

Landscapes as Archives of (Deadly) Transit

Writing workshop & symposium, 25–27 April 2025, Marrakech



Hicham Benohoud, 2018, Untitled. Series Landscaping, Gelatin silver print on aluminium

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Content

This workshop brings together 12 international scholars and practitioners to consider landscapes as archives of (post)colonial violence, pollution, migration, and memory, and to consider counter-measures to unearth alternative memories through aesthetic representations and local engagement. Expanding on the themes discussed in the panel “Landscapes as Archives of (Deadly) Transit” at the Memory Studies Association Conference (Lima, 2024), this workshop serves as the foundation for an envisioned joint publication. Together, we explore how landscape can function as repositories of disappearance, mourning, and pollution, while also harboring potential for reclamation, resistance, and future-making. We examine landscapes as archives of history, both cultivated and overgrown, visible and erased. Through interdisciplinary approaches that emphasize both human and non-human actors, materiality, and affect, we investigate how landscapes can preserve hidden histories and mobilize memory as a force for justice.

Close reading groups

Cluster A

Oriana Bernasconi
Nina ter Laan
Maryam Adjam

Cluster B

Simon Holdermann
Nicky Rousseau
Luciana Serrano
Erella Grassiani

Cluster C

Martin Zillinger
Maya Avis & Natalya Tchernykh
Carla Tiefenbacher
(Yemoh Odoi)

Upload further texts here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IYybCxkm6pG_r7icKkL6RISHOXrXTKQ9

Program schedule

Day 1, Friday, April 25

09:30 – 10:00 | Welcome & introduction

Sensing, mapping, assembling: Methodologies for reading the landscape as archive

Chair: Carla Tiefenbacher

10:00 – 11:00 | Maya Avis & Natalya Tchernykh (Université de Genève)
Fragile Archives: contesting state hegemony over landscapes through practices of activist evidence-making from Calais to southern Palestine

11:00 – 11:20 | Coffee/Tea Break

11:30 – 12:30 | Simon Holdermann (University of Cologne)

Sensing, Remembering, Presencing: Landscape as Dynamic Archive in Morocco's High Atlas

12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:30 | Oriana Bernasconi (Universidad Católica de Chile)
Cartography as a spatial archive of state violence.

14:30 – 15:30 | Luciana Serrano (Universidad Nacional de San Martín/Cooperativa Espacial)
Archiving otherwise: Community, Landscape, and Cultural Action

15:30 – 15:50 | Coffee break

15:30-15:45| Natalya Tchernykh
Book project: Landscapes, art, and evidence-making in Ukraine

15:45-16:30| Wrap-up discussion

20:00 | Dinner (at participants' own expense)

Day 2, Saturday, April 26

Ecologies of displacement: vegetation, soil, and the politics of place

Chair: Martin Zillinger

09:00 – 10:00 | Erella Grassiani (University of Amsterdam)

Forests of the Present-Past: Zionist and Religious Judaization of Israel's periphery through Commemoration Plantings

10:00 – 11:00 | Nicky Rousseau (University of Western Cape)

The Police Camp in the Forest

11:00 – 11:20 | Coffee/ tea break

11:30 – 12:30 | Nina ter Laan (University of Cologne)

"Roots That Are Waiting": Rhizomatic Memory, Migration, and Ecological Repair in the Moroccan Rif.

12:30- 13:00 | Yemoh Odoi

Introduction The Minority Globe

13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30 | Yemoh Odoi

Walking seminar: The trans-Saharan Jemaâ el-Fna

20:00| Dinner

Day 3, Sunday, April 27

Landscapes of loss: mourning, memory, and material traces

Chair: Nina ter Laan

09:00 – 10:00 | Carla Tiefenbacher (University of Cologne)

Post-/colonial necromobilities between Morocco and Spain

10:00 – 11:00 | Maryam Adjam (Uppsala University)

The Tale of the Stones: Memoryscapes of the Missing

11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee/ tea break

11:30 – 12:30 | Martin Zillinger (University of Cologne)

Mourning and the ritual mediation of absence in the Moroccan Gharb

12:30-13:00 | Nataliya Tchermalykh

Book project: Landscapes, art, and evidence-making in Ukraine

13:30 – 14:30 | Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30 | Epilogue

15:30 – 16:30 | Plenary discussion - convergences, future collaborations, publishing

20:00 | Closing dinner