

## **2012 Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies**

### **The Role of Social Memory Studies in Conflict Analysis and Transformation**

**Dr. Orli Fridman**

July 9-16, 2012

#### **Course Description**

This course will explore the role and contribution of Social Memory Studies to the study of Conflict Analysis and Conflict Transformation. The way societies collectively remember and forget is central to the understanding and analysis of dynamics of conflict as well as of post-conflict. The way entire communities (and not only individuals) preserve and remember the past, silence it, commemorate it, or deny and obliterate it, can deepen our understanding of peace and conflict studies. Additionally, memory work and the creation of mnemonic communities can shed light on processes in conflict transformation and its practices.

In this course, students will be introduced to some underpinning concepts in social memory studies and in conflict studies. Students will then apply this knowledge to a number of the case studies, allowing them to further investigate the role of memory in the study of conflict analysis and conflict transformation. In each of the case studies students will be introduced the memory work of local activist groups as related to efforts to transform violent pasts.

#### **Course Structure:**

- Theoretical introduction: Social memory studies, Conflict Analysis and Conflict Transformation
- Collective Memory and National Calendars: Collective memory, community memory, social organization of national memory, commemorative events

#### **Case studies include:**

We will devote our time to 2 main case studies:

- Memory, history and asymmetric power relations: the memory of 1948 in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Memory and Denial: the Memory and commemoration of Srebrenica in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

As much as time will allow us we also discuss

- Memory and Amnesia: the memory of the Spanish Civil War and transition to democracy  
and
- Memory after Genocide: the politics of Memory in post-Genocide Rwanda

Background readings:

- John R. Gillis, “Memory and Identity: the History of a Relationship,” in John R. Gillis (ed.) *Commemorations*. Princeton, 1994.
- Jasna Dragović-Soso, “Conflict, Memory, Accountability: What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?” in Wolfgang Petritsch and Vedran Džihic (eds), *Conflict and Memory: Bridging Past and Future in [South East] Europe*. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2010.
- Richard Rubenstein, “Conflict Resolution in as age of empire” in Sandole et al (eds.) *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*. New York: Routledge, 2009.

**- Course Outline by Day -**

**Tuesday July 10 (Day 1)**

**Morning class:**

10:00-11:00 group introduction

Course introduction

11:15-12:30 introducing social memory studies, and meeting points with conflict analysis & transformation

Readings:

- Eviatar Zerubavel, *Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past: Time Maps*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2003. Introduction & Chapters 4, 5.

**Afternoon class:**

14:00-16:00 Collective Memory and National Calendars: time, memory and the nation

Readings:

- Eviatar Zerubavel, "Calendars and History: A Comparative Study of the Social Organization of National Memory," in Jeffrey Olick (ed.) *States of Memory: Continuities, Conflicts, and Transformations in National Retrospection*, Durham: Duke University, 2003. Pp. 315-337.

**Wednesday July 11 (Day 2)**

**Morning class:**

10:00-12:30 collective memory (silence/obliteration/denial); community memory; social organization of national memory; commemorative events

Readings:

- Yael Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the making of Israeli National Tradition*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1997. Chapter 1 (Pp. 3-12).

Film:

A film by Eyal Sivan: *Yizkor: Slaves to Memory* (1991) [98 minutes]

**Afternoon class:**

14:00-16:00 Memory, Conflict and asymmetric Power Relations: the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: background

Background Readings:

- Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds). *The War for Palestine: rewriting the History of 1948*. Cambridge University Press, 2001. Introduction.
- Joel Beinin and Lisa Hajjar, *Palestine, Israel and Arab Israeli Conflict Premier*, Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP). Available on [http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel\\_primer/Palestine-Israel\\_Primer\\_MERIP.pdf](http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/Palestine-Israel_Primer_MERIP.pdf)
- Edwards Said. "Afterword: the Consequences of 1948," in Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds). *The War for Palestine: rewriting the History of 1948*.

Additional readings:

- Rashid Khalidi. "The Palestinians and 1948: the underlying causes of failure," in Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds). *The War for Palestine: rewriting the History of 1948*.

