

Memory Research in Aotearoa/New Zealand

12 November, 2015

Massey University, Wellington Campus
Aotearoa-New Zealand

Keynote: Professor Paul Tapsell (Te Tumu: School of Māori, Indigenous and Pacific Studies, University of Otago)

Over the last two decades or more, memory research has established itself as an interdisciplinary field spanning (and often crossing) subject areas including literary, film and media studies, cultural studies, psychology, history, legal studies and anthropology. The development of memory research has been uneven, however, so that the field is now well established in, for instance, the UK and Europe and of emerging interest elsewhere. Although our shared and diverse pasts figure prominently in both public debate and academic scholarship in Aotearoa New Zealand, memory as a specific field of research is not well established here. This symposium aims to address this gap by inviting researchers to address the specific concerns and significance of memory in this national context and to explore potential projects and ongoing dialogue in the future.

As a field, memory research has been inflected by the histories and the intellectual and scholarly contexts of its locations. Thus although memory research in the UK, Europe and the US has engaged with a diverse set of themes ranging from memory and emotion in early modern literature to the psychology of eye witness experience, in these regions there has been a particular focus on post-WW2 memory, with the Holocaust as a primary event. Likewise, in Latin America, a strong research current has focused on post-Dictatorship memory and the after-effects of the specific modes of political violence experienced during those years.

In Australia, memory researchers in history, literary, screen and media studies have been developing new understandings of settler-colonialism and its relations with indigeneity rooted in analyses of the ways that specific pasts live on in the present and shape the future.

Outside of the UK, Europe and the US, memory researchers have been keen to explore the appropriateness of concepts and theories developed in those regions in other locations and in relation to other histories and ways of life and being. This, indeed, has been a very vital field of debate in Australia but it has also been raised in relation to, for instance, historical experience in the Soviet Union.

Following on from similar events in London, Canberra and Adelaide, this one-day symposium aims to explore and showcase the range and diversity of memory research in New Zealand. One aim of this event is to work towards forming an Australia/New Zealand memory research network, enabling dialogue and partnerships and linking with similar networks in, for instance Europe and South East Asia.

Organisers: Allen Meek (Massey University), Chris Prentice (University of Otago), Susannah Radstone (University of South Australia), and the Massey Theory and Criticism Group.

Papers on any memory-related topic will be considered. Themes could include:

- Māori memory
- Techniques of Memory
- Memory and Place
- Trauma and Memory
- Postcolonialism and memory in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Aotearoa New Zealand literatures of memory
- Memory on Aotearoa New Zealand screens
- Memory, Settlement and Reparations
- Memory and the Visual Arts
- Digital Memories
- Migrancy and memory in Aotearoa New Zealand

As we are keen to survey the field of memory research in Aotearoa New Zealand we are happy to accept presentations of work in preparation for publication, however we will also consider a themed publication of papers that work well together.

ABSTRACTS

To respond to this call, please send a 300 word abstract with short bio to: A.Meek@massey.ac.nz. The deadline for abstracts is 17 July 2015.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee will be \$75 with registrations closing on 23 October 2015. Register by 18 September to qualify for a discounted \$50 early bird registration fee.

