



# New Frontiers in Memory Studies

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## Special Focus: Migration and Transcultural Memory

**Daniela Berghahn (University of London)**  
***“Projecting Memories of Migration”***  
**Tuesday 24 November | 12-2 pm | IG 1.414**

Since the mid-1990s a number of Turkish German, Maghrebi French and Black and Asian British filmmakers have excavated their parents' memories of migration to the old Europe in documentaries including *Memories of Immigration* (Benguigui, 1997), *We Forgot to Return* (Akin 2000) and *I for India* (Sure 2005). This paper explores the triangulated relationship between the collective memory of diaspora and the social memory of the family in relation to official accounts of immigration written and preserved by the host societies. These 'domestic ethnographic' documentaries (Renov 1994) draw attention to the complex layering and medialisation of personal and collective memories, characteristic of postmemory texts (Hirsch 1997). Family photographs and home videos function as mnemonic triggers for recollections that unfold in extended dialogues with (real or symbolic) parents (e.g. in John Afromka's poetic essay film *The Nine Muses* (2012)). Archival footage from televised programmes about immigration provides a narrative counter-point, while popular songs capture the parents' nostalgia for their homeland.

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