



ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Entangled remembering: encounters with the traces of violence in Berlin

28 March 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

Urban landscapes touched by war can provide an embodied means of remembering and memorializing destruction, to both advance and challenge traditional war mythologies. This paper looks to the urban landscape of Berlin as a way to reflect and challenge the deeply entrenched English-language narratives about the Second World War and the deeply complicated relationship between violence, place and memory that remain central in the Anglo-American consciousness. Centered upon Teufelsberg - a hill in Berlin born from the rubble caused by Allied bombing - and other sites of violence across Germany's capital, the paper draws on sensory and ethnographic data entwined with cultural and political texts to explore both the dark legacy of the aerial bombing of Berlin and the ways in which we record and read violent histories. Encountering the traces of destruction often omitted or obscured from the dominant historical narratives of conflicts leaves room for more nuanced, messy, and even uncomfortable ways of remembering and imagining violent pasts.

Biography

Ellie is a Research and Inquires Officer at the Parliamentary Library at Parliament of Victoria, as well as an Adjunct Fellow at the Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University. Her research centres on the intersections of memory and more-than-human matter, and the navigation of place as entanglements of materiality and cultural memory. Ellie as previously worked on the ARC Linkage Project Curating Museum Collections for Climate Change Mitigation, and has also worked as a researcher, project manager, copyeditor, and teacher across RMIT, Monash University, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Presenter: Eloise Florence

Discussant: Ned Rossiter

Chair: Malini Sur

Research Alignment:
Urban Futures

**NEXT SEMINAR:
4 APRIL**