

# HOPE AND MEMORY

A WORKSHOP ABOUT THE POLITICS OF NARRATING THE PAST  
AND ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE

**MAY**  
**25-26**

**2023**

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Utrecht University

Keynote

**MAX CZOLLEK**

Author of "Versöhnungstheater"

**VENUE**

Centre for Social Critique, Charlottenstr. 42, (3rd Floor), 10117 Berlin  
Please register with Carla Fischer ([c.fischer@fu-berlin.de](mailto:c.fischer@fu-berlin.de)) by May 15th.

Organised by the Research Group Democratic Hope

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In recent decades, there has been growing awareness that the way in which societies remember past events and write their own history is influenced by political dynamics. Public manifestations and debates around the longstanding legacies of colonialism, slavery and racism highlight the challenge of constructing collective memory in a way that includes the perspectives of those who have experienced exclusion and oppression. Notably, how a community narrates a shared history is crucial not only for its self-understanding in the present but also shapes its relation to the future.

Against this background, this workshop will reflect on the myriad ways in which our relation to the past and to the future are intertwined. In so doing, we start from the assumption that a society's memory of its own past is subject to public debate and political struggle as much as its vision of a shared future.

## 📅 Thursday, 25 MAY 2023

- 10.15 Welcome
- 10.30 Alasia Nuti (York) | 'We Fight With Our Dead': On Thanatoactivism
- 11.30 Javier Burdman (San Martín) | Should Transformative Politics Break with the Past?
- 12.30 🍴 Lunch Break
- 13.30 Catherine Guisan (Minnesota) | Making and Unmaking Peace: From the European Recovery Act to the Iraq Study Group Report
- 14.30 Peter Verovsek (Groningen) | The Politics of Memory and the Constitutionalization of the Past: Nationalism, Sovereignty and Democracy in Western and East-Central Europe
- 16.00 Lorena de Vita (Utrecht) | Reparations and Memory: The Global Echoes of the Luxembourg Agreement, Seven Decades On
- 17.30 Guided Tour at the "Humboldtforum"

## 📅 Friday, 26 MAY 2023

- 10.30 Johannes Schulz (Lucerne) | Memory and Resentment: Why we need to turn to the past in order to break free from it
- 11.30 Silvia Pierosara (Macerata) | The Politics of Writing: Memory, Dissent, Democracy
- 12.30 🍴 Lunch Break
- 13.30 Volkan Cidam (Istanbul) | Walter Benjamin's Emancipatory Remembrance of the Past
- 14.30 Jakob Huber (Berlin) | Hopeful Melancholy
- 16.00 Max Czollek (Berlin) | Catastrophe as Paradigm. Towards a pluralistic memory culture