August 6, 2012

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We will mark the first anniversary of the symposium on Memory and Countermemory with Michael Rothberg’s presentation, *What Does It Mean to Inherit the Past? Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance*. His talk will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Arizona Jewish Historical Society, 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix, 85004. This event is free and open to the public.

Last year’s gathering gave birth to lively conversations and new areas of questions about inheritance and transmission of memory. The event brought together scholars, writers, and activists from Holocaust studies, indigenous and decolonial studies, trauma studies, and memorial and memoir projects. Given the intensity and impact of the conversations, we are seeking to extend an opportunity for our productive exchanges.

We are particularly interested in exploring the productive tension between oral and written (and now digital) modes of transmissions as well as between indigenous, post-traumatic, and post-Holocaust trajectories of the inherited past that we memorialize (forget as well as un/forgive) for an open future.

We will post topics and texts for discussion online for those who cannot attend but would like to participate in the conversation. More information about this and other events will be posted at [http://ccics.asu.edu](http://ccics.asu.edu)

Sincerely,

*Martin Beck Matušík*  
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Lincoln Professor of Ethics & Religion  
Director of Center for Critical Inquiry and Cultural Studies at Arizona State University [http://ccics.asu.edu](http://ccics.asu.edu)

*Patricia Huntington*  
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Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
Facilitator of Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Literature, a faculty research cluster and certificate at Arizona State University  
The event is sponsored by CCICS’s award to the PRL. [http://ccics.asu.edu/prl](http://ccics.asu.edu/prl)

Co-sponsored by Project Humanities at ASU
**What Does It Mean to Inherit the Past? Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance**

**Thursday, November 8, 2012  |  7:00 – 9:00 p.m. | Arizona Jewish Historical Society, 122 East Culver Street, Phoenix, 85804**

In establishing itself as the successor to National Socialism, West Germany faced a paradigmatic dilemma of political transition: how to situate itself in relation to the state-sponsored crimes of the immediate past. Over the course of several decades, and in the face of conflict and controversy, a public embrace of responsibility for the Holocaust came to play a key role in the definition of German national identity, even as private discourses continued to focus more on the fate of non-Jewish Germans than on the Shoah. Although it is rarely remarked, the period in which this public consensus about the Nazi genocide evolved corresponds exactly to the years in which labor migration transformed national demographics. Although immigrants—especially those coded as “Muslim”—are often described as uninterested in and even hostile to commemoration of the Holocaust, a substantial “archive” of immigrant memory work on the Holocaust and National Socialism exists in a variety of arenas. This migrant archive of Holocaust remembrance provides an opportunity to reflect on some old questions and some new dilemmas: What does working through the past mean? How are difficulty histories inherited? Can and should immigrants “migrate” into a new national past? This talk will seek to address such general questions and to demonstrate how migrant memory work can prompt a new approach to the long-term attempt to grapple with the legacies of Nazi genocide at a moment of generational transition.

**Michael Rothberg**  
Professor of English and Conrad Humanities Scholar & Director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies Initiative  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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**Memory and Countermemory: For an Open Future**, Arizona State University November 8 & 9, 2012

