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The nascent field of Memory Studies emerges from contemporary trends that include a shift from concern with historical knowledge of events to that of memory, from 'what we know' to 'how we remember it'; changes in generational memory; the rapid advance of technologies of memory; panics over declining powers of memory, which mirror our fascination with the possibilities of memory enhancement; and the development of trauma narratives in reshaping the past.

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# Space and the Memories of Violence

## Landscapes of Erasure, Disappearance and Exception

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# Preface

The production of this book was funded by the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Program through the research group *Narratives of Terror and Disappearance* (FP/2007–2013, ERC Grant Agreement No. 240984 NoT), based at the University of Konstanz. This source also granted the main funding for the international symposium that gave origin to the present volume. The symposium, entitled *Spatialities of Exception, Violence and Memory*, took place in Madrid between 1 and 3 February 2012, at the Residencia de Estudiantes and the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, belonging to the Spanish National Research Council (CCHS-CSIC). Further sponsorship was awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN, Acción Complementaria FFI2011–14371-E), the research groups *The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Spain* (Plan Nacional I+D+i CS02009–09681) and *Philosophy after the Holocaust* (Plan Nacional I+D+i FFI2009–09368) and the Max Planck Research Prize *Geschichte+Gedächtnis* from the University of Konstanz.

For their support in different phases of this project, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to Aleida Assmann, Francisco Ferrándiz, Manuel Reyes Mate, Concha Roldán, José Antonio Zamora and, especially, to Kirsten Mahlke who, as director of the NoT research group, provided us with institutional and financial backing throughout this process, from the conception of the symposium to the materialization of this book. Kirsten stood permanently at our side with her intellectual openness and creativity, offering us constant motivation and advice and, above all, her trust in this project.

We would also like to mention our colleague, Rosario Figari-Layús, whom we thank for her skilful suggestions and organizational help during the encounter in Madrid, as well as the late Asunción Gaudens Cros, who designed the poster that publicized the symposium. Jorge Morales, alongside Victor Pareja and Cristina Ramos, gave us an invaluable logistic support at the CSIC. We also thank Carlos Agüero, Amanda Demitrio, Julia Blanco, Carmen Domench, Marije Hristova, Paula Martos, Pedro Ochoa, Nicolás Oviedo and Gemma Vidal for their voluntary assistance during those days.

We are most grateful to the series editor, Andrew Hoskins, and to everyone at Palgrave who guided and assisted us through the different stages of putting this book together. Special mention must go to Felicity Plester and Chris Penfold.

A big '*gracias*' goes to Sophie Oliver, Philip Derbyshire and Philippa Page, who provided their patience and language skills correcting, translating and editing different parts of the manuscript at various stages of its preparation.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the authors for their commitment and readiness to accompany us throughout this editorial and intellectual enterprise. We appreciate their individual contributions as much as their willingness to engage in this conversation with us, thus linking their specific case studies to the questions we aimed to discuss herein.

Our gratitude goes also to the authors of the photographs, who have accorded the necessary publishing rights, and to Stefanie Schumacher, who diligently searched for and contacted those holding the copyright for the images. Every attempt has been made to contact the owners of property rights. If, however, any have inadvertently been overlooked, the editors and publishers will be more than willing to make the appropriate arrangements at the earliest opportunity.

The photograph illustrating the cover of this volume was taken by Esteban Luis Santamaría on the site of what was, under the Argentine military dictatorship in the 1970s, the clandestine detention centre El Campito, in the Province of Buenos Aires. This land still belongs to Campo de Mayo, where Argentina's main military corps continues to operate its headquarters today. The former detention facilities have, however, been demolished in order to erase all traces of the kidnapping and murder of thousands of people. Meanwhile, the place has been expropriated from the military to search for remnants of the disappeared, and trials to judge the crimes committed there are being carried out in Argentine courts. The picture was taken in September 1999 – a time when impunity laws still prevailed in the country – during a commemoration organized by relatives and friends of the disappeared, in order to draw attention to the place. The act involved placing the silhouettes that have become characteristic of actions carried out by Argentine human rights movements in memory of the *desaparecidos*. When Esteban Santamaría – himself a son of disappeared – gave his permission to use the picture, he wrote the following words about the moment the photograph was taken: 'When they installed the silhouettes, the wind was buffeting against them, the landscape behind them was infinite, the trees had no leaves, everything seemed so solitary. As we were leaving, I looked at everybody and noticed how sad we were to leave those silhouettes of the detainee-disappeared there alone.' The editors wish that this book may help the memories of the disappeared and murdered not to remain alone, with the wind and a desolate landscape as sole witnesses.

Estela Schindel dedicates her work in this book in memory of Leib and Ester Malka Ortner Z'L and their children and grandchildren murdered in Belzec in 1942.

Pamela Colombo wishes to dedicate this book to her niece, Anita, and nephew, Benicio, hoping that they can grow up imagining new spaces of hope.

