

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**  
**Online Workshop: “Mourning on the Margins”**

Date: 4, 11, 18 November 2020  
Hosted by: Nottingham Trent University’s Centre for Public History, Heritage and Memory  
Facilitated by: Dr. Kami Fletcher – Associate Professor of History at Albright College  
Dr. Jenny Woodley – Senior Lecturer in History at Nottingham Trent University

The act of publicly mourning is full of cultural and political implications. When the loss of a person or group of people is acknowledged in public it is an assertion that their lives and deaths matter(ed). What does it mean, then, when the grief is not publicly acknowledged either by barriers rooted in systemic oppression or social discrimination or something else? Judith Butler asks, “Whose lives count as lives? ... *What makes for a grievable life?* ... if someone is lost, and that person is not someone, then what and where is the loss, and how does mourning take place?” A person is “not someone” in the eyes of society when they have been marginalised; oppressed on the basis of their race, ethnicity, class, gender orientation, sexuality, disability, or mental health. Kenneth Doka writes of “disenfranchised grief,” when the loss, relationship, or griever are not recognised, or when there is shame associated with the grief. The grief of and for marginalised people can often be disenfranchised. What are the ‘sites of mourning,’ to use Jay Winter’s phrase, for the marginalised? How are they memorialised and mourned? We are organising a series of online workshops to consider these and other questions. A broad definition of marginalised is taken to include but is not limited to: people of colour; ethnic minorities; those with mental or physical disabilities or illnesses; members of the LGBTQ+ community. Mourning can be considered in historical or contemporary contexts.

Call for Participants

We welcome scholars, practitioners, experts, and artists who encounter mourning and marginalised groups in their work. We call for them to interrogate how mourning takes place on the margins, why it matters and what it looks like to move it from margin to centre. Example questions to consider are among the following: (1) Within this period of Black Lives Matter and moment of continuous social unrest, what does it mean to have grief and mourning spark an international movement demanding black liberation by dismantle white supremacy? (2) What do mourning rituals tell us about community and culture and how are these rituals affected by systemic oppression and discrimination? (3) How are places of national mourning complicated by one’s marginalized status or even used as vehicles to challenge and resist? (4) How do mourning monuments and markers found on sacred cemetery ground, on the one hand, solidify one’s marginalized status while, on the other hand, serve as sites for change?

The workshops are an opportunity for scholars, practitioners, experts, and artists whose scholarship and activism address mourning from marginalised peoples and within communities of colour to not only share ideas and approaches but also to learn from one another while networking. Each workshop is 2 hours long (with an additional hour allowed for concluding discussion and further networking). Participants will be asked to pre-circulate short papers, audio files, or video files showcasing their art, practice, or research. The workshops will take the form of facilitated discussion and participants are encouraged to come to the workshop with questions and ideas about each other’s work. The workshops will be held 4, 11, 18 November 2020 with a capacity of 6 participants and with a different set of participants in each workshop. As this is an international workshop, we have tried to be sensitive to time differences, therefore workshops will start at 3pm GMT/ 10 am EST and end at 5/6 pm GMT and 1/2 pm EST.

Interested researchers and practitioners should contact Dr. Kami Fletcher and Dr. Jenny Woodley at [mourningmargins@gmail.com](mailto:mourningmargins@gmail.com). Please send a brief biography and up to 300 words summarising your work or project and how it relates to mourning on the margins.

Deadline: 7 September 2020

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