

The XXXIIIrd ASEN Conference

Nationalism and Memory

Call for Papers

University of Edinburgh, 9th — 11th April, 2024
#asen2024 asen.ac.uk/conference



We are delighted to invite submissions for the 33rd Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, which will take place from 9th to 11th April 2024 at the University of Edinburgh on the subject of Nationalism and Memory.

Abstracts of up to 250 words should be submitted online at asen.ac.uk/conference. The deadline is 2359UTC on 3rd November 2023.

Call for papers

Historical narratives and collective memories are important requirements or components that help constitute a nation and create group solidarity and cohesion. Memory, in the form of historical events, traditions, and cultural symbols is well embedded in the language of nations and nationalism. As a perpetually actual phenomenon, memory binds remembering and forgetting as two constitutive categories. This enables categories of nation and national identities to be imagined and reimagined on the bases of present-day requirements. Considering its persistence as a crucial element of the theoretical and discursive explorations of nationalism, memory engenders numerous opportunities to challenge existing historical narratives while accentuating the plurality of historical interpretations.

This conference explores the multifaceted relationship between nationalism and memory to better understand the continuously changing embodiments of national identification shaped by an increasingly contested and fragmented discourse on how and what nations (should) remember. By exploring the versatility of the nationalist rhetoric in shaping collective identities, the converging of nationalism and memory offers a rich conceptual and empirical terrain for analysing the public uses of history, past and present myth-making processes, and the overall growing enthusiasm for recovering national pasts that characterises almost all contemporary societies and nations.

Thus, along with questions which speak more closely to memory as a crucial category in nationalism's discursive repertoire, this conference is also interested in questions that interrogate the relationship between nations and heritage culture in its everyday manifestations. The conference is intended to cover cases worldwide and welcomes papers based on different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. Considering the interdisciplinary character of both nationalism and memory studies, we invite contributions from various disciplines and fields, such as sociology, anthropology, history, psychology, political science, political theory, cultural studies, education, media and communication studies, museum studies, critical race studies, philosophy, and law.

Themes

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

Nationalism, Memory, and History
Forgetting and Remembering
Mythmaking Process and Mnemonic Actors
Education and Remembrance
Individual vs Collective Memory
National Days and Commemoration
National Museums and Memory
National Memory, Gender, and Race
Transnational Memory

Nationalism, Heritage, and Representation
Historical Ethnosymbolism
Nationalism and (Invented) Traditions
National Memory and Reconciliation
National Memorials and Statues
Nationalism and Memory in the Age of Digitalisation
National Trauma, Victimhood, and Reconciliation
Contested Myths and Memories
National and International Institutions of Memory



Notes on abstracts

ASEN Conferences are topic-based instead of discipline-based. Thus, we accept abstracts from all disciplines and methodological backgrounds such as anthropology, political theory, large quantitative studies, etc. The selection committee is composed of experts from many different disciplines and we welcome both descriptive and prescriptive abstracts. Therefore, there is no single way to write an abstract that will be accepted.

Nevertheless, the conference committee values abstracts that explicitly state their theoretical framework, that make clear its analytical points, that mention their methodology, that explain their contribution to their field and that set out their case studies and time frame. Interdisciplinary research is welcomed and encouraged.

Please abstain from sending descriptive abstracts that simply explain an interesting case study. Instead, summarise the case in two or three lines and explain your analytical points and methodology.

Abstracts should be of up to 250 words; if you wish to include references, they do not count towards this limit. Abstracts should be submitted online at asen.ac.uk/conference. Abstracts are reviewed completely anonymously.

Timelines

This timeline is correct as of publication but is subject to change. Please visit asen.ac.uk/conference for updates.

Call for papers opens	...	...	...	...	11 th September 2023
Call for papers closes	...	...	...	...	3 rd November 2023
Results communicated	...	...	...	...	18 th December 2023
Registration opens	...	...	...	...	18 th December 2023
Registration closes	...	...	...	...	29 th February 2024
Final programme published	...	...	...	...	6 th March 2024
Anthony D. Smith Lecture	...	...	...	...	8 th April 2024
Conference opens	...	...	...	...	9 th April 2024
Conference closes	...	...	.....	...	11 th April 2024

Contacts

We can be reached by email on conference@asen.ac.uk or by WhatsApp at +44 78 85 99 16 33

People

The organising committee are, alphabetically by family name, Isadora Dullaert, Andi Haxhiu, Onur Işci, Dongwei Wang, and Zhiwei Wang.

Oversight is provided by Jonathan Hearn and Gëzim Krasniqi. Administrative support is provided by David Landon Cole.

The organising committee would like to express their thanks to the University of Edinburgh for hosting the conference.



Colophon

The type used for this conference is Robert Green's digital facsimile of the Doves Type. The Doves Type was designed by TJ Cobden-Sanderson for the Doves Press, established by him and Emery Walker in London around the turn of the twentieth century. The Doves Type is based on nineteenth century drawings of Nicolas Jenson's Venetian type of the fifteenth century.

A bitter disagreement over the future of the type led Cobden-Sanderson to throw the punches and matrices into the River Thames, 12 lb. at a time, between 1913 and 1917, so that they would be denied to Walker.

Together with the Port of London Authority's salvage divers, Robert Green rescued as much of the type as possible from the Thames in October and November, 2014, and used them to recreate the Doves Type in this digital version.

A twenty-first century digital font based on twentieth century punches recovered from the Thames that drew from nineteenth century drawings of a fifteenth century type felt like an appropriate choice for a conference dealing with memory.

The cover features the University of Edinburgh tartan.

