**Text, Image, Sound, Space (TBLR). Norwegian Researcher Training School –**

**Analysis, Interpretation, and Exchange of Theories and Ideas**

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the Arctic University of Norway, Nord University, the

University of Agder, the University of Bergen, and the University of Oslo.

MEMORY AND AESTHETICS

11-13 November 2020

Venue: Online

Application deadline: 9 October 2020

Memory Studies is an important, growing and quickly developing field. This is not only evident in the palpable increase of academic publications dealing with the issue of memory in a variety of subjects, and the rapid growth of international organizations such as the Memory Studies Association, but also contentious public debates surrounding for instance issues of commemoration and collective memory. In the humanities today, Memory Studies is one of the key interdisciplinary meeting places between researchers from different subjects, and part of its cachet stems from its obvious relevance to issues of high public interest. An important strand of the field concerns trauma, both as an individual, diagnostic phenomenon and as a culturally constructed discourse. Increasingly, questions of mediation are coming to the fore within Memory Studies. This concerns for instance the memory of the Holocaust in a time period where primary witnesses are no longer living (postmemory), the mediation of historical events through popular culture (prosthetic memory), and how the memory of new events are constructed in dialogue with memories of past events that are both similar and dissimilar (multidirectional memory).

This seminar will scrutinize the connection between memory and aesthetics. Reflecting the ancient Greek meaning of *aesthesis* as referring to sense perception, some of the key debates in this imbrication revolve around the connection between memory impressions or traces, on the one hand, and image, sound, touch and the other senses on the other hand. Visual images are prominent conveyors of memory, whether they are mediated by the visual arts or popular media, or analyzed in terms of individual, cognitive experience. Images are also part and parcel of the literary realm. While Memory Studies has to some degree distanced itself from its close connection with post-structuralist literary criticism in the form of the theories developed in the 1990s by Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman, Geoffrey Hartman, and others, literature remains intrinsically connected to memory. This is for instance evident through literature’s dealings with death and mourning as well as its ever-ongoing process of canon formation and development.

Both critical engagement with fundamental theoretical questions and more specific, empirical issues will be part of the proceedings. Key events such as 9/11 and World War II, the institution of slavery, and other points of convergence of national or international will be addressed, insofar as their commemoration impinges upon the development of relevant theoretical issues. Participants are encouraged to submit paper proposals in any field of research with relevance to the understanding and use of memory in relation to aesthetics. Participants are invited to reflect on questions concerning the who, why and how of memory and how these pertain to their dissertation subjects empirically, analytically or epistemologically.

Keynote speakers:

Charlotte Klonk, Humboldt University of Berlin: <http://www.kunstgeschichte.hu-berlin.de/personen/professorinnen/charlotte-klonk/>

Laszlo Muntean, Radboud University Nijmegen: <https://www.ru.nl/english/people/muntean-l/>

Juliane Prade-Weiss, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich: <https://www.komparatistik.uni-muenchen.de/personen/professoren/prade_weiss/index.html>

TBLR participants: Knut Ove Eliassen, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology; and Charles I. Armstrong and Unni Langås, University of Agder.

Application and admission:

PhD students from all participant institutions are invited to attend and present their

work. Fill in the application form and submit a short draft of your paper (300 words) by

9 October, 2020. If the total number of applications exceeds 15, a selection will be made on the basis of relevance, previous participation in the TBLR program, affiliation and status of PhD training. Beyond that, early applications will be prioritized.

Program: The program will consist of keynote lectures (45-minute presentation, 45-minute discussion), paper presentations and reading sessions. Student papers will be

presented in a conventional conference setting (15-minute presentation, 15-minute

discussion). There will be two sessions of student presentations running in parallel in some parts of the symposium. In addition, there will be text reading sessions. Participants can choose

between presenting their own research or a theoretical text for a reading session.

Syllabus: Reading materials will be made available to registered participants through a

Dropbox download link no later than three weeks before the seminar. The syllabus will be

announced on https://www.ntnu.no/tblr by 12 October, 2020

Working language: English.

Credits: 2/5 ECTS. Participation and presentation will result in 2 ECTS, working over and

submitting and editing version of the presentation (10--‐12 pages) after the seminar, will

yield an additional 3 ECTS. Signed and authorized course diplomas will be bestowed upon

each PhD student participant on completion of the course.

Since the event is online, there are no travel or accommodation costs. There will be an option of having lunch while being online with the rest of the participants, but this will be voluntary.

Questions? Contact Charles I. Armstrong [Charles.armstrong@uia.no](mailto:Charles.armstrong@uia.no) or Knut Ove Eliassen knut.eliassen@ntnu.no.

**Application Form**

*Text – Image – Sound – Space*

*National Researcher Training School*

# Memory and Aesthetics

Online webinar

TBLR, PhD seminar, 11-13 November, 2020

NAME

INSTITUTION

ADDRESS

PRIVATE ADDRESS

E-MAIL

MOBILE PHONE

TITLE OF PHD PROJECT

NAME OF SUPERVISER

HOW RELEVANT IS THIS COURSE FOR YOUR PROJECT?

TITLE OF PAPER

OTHER TBLR COURSES YOU HAVE ATTENDED

STATUS OF YOUR PHD EDUCATION

(ECTS POINTS ACHIEVED)

Deadline for application with a short draft of your paper (300 words):

As soon as possible, and at the latest by October 9th, 2020

Syllabus to be announced by:

October 12th, 2020

To be submitted to: Knut Ove Eliassen, HF, NTNU: [knut.eliassen@ntnu.no](mailto:knut.eliassen@ntnu.no)