# Contributors

**Meltem Ahıska** is Professor of Sociology at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. She graduated in Sociology in Istanbul and, after receiving her MA in Communications from the University of Westminster, completed her PhD in Sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London, in 2000. She has written and edited a number of books among which *Occidentalism in Turkey: Questions of Modernity and National Identity in Turkish Radio Broadcasting* (2010) is the most recent. Her articles and essays on Occidentalism, social memory, national identity and gender have appeared in various journals and edited volumes. She has published a book of poems, *Havalandırma* (2002), and curated exhibitions, the most recent being *The Person You Have Called Cannot Be Reached at the Moment: Representations of Lifestyles in Turkey, 1980–2005*. Ahıska's current research focuses on monumentalization and counter-monumentalization in Turkey. She is a member of the editorial board of the e-journal *Red Thread*.

**Aleida Assmann** is one of the most renowned scholars in British and American Studies, Egyptology, and Literary and Cultural Studies. She has dealt extensively with the history of memory in Germany after the Second World War as well as with cultural academic research into, and theories of, memory. Her works on the cultural transmission of memory had a broad reception in the German and Anglo-saxon debate and have become canonical in the study of social and cultural memory. Her recent publications in English are *Cultural Memory and Western Civilization: Functions, Media, Archives* (2012), and the co-edition of *Memory and Political Change* (Palgrave 2011) and *Memory in a Global Age: Discourses, Practices and Trajectories* (Palgrave 2010). Professor Assmann was a fellow at the universities of Rice, Princeton, Yale, Chicago and Vienna and is affiliated with the Center of Excellence Cultural Foundations of Social Integration at the University of Konstanz. She was presented the Paul Watzlawick Ehrenring Award (2009), the Ernst Robert Curtius Prize (2011), the Max Planck Research Award (2009) and an honorary doctorate by the University of Oslo.

**Pilar Calveiro** received her PhD from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and is currently a Professor and Researcher at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, as well as a member of the Mexican National Researchers System. In her several works about violence, politics and memory, Calveiro sharply analyses the dynamics of power relations and their effects of resistance as well as the social context, where such disputes take place. Her book *Poder y desaparición, los campos de concentración*

*en Argentina* (1998) has since been an ineludible reference for the study of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in Argentina. She is also the author of *Política y/o Violencia* (2005) and *Violencias de Estado* (2012). Pilar Calveiro was kidnapped by military forces during the Argentinean dictatorship in 1977 and spent a year and a half in several clandestine detention centres as a detainee-disappeared. After a short exile in Spain, she established herself in Mexico, where she lives since 1979.

**Pamela Colombo** studied Sociology at the University of Buenos Aires and holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of the Basque Country (UPV). She is currently a post-doctoral fellow from the Fondation Fyssen (2014–16) at the EHESS-IRIS and a researcher at the ERC project ‘Corpses of Mass Violence and Genocide’. Her research focuses on the social production of space, particularly on the constitution of imaginary geographies in contexts of political violence. She was a doctoral researcher at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC, 2009–13) and a visiting researcher at the Center for Place, Culture and Politics (CUNY, New York), the Centre for Research Architecture (Goldsmiths College, London), the Freie Universität Berlin (FU, Berlin) and the University of Konstanz (Germany). She co-organized the International Conferences ‘Spatialities of Exception, Violence, and Memory’ (Madrid, February 2012) and ‘Thinking Memory through Space: Materiality, Representation and Imagination’ (London, 2013). Her current research deals with the spatiality of mass graves in post-dictatorship Argentina.

**Zuzanna Dziuban** holds a PhD in Cultural Studies from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, where she also completed a Master in Cultural Studies and studied Philosophy. She has been a researcher and teaching assistant at the Adam Mickiewicz University (2009–11) and a lecturer at the School of Humanities and Journalism in Poznań. She has been a fellow at the University of Siegen (2004/2005), at the University of Konstanz (2011–12 DAAD Post-doctoral Research Fellow), and at the Humboldt University of Berlin (Fritz-Thyssen Stiftung fellowship, 2012). Since December 2012, she has been an Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation fellow at the University of Konstanz (Research Group ‘Geschichte + Gedächtnis’) and the Humboldt University. Her current research interests focus on the relation between trauma, memory and space, and Polish post-war politics of memory. She published the monograph *Foreignness, Homelessness, Loss: Dimensions of Atopia of the Contemporary Cultural Experience* (*Obcość, bezdomność, utrata. Wymiary atopii współczesnego doświadczenia kulturowego*, 2009) and wrote the articles ‘Architecture as a Medium of Transnational Postmemory’ (2012) and ‘Spatialized Trauma: The Holocaust and the Architecture of Postmemory’ (2013).

