

Afternoon Session ▪ 17.00 – 19.00 Migration and Memory

Effie Voutira, Defending oral testimonies and the right to stay
Marita Eastmond, Narratives and the politics of lived experience
Emilia Salvanou, Between memory and narration: Migration communities historicizing their experience. The case of Pakistani in Athens
Discussant: **Athina Athanassiou -Dimitra Gefou-Madianou**

19.00 – 21.00

Stuart Woolf, Concluding remarks
Discussion on the future of memory studies: **Timothy Ashplant, Riki van Boeschoten, Dimitra Lambropoulou, Effie Voutira, Antonis Liakos**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- **Athina Athanassiou**, *Social Anthropologist, Panteion University, athenaathanassiou@hotmail.com*
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- **Stuart Woolf**, *historian, University Ca'Foscari, Venice, woolfstuart@gmail.com*

EUROPEAN DOCTORATE IN SOCIAL HISTORY
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ΜΝΗΜΟΝΙΚΕΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΦΟΡΙΚΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ

Γιατί μας ενδιαφέρει αυτή η συνάντηση;

MEMORY STUDIES AND ORAL HISTORY

Why does this encounter matter?

University of Athens, Central Building, 24–25 April 2009

Οργανωτική Επιτροπή

Αντώνης Λιάκος και Χάγκεν Φλάισερ,
Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών
Έφφι Βουτιρά, Πανεπιστήμιο Μακεδονίας
Ρίκι Βαν Μπούσχοτεν, Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλίας

Organizing Committee

Hagen Fleischer and Antonis Liakos,
University of Athens
Effie Voutira, University of Macedonia
Riki van Boeschoten, University of Thessaly

Γραμματεία: Άννα Μαρία Δρουμπούκη

Αγγλικά και Ελληνικά με ταυτόχρονη διερμηνεία



Εθνικό Οπτικοακουστικό Αρχείο



Introduction

Thirty years after the publication of the "Voice of the Past", oral history has established itself worldwide as an interdisciplinary field dedicated to unearthing voices hitherto hidden from traditional historiography. It has also brought considerable theoretical sophistication to our understanding of the workings of memory. Finally, as a militant movement, by bringing history out of the academy, it has democratized historical practice and brought greater public awareness of the social purpose of history. In spite of these achievements, oral history has continued to occupy a rather marginalized position within the academy, due both to the resistance of traditional historians and also to the often rather naive ways in which it has been practiced at the grassroots level.

Since the 1990s, the intellectual space opened up by the oral history movement in the 1970s has been increasingly taken over by the burgeoning field of "memory studies". This field, marked by the rediscovery of Maurice Halbwachs and the publication of Pierre Nora's monumental "Lieux de Memoire", has brought significant new insights into the ways in which societies elaborate public memory of important historical events such as the Holocaust, World War II and, more recently, the experience of "real socialism". Yet, surprisingly, it has largely ignored both the theoretical insights brought by leading oral historians and the contribution of oral sources to the understanding of memory.

In this workshop we intend to bring these two fields together and to explore possible forms of their mutual interaction. We invite participants to reflect on this relationship from a variety of perspectives, including history, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, and psychology. Although we start with an open agenda, we would like to suggest some key points on which oral history and memory studies seem to be connected. The first is subjectivity. How can we write back the individual into history, without losing sight of the social, cultural and political processes that shape individual and collective subjectivities? The second is cultural politics. How do oral, written and digital sources, as well as non verbal memory practices interact in the politics of memory? And, if we still see ourselves as a movement dedicated to social change, what might be our agenda for the next decades? The third point is public memory. How can these two fields work together to reach a wider audience and influence public perceptions of historical processes? What is the role of digital technology in the production, consumption and theoretical understanding of public memory? To what extent has it revolutionized the very notion of "historical archive"?

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 ▪ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 24 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ

Morning Session ▪ 10.00 - 11.55 **Public Memory as a Contested Arena**

Hagen Fleischer, Welcome

Antonis Liakos, History wars and memory crisis

Erik Sjoeborg, Battlefields of Memory. Identity and uses of history in Greece, 1991-95

Riki Van Boeschoten, Experiential and political communities of memory

Discussant: Effi Gazi

12.05 - 14.00 **Memories of Working Lives**

Timothy Ashplant, Reading Stories, Reading Lives, Reading Societies: Life Narratives as Histories

Dimitra Lambropoulou, Relating to oneself through memory: resistance and consent in male workers' life stories

Pothiti Hantzaroula, Subjectivity, memory, and emotions in oral testimonies

Discussant: Maria Papathanassiou

Afternoon Session ▪ 17.00 - 19.00 **Memory sites**

Rena Molho, Visual History and Centropa's Digital Archives of Testimonies in the Rescue of Holocaust Memory

Björn Rzsoka, The Flemish Institute of Oral History

Mitsos Bilalis, . Memory, image and instability

Discussant: Maria Vlahou - Despoina Valatsou

19.10 - 21.00 **Memory and Visuality.**

Margaret E. Kenna, Describing and de-scripting: photographs and memory

Georges Bolanis - Dimitra Kitsiou, The Hellenic Audiovisual Archive. Memory and Visuality.

Challenges and initiatives in the era of the digital archive

Discussant: Antonis Liakos

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 ▪ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 25 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ

Morning Session ▪ 9.30 - 11.45 **Museums, monuments and memory**

Konstantina Bada, Exploring memory sites: Statues and monuments in the Greek landscape, meanings and interpretations

Villy Fotopoulou, The "Museum of Democracy" in the former exile camp of Ai-Stratis

Anna Maria Droumpouki, Memory and memory sites related to wartime Greece

Discussant: Katerina Alexopoulou - Irene Nakou

12.00 - 14.00 **Memories between silence and oblivion**

Tasoula Vervenioti, Violence and memory in the Greek Civil War 1946-1949.

Iason Handrinos, Awkward silences: Interviewing former members of the Security Battalions

Vieda Skultans, "So many huge events in such an insignificant life." Staking a Place in Soviet History

Discussant: Dimitris Kousouris

