

Israeli Collective Memory

Dr. Oren Meyers

Course Number: 702.2136

Semester: Spring 2015

Class Time: Thursday, 12:00-3:00

Class Location: 2015 Terrace Bldg.

Office Hours: Tuesday, 11-12

Location: Rabin Building, room # 8044

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Course Description:

The course deals with the ways in which societies shape their shared perceptions of the past through various cultural agents, and especially the mass media – the press, television, documentary and feature movies etc. Within this context, the course focuses on the construction of the Jewish and Israeli pasts and their pivotal role in the construction of a national Israeli identity.

Course Requirements:

1. Class readings:

Upon the lecturer's request, students will read mandatory assigned readings marked with an asterisk (*) in preparation for classroom discussions. All mandatory readings are scanned in the Moodle system. Upon request, students will email the lecturer brief responses to the readings.

2. Class presentations:

The students (either on their own or in couples) will choose **one additional reading** from the syllabus, or a different relevant reading dealing with collective memory research s/he/they located on their own and will present it in class. Please note: most additional readings **are not** scanned in Moodle and you will have to locate them in the library. A choice of reading that does not appear on the list is welcomed, but it requires the lecturer's approval. Students will choose their readings by the second meeting. **Students' presentations will be circulated prior to our meeting, till Tuesday evening.**

3. Final assignment:

3.a. Undergraduate students will write a take-home exam, to be distributed at the end our last meeting. The exam will be test the students' knowledge and understanding of the readings, the lectures and class discussions. **Undergraduate students will submit their take-home exams by July 2nd, 2015.**

3.b. Graduate students will write a short research paper (up to 10 pages). They will first discuss the topic of their research paper with the lecturer and next submit a short research proposal, by April 30th. **Graduate students will submit the final research paper by July 2nd, 2015.**

Final Grade:

Attendance and active participation in class discussion, submission of reading reports: 15%

Class presentation of a selected reading: 10%

Take home exam/final research paper: 75%

Course Outline and Reading List

Introduction: The fundamentals of collective memory research

* Olick, J.K., Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. & Levy, D. (2011). Introduction, in: J.K. Olick, V. Vinitzky-Seroussi & D. Levy (Eds.) *The Collective Memory Reader*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 3-39.

* Zelizer, B. 1995, June. Reading the Past Against the Grain: The Shape of Memory Studies. *Critical studies in mass communication*, 214-239.

Connerton, Paul. (1989). *How societies remember*. Cambridge University Press.

Erlil, A. 2008. Cultural memory studies: An introduction. In A. Erlil & A. Nunning (eds.) *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*. Mouton De Gruyter, 1-15.

Gillis, J.R. 1994. Memory and Identity: The History of a Relationship. In *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 3-24.

Between personal and collective memories

* Lomsky-Feder, E. 2004. Life Stories, War, and Veterans: On the Social Distribution of Memories. *Ethos*, 32 (1), 82-109.

* Schuman, H, Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. & Vinokur, A. D. 2003. Keeping the Past Alive: Memories of Israeli Jews at the Turn of the Millennium. *Sociological Forum*, 18(1), 103-136.

Schuman, H. and Scott, J. 1989. Generations and Collective Memories. *American Sociological Review*, 54 (June), 359-381.

Vinitzky-Seroussi & Ben-Ari, E. (2000). A knock on the door: Managing Death in the Israeli Defense Forces. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 41(3): 391-411.

Changing and competing memory versions

* Shapira, A. 1996. Historiography and Memory: Latrun, 1948. *Jewish Social Studies*, 3 (1), 20-61.

* Zerubavel, Y. 1995. The Multivocality of a National myth: Memory and Counter-Memories of Masada. *Israel Affairs*, 1 (3), 110-128.

Hariman, R. & Lucaites, J. L. 2003. Public Identity and Collective Memory in U.S. Iconic Photography: The Image of "Accidental Napalm." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, v.20, n.1, pp. 33-66.

Schwartz, B. 1991. Social Change and Collective Memory: The Democratization of George Washington. *American Sociological Review*, 56 (2), 221-236.

Schwartz, B. 2008. Collective Memory and Abortive Commemoration: Presidents' Day and the American Holiday Calendar. *Social Research*, 75 (1), 75-110.

Tenenboim Weinblatt, K. (2008). Fighting for the Story's Life: Non-closure in Journalistic Narrative. *Journalism*, 9(1), 31-51.

Vinitzky-Seroussi, V. 2002. Commemorating a Difficult Past: Yitzhak Rabin's Memorials. *American Sociological Review*, 67 (1), 30-51.

White, G. M. 2004. National subjects: September 11 and Pearl Harbor. *American Ethnologist*, v.31, n.3, pp. 293-310.

Between Memory and Historiography

* Nora, P. 1996. *Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1-20.

* White, H. 1980. The value Narrativity in the Representation of Reality, in W. J. T. Mitchell (ed.) *On Narrative*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1-25.

* Zinn, H. 1997. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: New Press, pp. 3-16

Schwartz, B. 1997. Collective Memory and History. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 38(3): 469-496.

National/global identities and collective memory

* Hobsbawm, E. 1983. Introduction: Inventing Tradition. in E. Hobsbawm & T. Ranger (Eds.), *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-14.

*Katriel, T. (forthcoming). Commemorating the Twentieth Century: The Holocaust and Nonviolent Struggle in Global Discourse. In H. Hazan & A. Goldberg, (Eds.) *Marking Evil: Holocaust Memory in the Global Age*.

