

## ISA Workshop Report

### **“Memory, Trauma and Change in World Politics: The Social and Political Implications of Forgetting and Remembering Emotional Events”**

At 9 am on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, the workshop started the day activities with an introduction of the participants and their research interests. The following scholars were present at the workshop: Douglas Becker, Dovile Budryte, Erica Resende, Erin Wilson, Hannes Hansen-Magnusson, James McKee, Jenny Edkins, Jessica Auchter, Laura Taylor, Maja Zehfuss, Renata Ferreira Barbosa, Samuel Feldberg, and Todd Hall.

From the initial workshop plan for 15 participants, 3 individuals withdrew from the workshop: Maria Malksoo, Leonardo Nascimento and Vincent Chapaux. Maria Malksoo and Vincent Chapaux were not able to attend the workshop for various personal reasons. However, they are committed to the research and publishing efforts that will result from the workshop. Leonardo Nascimento has been excluded from the workshop altogether. As substitutes, Renata Ferreira Barbosa, Ritu Mathur and Sabrina Villenave have been selected. Renata has been integrated as a full workshop participant back in January while Ritu and Sabrina have initially enrolled as observers. During the workshop they have expressed keen interest and willingness in contributing to the research project resulting from the workshop to the extent that they brought and presented us with their own research proposals which are indeed relevant to our future publication plans.

If the Workshop Committee agrees, we would like to extend them the same funding privileges *vis-à-vis* lodging, per diem and research expenses in order to incorporate them into to workshop group. For that purpose, we are enclosing their short resume as well as their consent to participate at the research resulting from the workshop. Their inclusion will not impact on the workshop grant, since they would be benefiting from funding already allocated to the workshop.

The workshop activities began with Erica Resende, the leading workshop coordinator, outlining the project research agenda as well as the plans for the future activities, asking for the input from the participants. Dovile Budryte, workshop coordinator, discussed a preliminary outline for future publications which will draw on the material and the ideas presented in the workshop.

Workshop activities started with viewing of the film “La Jetee” (1962) by Chris Marker. The main themes presented in the film included imagining the world after World War III, the flow of the time, haunting memories and victim-torturer interactions. Jenny Edkins, the keynote speaker, discussed the film, focusing on the critique of linear time and introducing the concept of messianic time. In addition, the presentation dwelled on the ways to retrieve the “trauma time.”

Maja Zehfuss responded to Edkins' narrative by introducing additional themes, such as the ways to challenge the linearity of time and explore relationships between linearity and trauma. Part of Zehfuss' presentation addressed the ways in which ordinary events are affected by the memories of traumatic histories. The discussion after the presentations included the participants of the workshop as well as the observers. It focused on the categories of disjointed time as well as traumatic time. After the presentations led by Edkins and Zehfuss, a q&a session followed.

Around 1 pm, the workshop took a break for lunch at a restaurant outside the hotel where the participants had the chance to continue the discussion as well to socially interact in a relaxing atmosphere. The second half of the workshop continued at 2:30 back at the hotel conference room with the presentation of 3 papers: Samuel Feldberg's "Holocaust, Jewish Historical Memory and Israel's Security Perceptions," Jessica Auchter's "Memorializing Genocide: The Twin Narratives of Memory and Forgetting in Rwanda" and Douglas Becker's "Historical Memory and US Presidents: Partisanship, Misinterpretation, Manipulation". The papers explored a variety of themes relevant to the focus of the workshop, including memorialization, relationships between traumatic events and behavior of nation-states as well as memory and power. Maja Zehfuss discussed the papers; her discussion was followed by questions and comments from the other workshop participants and observers.

At the first session of the afternoon, 3 papers were presented: Dovile Budryte's "Coping with Divided Memories: Re-evaluating the International Commissions and other Strategies to Cope with the Painful Past in the Baltic States," Maria Malksoo's "Cosmopolitising the Memory of Communism: Competing Securitizations of the Soviet Legacy in Eastern Europe," and Laura Taylor's "Truth Seeking and Democratic Consolidation: The Impact of Public Commission". Since Maria Malksoo was not able to attend the workshop, Erica Resende read Malksoo's paper. Jenny Edkins served as a discussant of the three papers. During her discussion as well as during the q&a session, the following themes were discussed: competing narrative of victimhood, the role of Truth and truths during the process of reconciliation, addressing the legacy of Communism and issues related to transnational memory (among others).

Technology used by the presenters included DVD (film) and Power Point Presentations. There were no issues with the equipment. The participants were supplied with the workshop program and a plan of forthcoming activities, as well as notepads, pens and a folder. The room size, as well as its organization as a U-shape, was very adequate to the activities.