**Michael Rothberg**  
Professor of English and Conrad Humanities Scholar & Director of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies Initiative  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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James D. Hatley (on the right in the photo below) is Professor in Environmental Studies and a faculty affiliate in Philosophy at Salisbury University in Maryland. He specializes in 20th Century Continental Philosophy, with an emphasis on the thought of Emmanuel Levinas and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Hatley is also increasingly focusing on the American personalist tradition which includes thinkers such as Emerson, Thoreau, Bugbee, Cavell and Mooney. Hatley has published papers in the fields of Ethics, Aesthetics, Environmental Philosophy, Jewish Studies, Holocaust Studies, Extinction Studies, Teaching Pedagogy and the Philosophy of Literature. During his graduate years, Hatley attended the University of Tübingen as a Fulbright Scholar, where he was introduced to the poetry of Paul Celan. His book, Suffering Witness: the Quandary of Responsibility after the Irreparable (SUNY Press, 2000), offers a Levinasian account of Celan's poetry and the responsibility to witness the Shoah that it elicits. Because of Hatley's interest in fostering post-Shoah Jewish thought and culture, he was active in the establishment of the Society for Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context and served among its first executive officers. In the last decade Hatley has increasingly questioned what role philosophy might assume in a post-Shoah existence. In this wise he has co-edited two books of essays: Interrogating Ethics: Embodying the Good in Merleau-Ponty; and Facing Nature: Levinasian Ethics and Environmental Philosophy. He also served on the executive board for the North American Levinas Society and as an executive officer for the International Association for Environmental Philosophy. Hatley is a founding member of the Levinas Research Seminar. In the last four years Hatley has been collaborating with thinkers in the eco-humanities. This has led to his membership in Kangaloone (a group of Australasian scholars pursuing a poetics of political activism) and the Extinction Studies Working Group (http://extinctionsstudies.org/). The latter group is currently working on a set of papers addressing various exemplars of extinction and the questions they raise for thinkers in the eco-humanities. Hatley's contribution, an essay written in journal form and titled “Walking with Extinction,” focuses on the Honshu wolf and was formulated in 2011 while Hatley traveled the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route in Japan where he was offering a course on Buddhist and Shinto forms of spiritual practice in an environmental context. In the last three years, Hatley has also focused on the legacy of usurpation of indigenous lands and cultures in Montana, where he was born and raised. In collaboration with Nimachia Hernandez (beginning with a conference held at Columbia University in April of 2010 and titled “Native Americans, Jews and The Western World Order”), Hatley has written a series of papers addressing how scholars respectively committed to the Blackfoot and Jewish/Abrahamic traditions might question and hear one another’s questioning in regard to the themes of memory, knowing and healing raised in the historical landscape of genocide and ecocide, attempted or otherwise, that is Montana.

Nimachia Hernandez is a scholar of Native American religion and philosophy. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Romance Languages and Literatures from Princeton University, a Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University, and a Doctor of Education in Human Development and Psychology with a Concentration in Acquisition of Culture and Language, also from Harvard. As a writer, teacher, and panelist, Nimachia Hernandez has contributed enormously to the body of Native American scholarship concerning language, stories, gender, and other cultural issues. In 2012, Nimachia Hernandez’s first book, Mokakssini: A Blackfoot Philosophy, will be released by SUNY Press. A second book, From Sacred to Servant: The Conversion of the Niitsitapii (Blackfoot) Woman on the Western Frontier, is under consideration for publication. Her third work, Naapi’s Playground: The World of the Trickster-Creator of the Niitsitapii (Blackfoot), is in progress. Chapters written by Dr. Hernandez have appeared in such books as The Oxford Handbook of Global Religions and Religion and the Creation of Race and Ethnicity: An Introduction. She has an entry in the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature entitled “Blackfoot Cosmos as Natural Philosophy.” Her article, “Reclaiming Native Education: Activism, Teaching, and Leadership” appeared in Cultural Survival Quarterly. Over the past two decades, Nimachia Hernandez has taught and designed courses at a variety of prestigious institutions. In her first teaching position, at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Hernandez served as a student teacher in Spanish. After teaching courses at the University of Massachusetts, the University of Lethbridge, and Harvard, she became an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2000. At Berkeley, Nimachia Hernandez designed several courses in Native American religion, cosmology, and gender studies.