* Kimmerling, B. 1995. Academic history caught in the cross-fire: The case of Israeli-Jewish historiography. *History & Memory*, 7 (1), 41-65.

* Zerubavel, Y. 1995. *Recovered Roots: collective Memory and the Making of Israeli National Tradition*. University of Chicago Press, 13-36.

Ashuri, T. 2007. Television tension: Collective versus cosmopolitan memory in a co-produced television documentary. *Media, Culture & Society*, 29, 31-51.

Fracscina, F. 2003. The New York Times, Norman Rockwell and the new patriotism. *Journal of Visual Culture*, v.2, n.1, pp. 99-130.

Liebman, C. S. and Don-Yehiya, E. 1983. *Civil Religion in Israel: Traditional Judaism and Political Culture in the Jewish state*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1-24, 123-153.

Meyers, O. 2002. Still Photographs, Dynamic Memories: An Analysis of the Visual Presentation of Israel's History in Commemorative Newspaper Supplements. *The Communication Review*, 5 (3), 179-205.

Zertal, I. 2000. From the People's Hall to the Wailing Wall: A Study in Memory, Fear and War. *Representations*, 69, 96-126.

Memory and trauma

* Brog, M. 2003. Victims and Victors: Holocaust and Military Commemoration in Israel Collective Memory. *Israel Studies*, 8 (3), 65-99

* Keret, E. 2004. Siren, in *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God & Other Stories*, New York, Toby Press, 57-60.

* Keret, E. 2004. Shoes, in *Gaza Blues*. London : David Paul, 59-63.

* Lavie, A. Right of remembrance. *Ha'aretz's weekend supplement*, August 27, 2004.

* Meyers, O. Neiger, M., & Zandberg, E. (2011, v.14, n.2). Structuring the Sacred: Media Professionalism and the Production of Mediated Holocaust Memory. *The Communication Review*, 123-144.

* Nossek, H. 1994. The Narrative Role of the Holocaust and the State of Israel in the Coverage of Salient Terrorist Events in the Israeli Press. *Journal of Narrative and Life History*, 4 (1-2).

* Shapira, A. 1998. The Holocaust: Private Memories, Public Memory. *Jewish Social Studies*, 4 (2), 40-58.

* Woodstock, L. 2001, v.21, n.4. Hide and Seek: The Paradox of Documenting Suicide. *Text and Performance Quarterly*, 247-260.

Andrews, A. 2003. Grand national narratives and the project of truth commissions: a comparative analysis. *Media Culture & Society*, 25 (1), 45-65.

Lomsky-Feder, E. 2004, v.25, n.3. The Memorial Ceremony in Israeli Schools: Between the State and Civil Society. *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 291-305.

Meyers, O., Zandberg, E. & Neiger, M. (2009, v.59, n.3). Prime Time Commemoration: An Analysis of Television Broadcasts on Israel's Memorial Day for the Holocaust and the Heroism. *Journal of Communication*, 456-480.

Paige, L.G. & Jones, S. (2012, v.5, n.2). Remediation and remembrance: "Dancing Auschwitz" Collective Memory and New Media. *Journal for Communication Studies*, 107-131.

Resnik J. 2003, v.9, n.2. "Sites of memory" of the Holocaust: Shaping National Memory in the Education System in Israel. *Nations and Nationalism*, 297-317.

Zandberg, E. 2014. "Ketchup is the Auschwitz of tomatoes": Humor and the collective memory of traumatic events. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 1-16.

Non-commemorative memory

Schudson, M. 1997, v.2, n.1. Lives, Laws and Language: Commemorative versus Non-Commemorative Forms of Effective Public Memory. *The Communication Review*, 3-17.

Media and Memory

* Nossek, H. & Berkowitz, D. (2006). Telling "our" story through news of terrorism. *Journalism Studies*, 795), 691-707.

* Edy, J. A. 1999, v.49. Journalistic Uses of Collective Memory. *Journal of Communication*, 71-85.

* Neiger, M., Meyers, O., & Zandberg, E. 2011. On Media Memory – editors' introduction, in: Neiger, M., Meyers, O. & Zandberg, E., (Eds.) *On Media Memory: Collective Memory in a new Media Age*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 1-26.

* Zelizer, B. 2008, v.1, n.1. Why memory's work on journalism does not reflect journalism's work on memory. *Memory Studies*, 79-87.

Ashuri, T. 2007, 29. Television tension: Collective versus cosmopolitan memory in a co-produced television documentary. *Media, Culture & Society*, 31-51.

Carlson, M. 2007, v.8, n.2. Journalistic authority and the memorializing discourse around Mary McGrory and David Brinkley. *Journalism*, 165-183.

Edy, J. A. & Daradanova, M. (2006). Reporting through the lens of the past. *Journalism*, 7.2, 131-151.

Kitch, C. (2002, v.36, n.1). Anniversary Journalism, Collective Memory, and the Cultural Authority to Tell the Story of the American Past. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 44-67.

Kitch, C. (2003, v.4, n.2) "Mourning in America": ritual, redemption, and recovery in news narrative after September 11. *Journalism Studies*, 213-224.

Li, H. & Lee, C. (2013, v.35, n.7). Remembering Tiananmen and the Berlin Wall: the elite U.S. press's anniversary journalism, 1990 -2009. *Media Culture & Society*, 830-846.

Meyers, O. 2007, v.57, n.4. Memory in Journalism and the Memory of Journalism: Israeli Journalists and the Constructed Legacy of *Haolam Hazeh*. *Journal of Communication*, 719-739.

Conclusion, circulation of take home exam