

Limits of the Past

Vanderbilt University
19–20 April 2002

The Human Sciences and the Turn to Memory

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Colloquium

My first memory is of
memory itself—and the fear
of its loss, that vast
outer dark.

— A. Manette Ansay

Memory is never more
chameleon than when it
seems to stand still.

— Raphael Samuel

Since the cultural turn in the humanities and social sciences, the place of memory in shaping cultural meaning and collective and individual action has been a focus of scholars from a wide range of fields. This conference seeks to explore the borders of the turn to memory to examine how memory liberates, constrains, or otherwise affects social and political possibilities. The point of the conference is less to highlight the dominance of memory in culture than to come to terms with implications of the turn to memory for interpreting social practice.

We invite papers from a wide range of disciplines, including (but not limited to) anthropology, art history, history, literature, political science, philosophy, psychology, and sociology. We also invite submissions from all historical periods. While participants are encouraged to seek funding from their own institutions, the conference organizers will award a limited number of travel stipends. Please send 250-word abstracts and a brief vitae by January 25 to the conference chairs:

Edward Harcourt and David Karr
Conference Co-Chairs
Limits of the Past
VU Station B #353473
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235-3473

Or, email abstracts to david.karr@vanderbilt.edu
and edward.j.harcourt@vanderbilt.edu

Keynote Speakers

Liliane Weissberg

Joseph B. Glossberg Term Professor in the Humanities
Chair, Program in Comparative Literature and
Literary Theory
University of Pennsylvania

Richard H. King

Professor of American Intellectual History
University of Nottingham (UK)
William S. Vaughn Visiting Fellow,
Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities
Vanderbilt University

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Vanderbilt University Design and Publishing, 2001