**Thursday July 12 (Day 3)**

**Morning Class:**

10:00-12:30 Memory, Conflict and asymmetric Power Relations: the Memory of 1948 (I)

- The hegemonic memory of 1948 in Jewish Israeli society

Readings:

- Idith Zerthal, *Israel's Holocaust and the Politics of Nationhood*, Cambridge University Press, 2005. Chapter 1.
- Yael Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots: Collective Memory and the making of Israeli National Tradition*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1997. Chapter 2 (pp. 13-36)

Additional reading

- Ariella Azoulay, *Constituent Violence, 1947-1950: A visual genealogy of a regime and the transformation of the catastrophe into "a catastrophe from their point of view"*. English translation of Hebrew text, Resling, 2009.

Film:

A film by Yulie Cohen: *My Land Zion* (2004) [60 minutes]

**Afternoon class:**

14:00-16:00 Memory, Conflict and asymmetric Power Relations: the Memory of 1948 (I) continues

- The law on the Nakba
- Remembering the Nakba in Hebrew

**Friday July 13 (Day 4)**

**Morning class:**

10:00-12:30 Memory, Conflict and asymmetric Power Relations: the Memory of 1948 (II)

- The memory of 1948 in Palestinian societies (in diaspora, in Israel and Palestine)

Readings

- Laila Abu-Lughod and Ahmad H. Sa'di, "Introduction: the Claim of Memory," in Laila Abu-Lughod and Ahmad H. Sa'di (eds.) *Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory*, Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Rochelle Davis, "Mapping the Past, Re-creating the Homeland," in Laila Abu-Lughod and Ahmad H. Sa'di (eds.) *Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory*, Columbia University Press, 2007. Pp. 53-75.

Additional Readings:

- Laila Abu-Lughod, "Return to Half-Ruins: Memory, Postmemory, and Living History in Palestine," in Laila Abu-Lughod and Ahmad H. Sa'di (eds.) *Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. Pp. 77-104.
- Raja Shehadeh, *Strangers in the House*. Selected chapters.

Democracy now video: Ghada Karmi (a Palestinian talks about the Nakba) [105minutes]

**Afternoon class:**

14:00-16:00

Film:

A film by Elia Suleiman: *The Time that Remains* (2009) [109min]

**Saturday July 14 (Day 5)**

**Morning Class:**

10:00-12:30 Memory and Denial: the Memory of Srebrenica

Readings:

- Ger Duijzings, "Commemorating Srebrenica: Histories of Violence and the Politics of Memory in Eastern Bosnia," in Xavier Bougarel, Elissa Helms, and Ger Duijzings (eds). *The New Bosnian Mosaic: Identities, Memories and Moral Claims in a Post-War Society*. Hampshire: Ashgate, 2006.

Film:

A Documentary films by Leslie Woodhead: *A Cry from the grave* (1999) [105 minutes]

**Afternoon Class:**

14:00-16:00 the Memory of Srebrenica: a look from Serbia

- Civil society and collective memory in Serbia

Readings:

- Stanley Cohen, *States of Denial: Knowing about Atrocities and Suffering*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001. Preface and chapter 1 (pp. xi-xiv, 1-20).
- Jelena Obradović-Wochnik, "Knowledge, Acknowledgment and Denial in Serbia's Responses to the Srebrenica Massacre," *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2009.

Additional readings:

- Daša Duhaček, "The Making of Political Responsibility: Hannah Arendt and/in the Case of Serbia," *Women and Citizenship in Central and Eastern Europe*, 2006.
- Orli Fridman, "Alternative Voices in Public Urban Space: Serbia's Women in Black," *Ethnologia Balkanika*, Vol. 10, 2006.

**Sunday July 15 (Day 6)**

**Morning class:**

10:00-12:30 Memory and Amnesia: the memory of the Spanish Civil War and transition to democracy

Readings:

- Paloma Aguilar, *Memory and Amnesia: the Role of the Spanish Civil War in the Transition to Democracy*. Berghahn Books, 2002. Chapter 1.
- Helen Graham, "Coming to terms with the Past: Spain's Memory War," *History Today*. May 2004.

Additional readings:

- Helen Graham, "The Spanish Civil War 1936-2003: The Return of the Republican Memory," *Science & Society*, Vol 68, No. 3, Fall 2004.
- Omar G. Encarnacion, "Reconciliation after Democratization: Coping with the Past in Spain," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 123 No. 3, 2008.

**Afternoon class:**

14:00-15:00 closure

15:15-16:00 closing ceremony of the Summer School