



MSA Forward Workshop

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The Memory Studies Association's second annual conference provided a special forum for PhD students to explore the connection of our research to memory studies. A day before the conference began, twenty three early researchers coming from different parts of the world gathered in the University of Copenhagen to present our projects, exchange ideas and share our research experiences. The workshop turned out to be a great meeting platform and, I believe, it set up the basis for future dialogue among new generations of memory scholars.

Along with the variety of presentations, one of the things that made the workshop so stimulating was the quality of the responses. Key academics in the field gave valuable feedback to each presentation, contributing to the outlining of the projects, their methodology, framework and viability. Diversity of topics and approaches was also a highlight. During the first panel, "Conflicting Memories and Memories of Conflict", we started by discussing Quaker memories of the Israel-Palestine conflict thanks to Alexis Constantinou's presentation, to continue reflecting on new scenarios for museum planning in the "post-soviet space" as it was proposed by Maria Mikaelyan. Later we got to know some of the complexities in the current postmemory landscape in post-Suharto Indonesia, thanks to Katarzyna Marta Głab's presentation. The second panel was dedicated to memories in and of Central and Latin-America and also involved a number of different perspectives. The role of media was discussed through Alice Carvalho de Melo's research on the performance of mainstream journalism in the construction of the so called "environmental tragedies" in Brazil. Jagoda Mytych's project to address polish media discourse on historical responsibility led us to revisit a postmemory approach, together with Lela Weigt's presentation on Argentinian and Guatemalan writers dealing with violent political pasts. Travelling memories and cross border cultural memories as key

concepts were also revisited through Sjamme Van de Voort's research on Cuban-America diaspora.

Finally, media and archives were also at the table in the third and last panel "Mediatized Memory". My presentation discussed the political disputes surrounding declassification of Armed Forces' archives in Argentina, while Mhairi Brennan project engaged on the ways in which BBC Scotland Television Archive material became a powerful tool for constructing and reconstructing the nation's past. Lastly, Stephanie de Smale's presentation addressed how digital memory of the Bosnian war is produced, circulated and received. Both presentations brought back the question of selectiveness in archive material and its impact when shaping social imaginary and "televisual memories of the past".

After the panels, a career café in a speed dating format allowed us to talk freely about professional development with other experienced scholars. The day ended with a Danish warm dinner that brought together all the participants and the organisers, Rebekah Vince and Hanna Teichler, who did a wonderful job making the workshop a real success.