



## Call for Abstracts: Special Issue *Memory Studies* “Memory and Crisis”

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Each year, the MSA edits an issue of the journal *Memory Studies*. Usually, this special issue draws directly on the work and discussions presented at the Annual Meeting. Alas, we were unable to convene this year as planned in Charlottesville. Nevertheless, the topics we had planned to discuss, along with ones that led to our having to cancel, remain pressing.

This MSA Annual Issue seeks to represent both the theme of the conference and the breadth of work in memory studies. We thus welcome proposals from conference participants (Charlottesville) as well as others, addressing questions of importance to the entire field. In particular, we encourage contributions—including a variety of formats such as stand-alone papers, symposia, debates, interviews, review essays, and other interventions—on the following themes, which we group together under the rubric of “Memory and Crisis.”

- The Charlottesville meeting raised the theme of **memory and democracy**, mainly because it seems that – in the wake of populism – democracy has been experiencing a particular wave of crisis (and crises) over the past several years, and that memory plays diverse roles in these processes. We thus seek papers addressing the theme of memory and democracy, broadly understood (and that broaden our understanding).
- In addition to the broadest theme of memory and democracy, we seek papers that address the specific issues that made **Charlottesville an important location** for a memory studies meeting. Though long important in U.S. history, Charlottesville became more widely known when white nationalists staged a rally to protest the city council’s decision to move a monument of Confederate General Robert E. Lee from the center of the city to a more peripheral location. Since the 2017 riots, Charlottesville has come to stand for conflict over the unworked-through legacies of the American past, and as a flashpoint in debates about racial justice, populism, and commemoration. We thus seek papers and other contributions that address the unique contours—the exception?—of **memory politics in the United States**, with particular attention to the legacies of slavery and the unworked-through racist past (to say nothing of present) in the United States.
- Since the monuments debate entered a new phase in Charlottesville in 2017, and following the murder of George Floyd in 2019 and the resulting rise in support for Black Lives Matter, both the **monument question** and questions about the **persistent legacies of colonialism** have grown in many places around the world. We thus welcome contributions that address monument debates and especially the recent wave of antiracism and anticolonialism around the world.

- Just in the time since we were supposed to meet in Charlottesville, democracy has faced a significant new crisis of public health. We thus welcome contributions that address memory and the crisis, with the latter understood in reference to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Contributions might in particular address either the memory of earlier pandemics (and thus question of premediation and remediation in the current moment) or the potential memorability of COVID-19, among other issues.

Please send abstracts/proposals (not more than 500 words) as soon as possible to teichler(a)em.uni-frankfurt.de, though no later than January 25. You will receive notification around Feb 1. Initial paper drafts will be due for review by May 3.