

Memory, Transmission and Identity

Workshop held at Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Altensteinstraße 48

Date:

4, December 2012, 9 am – 4 pm

Preparatory Meeting:

06, November 2012, 04:00 pm – 05:00 pm

Organiser:

Jeanine Dagyeli, BGS MCS

Participants:

doctoral students of the BGS MCS,
doctoral students and fellows of associated institutions

Format:

The workshop will be composed of three approaches to the field:

- Introductory presentation
- During the preparatory meeting, we will select key texts which will be discussed in the workshop in order to get acquainted with the most influential writings.
- On the basis of their own research and preferences, participants may select one or two readings and relate these to their own dissertation projects in a presentation. Alternatively, participants may choose to present a relevant chapter from their dissertation.

Readings:

Will be handed out and discussed during the preparatory meeting.

Requirements:

Attendance at the preparatory meeting, short presentation of one or two of the readings with reflections about the own dissertation project.

Credit Points:

1 Credit Point

Application:

The deadline for application is November, 10 (via e-mail to jdagyeli@zirs.fu-berlin.de).

Contact:

For any queries or questions, please contact:
jdagyeli@zirs.fu-berlin.de

Workshop Outline:

Memory, remembered history and their transmission are core issues in debates about identity and autochthony, concepts that have been spurring discussions about belonging, rights, privileges and difference in many parts of the world during the last decades. The way political and cultural influences or pressures shape memory (individual and collective) may result in apparent differences between various actors' perceptions of how historical events »really happened«, a process that has been termed *politics of memory*. The term *collective memory* first appeared during the second half of the 19th century but became popular through the French philosopher and sociologist Maurice Halbwachs. It is commonly held that collective memory – although related to individual memory – surpasses the latter in capacity and (historical) depth. The formation and maintenance of collective memory is highly dependent on the transmission of the remembered past. Transmission may take place in many forms: narrative, mono- or polyvocal, through symbols, pictures, rituals or other mnemonic devices. In the Islamic world today, questions of alleged legitimacy and rights derived from remembered history inform disputes on land, identity, privilege of interpretation and authoritative religious argumentation.

The workshop wants to address key theories on individual and collective memory, their ways of transmission and how they are made fruitful for the construction of history, identity and political or cultural ends.