kancewicz-Hofman

Head of Unit

Arianna Ciula

Science Officer, Humanities

Claire Rustat-Flinton

Administrator

Céline Ottenwelter

Administrator

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 19

Email: humanities@esf.org

<http://www.esf.org/human>

Provisional List of Participants

Convenor:

1. **Felicitas MACGILCHRIST**
Georg-Eckert-Institut für internationale
Schulbuchforschung
Celler Str. 3
38114 Braunschweig
Germany
macgilchrist@gei.de

Co-Convenor:

2. **Geert JACOBS**
Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Ghent University
Tweekerkenstraat 2
9000 Ghent
Belgium
geert.jacobs@ugent.be

ESF Representative:

3. **TBA**

Participants:

4. **Johanna AHLRICHS**
Georg-Eckert-Institut für internationale
Schulbuchforschung
Celler Straße 3
38114 Braunschweig
Germany
ahlrichs@gei.de
5. **Leon BARKHO**
Jönköping International Business School
Jönköping University
P.O. Box 1026
551 11 Jönköping
Sweden
leon.barkho@jibs.hj.se
6. **Alexandra BINNENKADE**
Fellow of the Swiss National Science
Foundation
Universität Basel
St. Galler-Ring 158
4054 Basel
Switzerland
alexandra.binnenkade@me.com

7. **Colleen COTTER**
School of Languages, Linguistics and Film
Queen Mary
University London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
United Kingdom
c.m.cotter@qmul.ac.uk
8. **Nevena DAKOVIĆ**
Department of Theory and History
University of Arts in Belgrade
Kosancicev venac 29
Belgrade 11 000
Serbia
danev@sezampro.rs
9. **Endre DÁNYI**
Department of Sociology
Lancaster University
Bowland North
Lancaster University
Lancaster LA1 4YT
United Kingdom
edanyi@gmail.com
10. **Astrid ERLI**
Institut für England- und Amerikastudien
Goethe Universität Frankfurt
Grüneburgplatz 1
60323 Frankfurt/Main
Germany
erli@em.uni-frankfurt.de
11. **Juan GARAIZABAL**
Studio Juan Garaizabal
Gallarza 11
28002 Madrid
Spain
juan@memoriasurbanas.com
12. **Maria Cristina GATTI**
Faculty of Foreign Languages and
Literatures
University of Verona
Via San Francesco 22
37129 Verona
Italy
cristina.gatti@univr.it

13. **Andrew HOSKINS**
College of Social Science
University of Glasgow
Florentine House
53 Hillhead Street
Glasgow G12 8QF
United Kingdom
Andrew.Hoskins@glasgow.ac.uk
14. **Jurga JONUTYTE**
Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy
Vytauto Magnus University, Kaunas
Gedimino g. 44
44240 Kaunas
Lithuania
jurga.jonutyte@gmail.com
15. **Petr KADERKA**
Institute of the Czech Language
Academy of Sciences of the Czech
Republic
Letenska 4
118 51 Praha 1
Czech Republic
kaderka@ujc.cas.cz
16. **Kornelia KONCZAL**
Polnisches Institut Berlin
Burgstr. 27
10178 Berlin
Germany
konczal@panberlin.de
17. **Sabine MOLLER**
Institut für Geschichte und ihre Didaktik
Universität Flensburg
Auf dem Campus 1
24943 Flensburg
Germany
sabine.moller@hu-berlin.de
18. **Daniel PERRIN**
Institut für Angewandte
Medienwissenschaft
Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte
Wissenschaften
Theaterstrasse 15c
8400 Winterthur
Switzerland
daniel.perrin@bluewin.ch
19. **Els TOBBACK**
Centre Applied Linguistics
Faculty of Business Economics
Hasselt University
Campus Diepenbeek
Agoralaan - Gebouw D - Kamer B60
3590 Diepenbeek
Belgium
els.tobback@uhasselt.be
20. **Ellen VAN PRAET**
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
Ghent University
Hoveniersberg 24
9000 Ghent
Belgium
Ellen.VanPraet@UGent.be
21. **Tom VAN HOUT**
Faculty of Humanities
Leiden University
Witte Singel-complex
P.N. van Eyckhof 4
2311 BV Leiden
Netherlands
t.van.hout@hum.leidenuniv.nl

IM/06.02.2012

ESF Exploratory Workshops

European Science Foundation ■ 1 quai Lezay Marnésia ■ BP90015 ■ FR-67080 Strasbourg Cedex
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 46 or 36 ■ Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32 ■ Email: ew-office@esf.org ■ <http://www.esf.org/workshops>