



Beyond Memory: Silence and the Aesthetics of Remembrance (Routledge Approaches to History)

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Beyond Memory: Silence and the Aesthetics of Remembrance analyses the intricate connections between silence, acts of remembrance and acts of forgetting, and relates the topic of silence to the international research field of Cultural Memory Studies. It engages with the most recent work in the field by viewing silence as a remedy to the traditionally binary approach to our understanding of remembering and forgetting.

The international team of contributors examine case studies from colonialism, war, politics and slavery from across the globe, as well as drawing examples from literature, philosophy and sites of memory to draw three main conclusions. Firstly, that the relationship between remembering and forgetting is relational rather than 'hermetic', and the space between the two is often occupied by silence. Secondly, silence is a force in itself, capable of stimulating more or less remembrance. Finally, that silence is a necessary and key element in the interaction between the human mind and the 'outer world', and enables people to challenge their understanding of art, music, literature, history and memory.

With an introduction by the editors discussing Memory Studies, and concluding remarks by Astrid Erll, this collection demonstrates that acceptance and consideration of silence as having both a performative and aesthetic dimension is an essential component of history and memory studies.

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Review

"This path breaking collection reminds us what an energetic enterprise remembering is. Better than any previous scholarship, it also illuminates the necessity of crafting silences in memory projects and illustrates that they are so much more than the result of forgetfulness."

John Bodnar, *Indiana University, USA*

"*Beyond Memory: Silence and the Aesthetics of Remembrance* marks a key moment in the burgeoning field of memory studies. The editors and authors steer a clear path through a complicated conceptual terrain to provide convincing responses to the central issue of "silence". Too often framed as inherently negative or compartmentalized within memory, the various case studies within this book rather demonstrate how "silences" are socially constructed and productive in profound cultural, political and intellectual ways. For both students and seasoned scholars, this collection will do exactly what excellent academic books should do, it will stimulate further critical thinking and research."

Sean Field, *University of Cape Town, South Africa*

About the Author

Alexandre Dessingué is Professor at the Department of Cultural Studies and Languages at the University of Stavanger. His previous publications include *Le Polyphonisme du roman* (2012) and, co-edited with Olivier Ryckebusch, *Dunkirk: City of Memories – Dunkerque, ville-mémoire* (2011).

Jay Winter is the Charles J. Stille Professor of History at Yale University. His previous publications include *Remembering War: The Great War between History and Memory in the 20th Century* (2006) and *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (1995)

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