



# New Frontiers in Memory Studies



**Annika Björkdahl (Lund University)**

**Troubling Testimonies: Women's Narrative of War**

**Tuesday 14 November | 14:15 | HZ 14**



This lecture addresses women's testimonies that collectively have played a key role in producing new knowledge about gendered experiences of war and its aftermath. It analyzes a rich corpus of women's testimonies from four seminal conflicts: testimonies of the genocide in Rwanda (1994), testimonies pertaining to wartime rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992–1995), the civil war in Sri Lanka (1983–2009), and testimonies of the violence perpetrated by the Islamic State (ISIS) in northern Iraq (2014). The testimonies have emerged over the years in a multitude of modes and sites, and when we bring them together, we see how testifying is a gendered, agential practice: the women exercise what can be termed *narrative agency*. How do women witnesses use their narrative agency to contribute to transitional justice, peacebuilding and societal transformation?

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