Gabriele M. Schwab is Chancellor's Professor, Comparative Literature, School of Humanities, UC, Irvine. She is also a Faculty Associate in the Department of Anthropology, a core faculty in the Program in Theory and Culture, and an Associate Faculty Women's Studies. Author of Haunted Legacies: Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma (Columbia University Press, 2010); Samuel Beckett's Endspiel mit der Subjektivität (Stuttgart: Metzer, 1981); Entgrenzungen und Entgrenzungsmustern (Stuttgart: F. Steiner Verlag Wiesbaden, 1987); Subjects Without Selves (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1994); The Mirror and the Killer-Queen: Otherness in Literary Language (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1996); Accelerating Possession: Global Futures of Property and Personhood, co-edited with Bill Maurer (NY: Columbia UP, 2006); Derrida, Deleuze, Psychoanalysis, ed. (NY: Columbia UP, 2007); and Imaginary Ethnographies (in press). She published essays on critical theory, literary theory, cultural studies, psychoanalysis and trauma theory, 19th and 20th century literatures in English (including Native American and African American), French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. She is at work with Simon J. Ortiz on a work of memory, Children of Fire, Children of Water.
Simon J. Ortiz  [https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/976829](https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/976829) is a distinguished Professor of Indigenous Literature at Arizona State University, a native of Acomita Pueblo in New Mexico, a poet, fiction writer, essayist and storyteller. He is the author of over twenty books on Indigenous liberation and de-colonization, poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, and children’s literature. His publications include Exposure, Out There Somewhere, from Sand Creek, After and Before the Lightning, The Good Rainbow Road, Men on the Moon, and others. "Memory, History, and the Present," a long poem. He is currently at work with Gabriele M. Schwab on a work of memory—for lack of a better term–titled Children of Fire. Children of Water. His courses of study focus on decolonization of Indigenous people's land, culture, and community. With literary perspective as a guide, research interests include cultural, social, political dynamics of Indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America. Ortiz's publications in poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, essay, and children's literature reflect his literary perspective across a range of his varied, active engagement and involvement in contemporary Indigenous life and literature. His publications, research, varied experience and intellectual participation is the basis of his engaging approach to the study of involvement-engagement with Indigenous literature and its place in the canon of world literatures. Ortiz is also the founder and coordinator of the Indigenous Speakers Series sponsored by ASU Department of English and American Indian Studies.

Volker Benkert [http://shpr.clas.asu.edu/directory/106669](http://shpr.clas.asu.edu/directory/106669) teaches in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies in the ASU Tempe campus. He studied History and English at the Universities of Bonn, Edinburgh, St. Petersburg, and Fribourg and graduated with a Master's Degree from the University of Bonn. He is currently completing his doctorate at the University of Potsdam entitled "Biographies in Transition. The last Children of the GDR Today." His research focuses on the impact of sudden regime change on biographies in 20th century Germany and Europe.

Martin Beck Matuštík [http://www.public.asu.edu/~mmatusti/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~mmatusti/) is Lincoln Professor of Ethics and Religion at Arizona State University. He was 11 when the Soviet tanks invaded Prague. In 1969, at 12, he published a photo from the funeral of Jan Palach, a Charles University philosophy student who immolated himself in protest of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia that took place in August 1968. While a first-year student at Charles University, at 19, he signed "Charta 77," the Czechoslovak manifesto for human rights, issued in January 1977 by Vaclav Havel, Jan Patocka, and Jiri Hajek. He became a political refugee in August of that year. As a Fulbright student of Jürgen Habermas in Frankfurt a/M in 1989, he witnessed the historical November fall of the Berlin Wall and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia that lead to the election of Vaclav Havel as the first Czechoslovak President after the fall of the Iron Curtain. He lectured at Prague's Charles University as a Fulbright fellow in 1995. After earning his Ph.D. from Fordham University in 1991, he has been on the faculty in the Department of Philosophy at Purdue University. He published six single author books, edited two collections, and co-edited New Critical Theory, a series at Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. Among his publications are Postnational Identity: Critical Theory and Existential Philosophy in Habermas, Kierkegaard, and Havel (1993); Specters of Liberation: Great Refusals in the New World Order (1998); Jürgen Habermas: A Philosophical-Political Profile (2001); and Radical Evil and the Scarcity of Hope; Postsecular Meditations (2008). His research and teaching specialties range from critical theory, Continental philosophy, literature, phenomenology and existentialism to post-Holocaust and reparative ethics, social theory, and spirituality.

