

# International Workshop: Grassroots Activism in History and Memory

Centre for Public History, Heritage and Memory, Nottingham Trent University  
18-20 May 2022, hosted by Assoc. Prof. Jenny Wüstenberg

From protests against police brutality to marches against pandemic restrictions, we seem to find ourselves in an era of heightened mobilization on streets across the globe. Many of these movements explicitly engage in “memory politics” – using particular interpretations of history to make sense of and transform the present. We have seen this most clearly in efforts to remove statues that glorify racist and colonial violence. This use of the past for purposes of mobilization or persuasion is neither new nor the exclusive domain of “progressive” actors. But it does seem that the present reality has encouraged scholars of history and memory to pay more careful attention to grassroots agency, just as social movement scholars have become more interested in various uses and meanings of the past.

This international and interdisciplinary workshop seeks to bring together researchers and heritage/memory practitioners studying grassroots action in history with those interested in understanding the role of history and memory for activism in past and present.

## Programme

*To attend the workshop as an “active listener”, please register [here](#). Registration is essential so that we know numbers for catering. If you would like to attend online, registration will enable you to receive the access link.*

## Wednesday May 18

17-18:15 Prof. Orli Fridman, Center for Comparative Conflict Studies (CFCCS), Singidunum University, Belgrade, Memory Activism and Digital Practices after Conflict: Unwanted Memories, Hybrid book talk, Dryden 003  
Register on Eventbrite to receive Teams link for online access:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/research-seminar-orli-fridman-memory-activism-and-digital-practices-tickets-328663309807>

18:45 Optional dinner (self-pay) – venue to be announced

## Thursday May 19

9:00 Registration & coffee

9:30 **Welcome** (Jenny Wüstenberg, Nottingham Trent University)

10-11 **Keynote**  
Beyond “Sorry”: Grandmothers Against Removal, Memory Activism and the Struggle for Self-determination – Rosanne Kennedy (Australian National University)

11-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:45 **Panel I: Activism & Transnational Identity Politics**

**Chair: Ana Souto Galvan (NTU)**

Memory Activism in Spain – M. Paula O’Donohoe (Universidad Complutense de Madrid / University College of Dublin)

Daphne Caruana Galizia and memory politics in Malta and beyond – Stuart Burch (Nottingham Trent University)

Placing the Russia-Ukraine conflict (2014-ongoing) on a plotline of Ukraine’s history: the role of ordinary people – Anna Glew (University of Manchester)

Memory and politics in the Kingdom of Lesotho. New wine in Old Bottles? – Kudakwashe Chitofiri (Rhodes University, online)

12:45-1:45 Lunch

1:45-3:15 **Panel II: Activism & Gender Politics**

**Chair: Natasha Hodgson (NTU)**

Feminist historiographies and the memorialization of sexual violence in comfort women activism and analysis Anna-Karin Eriksson (Linnaeus University, online)

Twice Removed: The Mystery of Manila’s Missing Comfort Woman Monument Catherine Lianza Aquino (University of Glasgow/Aarhus University) and Jocelyn S. Martin (Ateneo de Manila University)

Memorial Activism as Memory Care Work – Susanne Luhmann (University of Alberta, online)

Female survivors of Sobibor and memory activism – Hannah Wilson (Nottingham Trent University)

Capturing the history of the Women’s Liberation Movement in Nottingham – Tina Pamplin, Val Wood, Sarah Colborne (Feminist Archive Project Nottingham / University of Nottingham)

3:15-3:30 Coffee break

**3:30-5 Panel III: Protest around memory**

**Chair: Heather Watkins (NTU)**

Conflict Tourism industry in Republican West Belfast, Northern Ireland and how this industry has been directed through the desires of these key actors – Samuel Scanlon (UC Dublin)

The Past as Question: Monument Removal and Global Struggles in Democratic Memory – Matt Friedrich (University of Virginia)

De-Commemoration Practices and Memory Activism: Israel as a Case Study Tracy Adams and Yinon Guttel-Klein (Yale University/Hebrew University, online)

Practising Memory Artivism: Travelling participatory monument 'Što te nema'  
– Rimantė Jaugaitė (University of Bologna)

Dark Tourism as a Management Tool for Dark and Dissonant Heritage:  
Political Change and Public Perception in South Africa and Russia – Steven  
Motena (University of Pretoria, online)

5-6:30 **Activism walking tour of Nottingham** with Roger Tanner (Nottinghamshire  
and Derbyshire Labour History Society)

7:00 **Dinner & drinks at the Nottingham National Justice Museum** (with visit  
to youth protest exhibit)

#### Friday May 20

9:30-11 **Panel IV – Oral history and Activism**  
**Chair: Steven King (NTU)**

How can linguists and oral historians work together to ensure good research  
practice? – Natalie Braber (Nottingham Trent University)

Coproducing mental health histories for social change – Verusca Calabria  
(Nottingham Trent University)

The institutionalization of memory activism: Testimonies of former actors of  
the Algerian war in French classrooms – Paul Max Morin (Sciences Po,  
Cevipof, online)

Memory activism, oral history, and the consolidation of peace in Northern  
Ireland – Chris Reynolds (Nottingham Trent University)

11-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:45 **Panel V: Activism & Public Mobilisation of Memory**  
**Chair: Katarina Massing (NTU)**

Appropriation of Grassrootness: memorial activism and Russian politics of  
memory – Victor Apryschenko (Southern Federal University, online)

Contesting the German-nationalist narrative in Carinthia. Mapping anti-fascist  
activism and activists in Austrias borderlands – Janine Wulz (University of  
Victoria)

Alternative Archives: The Battle for a National Narrative – Holly  
Wielechowski (Wayne State University)

Does Grassroots Memory Activism Contribute to Epistemic Justice? Lessons  
from Civic Initiatives in Turkey – Deniz Özbek Özyurt & Devrim Sezer  
(Izmir University of Economy)

What do we talk about when we say that we are ‘dealing with the past’? A mixed-methods pilot study of memory activists’ discourse – Thomas Van de Putte (University of Trento)

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-15:15 **Panel VI: Activism, Protest & Digital Platforms**  
**Chair: Natalie Braber (NTU)**

"March Against Fascism": collective memory of the Second World War during the 2020-2021 protests in Belarus - Ilya Sulzhytski (University of Greifswald, online)

Memory Politics in Legacy Media: the Case of “Activism” – Sophie van den Elzen (Utrecht University)

The Sparrow’s Nest Archive in Nottingham – Phillip Koellen, Sparrow’s Nest Nottingham

The construction of the monument to the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto as the culmination of grassroots activity - mistakes and conclusions – Marcin Urbanek (Formy Wspólne (Common Shapes) Foundation, online)

15:15 Coffee break

15:30-16:00 **Plenary: future plans and possible collaboration**

16-18:00 **Roundtable: Reimagining Activism through Regional Film Archive Collections**

**Chair: Gianluca Fantoni (NTU)**

Clare Watson, Director of Media Archive for Central England

Philip Leach, Senior Curator, Media Archive for Central England

Chris O'Rourke, Senior Lecturer in Film and Television History, University of Lincoln

John Coster Founder & Director, Documentary Media Centre in Leicester

Tina Barton Director of Education & Engagement, Documentary Media Centre in Leicester

This roundtable will explore regional moving image archive collections and their role in documenting and reimagining modes of activism through the lens of grassroots film and video making and more conventional perspectives from television broadcasts. The discussion will be preceded by a screening of archive material from the Media Archive for Central England covering subjects from the miners strikes to immigration and civil rights, which will highlight the role of moving image production in the promotion and reporting of activist agendas in Nottingham and the Midlands in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.