

TELLING TIMES: MEMORIES OF CULTURE, CULTURES OF MEMORY

Lecture Series 2021



Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 15:30-17:00 (CET)

ANN RIGNEY
(Utrecht University)**“The Memory-Activism Nexus”**

In “Remembering Hope” (2018) I argued for the need to go beyond the traumatic paradigm in memory studies and proposed the memory-activism nexus as a new area of research. This nexus entails the interplay between memory activism (how people actively seek to change collective memory), the memory of activism (how acts of civil resistance are culturally remembered) and memory in activism (how the memory of earlier activism plays into new protest cycles). In my presentation to the Empires of Memory group, I will contextualise “Remembering Hope” and further develop some of its findings with reference to my recent work on late nineteenth-century socialism in Britain and the role that the memory of the Commune played, not just in mobilizing members, but in steering the movement.

Ann Rigney is Professor of Comparative Literature at Utrecht University, and founder of the Utrecht Forum for Memory Studies. She has published widely on theories of cultural memory and on the history of memory practices in Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her monographs include *Imperfect Histories* (Cornell UP, 2001) and *The Afterlives of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move* (Oxford UP, 2012); co-edited collections include *Commemorating Writers in Nineteenth-Century Europe: Nation-Building and Centenary Fever* (with J. Leerssen; Palgrave 2014) and *Transnational Memory: Circulation, Articulation, Scales* (with C. De Cesari; De Gruyter, 2014). She currently directs the ERC-funded project *Remembering Activism: The Cultural Memory of Protest in Europe* (www.rememberingactivism.eu).
Homepage: www.rigney.nl.



Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

Hermann-Föge-Weg 11
37073 Göttingenwww.mmg.mpg.de

Contact:

Marina Cziesielsky

Tel: +49 (551) 4956 - 201

cziesielsky@mmg.mpg.de