

Connecting Memories Research Initiative

2020 Symposium with Postgraduate Masterclass

Monday June 29th 2020

University of Edinburgh

Keynote Speaker: Prof Astrid Erll, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

CALL FOR PAPERS

It has been convincingly argued that thinking seriously about memory means considering it as a wide-ranging multidisciplinary concept. Memory has been called ‘a genuinely transdisciplinary phenomenon’ and memory studies a ‘field of convergence’ that demands an ‘integrative’ approach to memory based on a responsive awareness of how different disciplines understand the term (Erll 2011). The diversity of work being done in ‘memory studies’ contributes a large part of what makes it an exciting and accommodating field but also one that can be disorientingly and dauntingly expansive. Endowing ‘memory’ with an almost all-encompassing breadth can constitute a liberation enabling otherwise impossible insights, but also risks rendering the term meaningless. For scholars working on any of its different aspects, specifying precisely what memory means in the context of one’s own research and situating oneself within the wide field of other work being done on memory are essential but formidable tasks.

Seeking to encourage students and scholars to reflect on their own methods, this Connecting Memories event will expose delegates to a multitude of approaches to memory and foster a discussion about the transdisciplinarity of memory. The day will comprise of a series of sessions in which speakers, each with the aid of a poster, concisely present their research and methods. In addition, as well as giving a keynote lecture, leading memory studies scholar Professor Astrid Erll (Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt a. M.) will host a ‘masterclass’ for postgraduate students exploring the transdisciplinarity of memory and the usefulness of interdisciplinary research methods.

Refreshment breaks throughout the day as well as lunch and a symposium dinner in the evening – all free of charge for registered delegates – will provide plentiful opportunities for informal discussions and networking. There is no conference fee and we are delighted too to be able to offer a large number of travel bursaries, applications for which will be open to all speakers as well as all postgraduate attendees studying at Scottish HEIs.

We are grateful to the Scottish Graduate School for the Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) for their generous support with this event.

We welcome proposals for 5-minute micro-presentations from PG students, ECRs and established academics. These should be submitted by 1st April 2020 to info@connectingmemories.org as a max. 200-word abstract in English as well as a short bio.