

THE KANDERSTEG SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 7th – Sunday, April 11th, 2010
Kandersteg, Switzerland

Remarque Institute, New York University

Programme

Wednesday, April 7th: Arrival of participants by train in Kandersteg

Check in: Waldhotel Doldenhorn
CH- 3718 Kandersteg
Tel: (00 + 41) 33.675.81.81
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19:00 Welcome reception and dinner at Hotel.

Thursday, April 8th:

Session I
10:00 – 13:00

Memory and History

Pierre Nora's monumental *Lieux de memoire* famously showed how historical events are distilled into a form of cultural memory. The cultural appropriation of history turns it into something other than history. But it would seem that much more than this is at play. What are the possibilities of history in a moment that is obsessed with memory? What are the distinctions between memory and history, and how are the two to be brought into dialogue with one another? Why is memory – as opposed to history – so seductive?

13:15 Lunch at Hotel.

Free afternoon.

19:30 Dinner at the Hotel.

Friday, April 9th:

Session II
09:30 – 13:00

Remembering and Forgetting the Second World War

What does it mean, fully sixty-five years after the close of WWII, to say that it, and its victims, are “remembered”? After all, in 1980 who genuinely *remembered* the Western Front? To a large extent, the very creation of post-war Europe has rested on strategic rememberings and forgettings, of both perpetrators and victims. How do the ways in which war, suffering, defeat and even victory are remembered shape current realities – social, political, and cultural? How have the ways in which WWII has been “remembered” shape our understanding of other conflicts around the globe – past and present? Is memory a form of historical consciousness in disguise?

13:15 Lunch at Hotel

Free afternoon

20:00 Dinner at restaurant Landgasthof Ruedihus.

Saturday, April 10th:

Session III
09:30 – 13:00

The Future of History

Has memory triumphed over history? Within the academy, the study of history no longer holds the pride of place that it used to. Clearly, it has in some respects become less relevant. Why is this, and what will it lead to? What has replaced it? In a world of unregulated media and instant communication, who now speaks for the past? Why ought we to care? How, as professional historians, are we to again make the case for history?

13:15 Lunch at Hotel.

Free afternoon until Closing Session

Closing Session:

17:00 – 19:00

Lieux d'histoire: Is it time to forget about memory?

Is the ongoing emphasis on “memory” and “remembering” a positive force, or does it also bring unfortunate and unintended consequences? Can memory “change” trajectories in the same manner in which history is at times rewritten? Who, today, is in a position to determine just what, precisely, it is that we are to remember – and to forget?

20:00

Farewell Dinner at Hotel.

Sunday, April 11th

Morning departure of participants.

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