At the end of the workshop, Erica Resende and Dovile Budryte presented the plans for future activities, including upcoming conferences and plans for publishing. In August, the participants of the workshop as well as outside collaborators will participate in two WISC panels and one roundtable in Porto:

- 1) "The Political Implications of Feeling, Suffering, Forgetting, Remembering and Memorializing in Contexts of Crisis, Trauma and Political Transition - I"

Chair: Erica Resende

Discussant: TBA

Presenters: Siobhan Kattago (Tallinn University, Estonia), Gustavo Biasoli Alves (Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Parana, Brazil), Glenda Mezarobba (Universidade de Campinas, Brazil) and Dovile Budryte.

- 2) "The Political Implications of Feeling, Suffering, Forgetting, Remembering and Memorializing in Contexts of Crisis, Trauma and Political Transition - II"

Chair: Dovile Budryte

Discussant: Michael Shapiro (University of Hawaii, US)

Presenters: Erica Resende, Pertti Gronholm (University of Turku, Finland), Hannes Hansen-Magnusson, Jenny Wustenburg (University of Maryland, USA) and Renata Barbosa Ferreira.

- 3) Roundtable "Memory, Trauma and Change in World Politics: The Social and Political Implications of Forgetting and Remembering Emotional Events and Crisis".

Chair: Dovile Budryte.

Discussants: Erica Resende, Siobhan Kattago, Glenda Mesarobba, Dirk Nabers (University of Kiel, Germany) and Erin Wilson.

For the required panel for the 2012 ISA Annual Meeting in San Diego, 12 participants expressed willingness to contribute with a paper presentation. While Erica Resende will be in charge of coordinating the required panel, Douglas Becker and Dovile Budryte will make the necessary arrangements for a second panel proposal.

Regarding plans for publishing, it is expected that the publications resulting from this workshop will include two volumes: 1) a survey volume on memory in international politics (proposal to be submitted for a book series called "Interventions", edited by Routledge) suitable for teaching upper level undergraduate courses; 2) an edited collection of essays presented at various venues associated with the project. As discussed by Erica Resende, there is a possibility for a third book to be edited in Brazil, in case her application for governmental funds for publishing is granted.

Finally, given the positive response of observers as well as individuals who has shown interest in the research topic proposed by the workshop, the possibility of a proposing a new ISA section has been raised. Further investigation indicated that the words "memory", "trauma", "emotion", "feeling", and variations thereof had 37 hits at the 2011 ISA program. We interpreted this as indicative of an emerging interest in politics of memory, trauma and emotions in international studies. Both workshop participants and observers expressed their support in exploring the possibility and the feasibility of submitting a proposal for a new ISA section directed to those research topics. Douglas Becker and Maja Zehfuss volunteered to check the ISA regulations concerning the opening of a new section.

The workshop activities ended up around 6 pm and the general feeling was that the goals of our joint initiative have been met. With a promise to keep both participants and observers informed of upcoming news regarding conference and publications, Erica Resende and Dovile Budryte thanked all in attendance and expressed their wishes to see the participants again in Porto and San Diego.

Regarding reimbursement, Erica Resende is in charge of collecting and preparing the necessary forms and paperwork to be submitted as soon as possible. From the pre-approved budget of US\$ 13,334.00, US\$ 734 have been billed directly to the ISA for coffee/tea, room rental, LCD projector and bottled water.

For lodging and per diem expenses for 6 US/Canada-based participants (Douglas Becker, Todd Hall, Jessica Auchter, Laura Taylor, James McKee and Dovile Budryte), reimbursements are to be done in the amount of US\$ 1,650.00 (US\$ 275.00 each). Lodging and per diem expenses for 7 non-US/Canada based participants (Erica Resende, Samuel Feldberg, Maja Zehfuss, Jenny Edkins, Erin Wilson, Hannes Hansen-Magnusson, Renata Barbosa Ferreira) reimbursements are to be done in the amount of US\$ 3,850.00 (US\$ 550.00 each).

If the ISA Grant Committee allows for the formal inclusion of Sabrina Villenave and Ritu Mathur, the research expenses will amount to US\$ 3,950.00, which will be shared by 15 individuals (US\$ 150.00 for participants from core countries and US\$ 500.00 for participants from periphery countries). As overall expenses, US\$ 350.15 has been spent for lunch and US\$ 950 for translation/proofreading services. We believe that final costs of the workshop would totalize US\$ 12,009.15, plus some additional expenses from banking fees in order to reimburse non-USA residents via international bank transfers.

This is the final report on the ISA 2011 Workshop "Memory, Trauma and Change in World Politics: The Social and Political Implications of Forgetting and Remembering Emotional Events" organized by Erica Resende and Dovile Budryte. We would like to express our deepest thanks to the ISA Grant Committee for putting their trust in this project and to Jeanne White, who has been valuable in coordinating the logistics for the success of this workshop.