



# New Frontiers in Memory Studies



**Ksenia Robbe (Groningen)**

Postcolonial/Postsocialist Memories as  
Constellations: Reading 'Returning Transitions'  
in Anglophone and Russophone Literatures

Thursday 11 June, 2026 | 16:15 | Cas. 1.812



This talk will reflect on the study of intersections between memories of the Cold-War aftermaths in postcolonial and postsocialist contexts and will propose 'constellational reading' as an approach for discerning and initiating dialogues across such diverse locations. Drawing upon my research on contemporary literatures from South Africa and Russia and through several examples, I will outline how this reading can illuminate global connections between memory practices that centre on the 'transitions' from apartheid and state socialism. Inspired by Walter Benjamin's ideas and applied to memory studies, this method, I will suggest, can yield interpretative tools for reading trans-regionally against geopolitical narratives.



GOETHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
FRANKFURT AM MAIN

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM  
HISTORISCHE GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN  
FRANKFURT HUMANITIES  
RESEARCH CENTRE

Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform  
[www.memorystudies-frankfurt.com](http://www.memorystudies-frankfurt.com)

Contact:  
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Astrid Ertl  
Anglophone Literatures and Cultures  
Goethe University Frankfurt am Main  
IEAS FB 10  
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1  
60629 Frankfurt am Main  
[ertl@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:ertl@em.uni-frankfurt.de)