**Francisco Ferrándiz** is tenured researcher at the Instituto de Lengua, Literatura y Antropología (ILLA), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

He studied Anthropology and History at the universities of Madrid and Berkeley and wrote his PhD at the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. His areas of interest include anthropology of the body, anthropology of violence and social memory and trauma. His largest ethnographical projects have dealt with the spiritist cult of Maria Lionza in Venezuela and, since 2003, the politics of memory in contemporary Spain through the analysis of the exhumations of mass graves from the Civil War (1936–39). He is the author of *Escenarios del cuerpo: Espiritismo y sociedad en Venezuela* (2004), *Etnografías contemporáneas* (2011) and *El pasado bajo tierra* (Anthropos/Siglo XXI, 2014), and the co-editor of *Down to Earth: Mass Graves and Exhumations in the Contemporary World* (forthcoming).

**Gabriel Gatti** is Professor of Contemporary Sociological Theory and Sociology of Identity at UPV. He is the co-ordinator of the Centre for Collective Identity Studies (CEIC), where he directs the project ‘Mundo(s) de víctimas’. He was a guest researcher at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris), CERI-Sciences Po (Paris), Nevada University (Reno), IDES – Economic and Social Development Institute (Buenos Aires) and a guest lecturer at Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle (chaire ‘Pablo Neruda’, Paris), University of the Republic – UdelaR (Montevideo), the University of Buenos Aires, the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and the Universidad de Coimbra. His current research interests include sociology theory, identity sociology (including their intersections) and human rights sociology. He is the author, among other titles, of *Identidades desaparecidas* (2011), *El detenido-desaparecido* (2008), *Identidades débiles* (2007) and *Surviving Forced Disappearing in Argentina and Uruguay* (Palgrave 2014).

**David Harvey** is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Geography at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Director of the Center for Place, Culture and Politics. His theoretical developments in the field of human geography and social theory turned David Harvey to be one of the most influential Marxist theorists and the most quoted living geographer. Among his many books are *The Condition of Postmodernity* (1989), *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference* (1996), *Spaces of Hope* (2000), *Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography* (2001) and *Spaces of Global Capitalism: Towards a Theory of Uneven Geographical Development* (2005). In recent years, his work has reached far beyond the academic field and has increasingly become a reference for several political and social movements around the world. David Harvey has been granted many distinctions and awards of geographical societies and is an honorary doctor of the universities of Buenos Aires, Roskilde, Uppsala, Ohio State and Lund.

**Kirsten Mahlke** studied Romance and Slavic Languages and Cultures, and Anthropology at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt,

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**Silvana Mandolessi** is a post-doctoral fellow of the European Research Council at the University of Konstanz and an Assistant Professor at the KU Leuven. She has published articles in, among other journals, *Russian Literature*, *Chasqui*, *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos* and *Confluencia* and *América: Cahiers du Criccal*. She is the author of *Una literatura abyecta. Gombrowicz en la tradición argentina* (2012) and co-editor of *El juego con los estereotipos. La redefinición de la identidad hispánica en la literatura y el cine posnacionales* (2012) and co-editor of the special issue 'Transnational Memory in the Hispanic World' (2014), *European Review*. She is the project manager of the project 'Transit: Transnationality at Large', supported by the European Commission, and director of the organization CONEXX-Europe, which specializes in scientific and technical cooperation between Europe and Latin America. Her research areas include migrant literature – post/transnational identity, contemporary Argentine literature and the theory and politics of abjection.

**Juan Mayorga** is one of the most important Spanish playwrights of his generation. Among many others, Mayorga wrote *El jardín quemado*, *Cartas de amor a Stalin*, *Himmelweg*, *El cartógrafo*, *Los yugoslavos* and *Reikiavik*. He was awarded several national awards, among them are the Spain's National Theatre Prize (2007) and the Spain's National Dramatic Literature Prize (2013). Mayorga's work has been translated into many languages and performed widely throughout the world. He has also adapted versions of classical dramas for the Spanish stage and was a founding member of the El Astillero theatre company in 1993. In 1998, he began teaching Dramaturgy, History of Thought and Sociology at the Real Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático in Madrid. Mayorga graduated in Mathematics and Philosophy, completed his studies in Münster, Berlin and Paris and received his PhD in Philosophy in 1997. His most important philosophical work is *Revolución conservadora y conservación revolucionaria. Política y memoria en Walter Benjamin* (2003).

**Mariana Eva Perez** graduated in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires. She was granted several research scholarships of this school and of the Antorchas Foundation to develop her studies on memory and identity. She received her training as a playwright from Patricia Zangaro (2002–07) and participated with her own work in the initial phase of *Teatroxlaidentidad*. Her plays have been published in several anthologies and shown in Spain, Belgium, France, Bolivia, Venezuela and Scotland. Her work *Peaje* was distinguished with the Fourth German Rozenmacher Prize for New Dramaturgy at the International Festival of Buenos Aires. She is also the author of the plays *Ábaco*, *La Muñeca*, *Sin voz* and *Instrucciones para un coleccionista de mariposas*, and of the book *Diario de una princesa montonera* (2012), based on a fictionalized blog-autobiography. Perez is doing her PhD about post-dictatorship Argentine theatre in the project ‘Narratives of Terror and Disappearance’ at the University of Konstanz.

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