CALL FOR PAPERS

Revisiting Postmemory in Colonial Settings

Editors: Farah Aboubakr (University of Edinburgh) and Luisa Gandolfo (University of Aberdeen)

Deadline for Abstracts: November 29, 2024

Since its introduction in 2008, Marianne Hirsch's concept of postmemory has been applied to a variety of case studies. From Holocaust studies to the descendants of those who experienced the dictatorships in Chile (1973-1990) and Argentina (1976-1983), onwards to post-Partition India and Pakistan (1947), and the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), postmemory has facilitated our understanding of how memory lingers and travels once a traumatic event concludes. The mediacy of memory can feature in several devices be it digital (photos and videos) and/or human (storytelling).

However, what if there is no closure and the event is not over? In the context of Palestine, for example, the Nakba is not confined to 1948, but perpetually unfolds through the Israeli settler-colonial occupation and the wars that accompany it. Repeated dispossession, loss of loved ones, and everyday oppression reinscribes intergenerational and transgenerational trauma, and while memories of past generations remain, the trauma is not past enough to become post-. This edited volume is, then, concerned with the question: how do we work with postmemory in contexts where the trauma, and past memories, are still unfolding or tightly bound to present traumas?

In this call for contributions, we welcome studies that critically consider how postmemory has been applied in colonial, settler-colonial, and post-colonial contexts. We encourage submissions from scholars, early career researchers, art practitioners, and activists. Submissions can be original articles as well as creative pieces, including poetry, ethnographic reflections, short zines, and visual analyses.

Topics can include, but are not restricted to:

- Memory, oral narratives and storytelling
- Alternatives to post-memory
- Digital Memory/Globital Memory
- Post-memory and memory work
- The archive and postmemory
- Challenges of postmemory in conflict settings
- Gender and postmemory
- Performing arts and memory/post-memory
- Embodied memories

- Mapping memory (digital age)
- Insidious trauma and ongoing trauma (challenging Cathy Carruth's notions of structural and historical trauma)
- Ongoing trauma and the arts
- Colonial violence and post-memory

Instructions for Authors

Authors are invited to submit an abstract of 300 words, describing your research question, theoretical framework, methods, and key findings. Where the submission is arts-based, please describe the piece and its anticipated contribution to the volume. Abstracts should be accompanied by a short biography of 100 words and six keywords.

Decisions will be shared by mid-January 2025. If your abstract is accepted, full papers will be submitted to the chosen publisher, before entering the anonymous peer review process. Please note that the final selection will be decided by the publisher.

Please send your abstract, short biography, and keywords to the editors, Dr Farah Aboubakr farah.aboubakr@ed.ac.uk and/or Dr Luisa Gandolfo k.luisa.gandolfo@abdn.ac.uk.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 29 November 2024
Decisions on abstracts communicated to accepted authors: Mid-January 2025
Submission of full papers: 18 July 2025