Shahla Talebi [http://csrsecularism.asu.edu/people/shahla-talebi](http://csrsecularism.asu.edu/people/shahla-talebi) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at ASU's Tempe campus. She received her Ph.D. in social cultural anthropology from Columbia University. Her research interests include questions of self-sacrifice and martyrdom, violence, memory, trauma, death, burial, funerary rituals, commemoration and memorialization or their banning, religion, revolution, and nation-state in contemporary Iran. Talebi’s manuscript entitled When God Cried: Death, Madness and Survival in Iranian Political Prisons is forthcoming by Stanford University Press.

Patricia Huntington [https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/1271594](https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/1271594) is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, West campus and facilitator of the Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Literature faculty research cluster and certificate program [http://cecss.asu.edu/prl](http://cecss.asu.edu/prl) Professor Huntington specializes in continental philosophy of religion, existential philosophy, phenomenology, comparative philosophy with a special focus on Chinese traditions, feminist theory and spirituality. Her creative work addresses self-transformation, human suffering, and the quest for personal liberation. Irregardless of course titles, she centers her courses around life themes, such as love, loneliness and solitude, suffering and forgiveness, death and its meaning for living well, art, beauty, and justice, and the like. At ASU West, Dr. Huntington has been the visionary behind the development of the Certificate in Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Literature (PRL). It offers a streamlined 18 credit transdisciplinary focus for undergraduates who wish to develop their critical and imaginative thinking skills as well as their writing capacities. Additionally, there is an area focus in PRL for students in the Masters in Interdisciplinary Arts (MAIS). A member of the editorial board at Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy and Radical Philosophy Association Proceedings Series, Dr. Huntington has authored Estatic: Subjects, Utopia, and Recognition: Kristeva, Heidegger, Irigaray, co-edited Feminist Interpretations of Martin Heidegger, and co-edited a book series, New Critical Theory, which published 16 leading as well as novel authors in the emerging transdisciplinary field of critical theory. In her recent monograph, Loneliness and Lament: A Phenomenology of Receptivity, Dr. Huntington shows that loneliness does not consist essentially in the absence of a friend, partner, spouse or child - a key lament voiced in self-misunderstanding by the lonely heart - but stems, rather, from a radical breach in one's relation to life journey.

Eric Wertheimer [https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/108188](https://webapp4.asu.edu/directory/person/108188) is Professor of English and American Studies and Associate Vice Provost in the Graduate College. His diverse professional output includes writing cultural history, poetry, and exploring the administrative and intellectual possibilities of the digital humanities. After earning a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994, he started at ASU's West campus, joining the faculty of New College in 1996. He is the founder and past Director of ASU's Center for Critical Inquiry and Cultural Studies. His recent book is Underwriting: The Poetics of Insurance in Early America (Stanford UP). He is also the author of Imagined Empires: Inca, Aztecs, and the New World of American Literature, 1771-1876, (Cambridge UP). He serves on the editorial board of Early American Literature; he co-edited a special issue of Early American Literature in 2006 on the topic of economic criticism in early American studies. He is currently working on a monograph called, Pretexts: War and Writing in the Early Republic; and he is co-editing with Monica Casper. Within Trauma: Politics, Poetics, Practice. He has published articles on topics in early and nineteenth century American literature in American Literature, Early American Literature, Nineteenth Century Literature, and Arizona Quarterly. He has published poetry in Exquisite Corpse, Perihelion, Diagram, Shampoo, Adirondack Review, Muse Apprentice Guild, among other journals. His book of poetry, Mylar, was published by blazeVOX Press in 2012.