Visit From the Warwick Memory Group: Two talks on contemporary transcultural memory media

Maria Roca Lizarazu is a final-year PhD candidate in German Studies at the University of Warwick. Her doctoral project focuses on representations of trauma in German- and Austrian-Jewish Holocaust literature by the so-called “generation after.”

In her talk "Thomas Mann in Furs: Remediations of Sado-Masochism in Maxim Biller's *Im Kopf von Bruno Schulz*", she will argue that *Im Kopf von Bruno Schulz* invokes the sadomasochistic constellation to reflect on and illustrate Biller’s negative take on the German-Jewish symbiosis. To achieve this, the novella transposes Sado-Masochism from the realm of male/female erotic interaction onto the terrain of German-Jewish relations, which is staked out via the novella’s fictional relationship between the Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz and the German cultural icon Thomas Mann.

Rebekah Vince’s doctoral research, funded by the Wolfson Foundation, focuses on the historical narratives of the Holocaust and colonialism in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as portrayed in contemporary North African fiction written in French.

In "Unsettling Memories: the (European) Holocaust and the (Arab) Jew in Israel", she employs Levy and Sznai’dier’s three historical stages in memory politics and A. Assmann’s models for dealing with a traumatic past in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as portrayed in texts by Valérie Zenatti, including her translation of Holocaust survivor Aharon Appelfeld’s autobiography. Zenatti hints at the potential for ‘dialogic remembering’ but also raises questions about the ambivalent position of Sephardim within the hegemonic framework of a Eurocentric Israeli identity.