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Tübingen International & European Studies (T-IES) Winter School on

Memory, Diversity and Sustainability

STUDY TRACK A

4 – 29 January 2027

Course title:	Europe as a Memoryland: Selective Memory and Place-Making Practices
Date / Room:	11 January – 28 January
Language of instruction:	English
Lecturer:	Lana Balorda
Contact hours:	40 (plus excursions)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Memory cannot be understood without the notion of forgetting. What is it that we are compelled to remember and which facets of our lives and historical events do we suppress or struggle to recollect? Moreover, how does what we remember and what we forget structure the reality that we live in, symbolically, physically, and politically?

The notion of memory is broad, straddling across various disciplines as well as everyday understandings of our bodily abilities. The term can equally be used to describe the act of remembering, the capacity to do so, and the material that is actually remembered. This, in part, explains the wide application of the term, both in scientific endeavours and popular culture, from the digital storage of electronic devices, the cult films such as the *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, to the toppling of colonial-era statues

This seminar is an attempt to delve into the political processes entailed in remembering and forgetting. To consider how the past is remembered or commemorated, which pasts are considered as worthy or necessary to transmit to younger generations, how the past is used or abused to serve the present needs of individuals and collectives, and the difficulty of retrieving “lost” or “forgotten” memories even from “recent” history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the biological functions of memory and how memory is investigated in the biological sciences.
- Understand key concepts such as trauma, repression, epistemic, and semantic memory which emerged from the field of psychology and the limitations of applying such terms in the study of collective memory.
- Understand and apply ethnographic research methods to investigate a particular commemorative practice.
- Identify, describe, and reflect on commemorative processes that we encounter during our field trip.
- Apply key concepts of memory studies such as communicative, collected, and cultural memory to a particular commemorative practice.
- Identify and discuss the aspirations and limitations of commemorative practices drawing on the concept of identity politics.

PREREQUISITES

The course is designed for undergraduate students from all academic disciplines and with a strong general interest in Europe and the EU. A very good command of English and the willingness to actively participate in the course are required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

- 25% group presentation
- 25% individual presentation
- 50% written essay under exam conditions

INFORMATION ON THE LECTURER

Lana Balorda obtained a BSc in Biology from University College London, followed by a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at the University of Reading. After teaching for over a decade, she studied for a MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tübingen. She graduated in 2022 having conducted research in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus of her research are commemorative practices, which she studies with attention to place-making processes. Lana began her PhD as a research assistant under the employment of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 1070 "ResourceCultures," and now is continuing her studies at the University of Tübingen, where she also lectures on the politics of memory and materiality.