



BEYOND POSTMEMORY

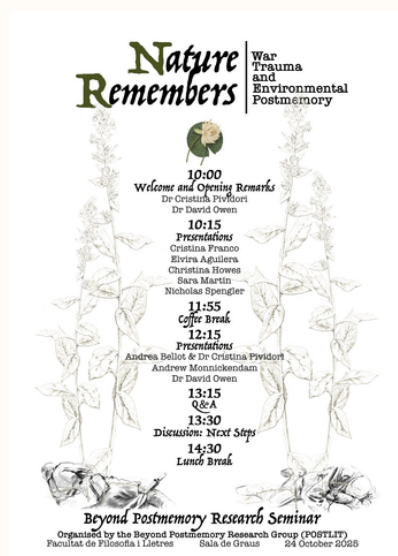
October 2025

Conferences & Seminars

NATURE REMEMBERS:

War, Trauma, and Environmental Postmemory

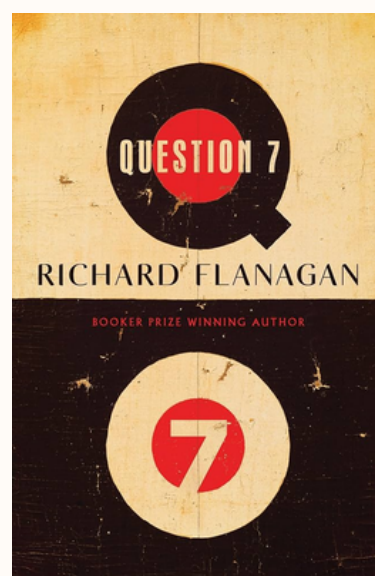
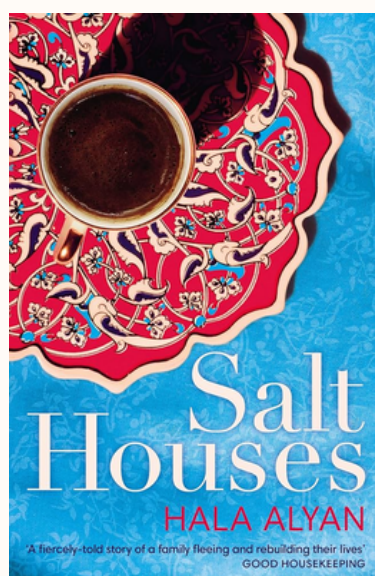
On October 24, we had the pleasure of hosting the seminar 'Nature Remembers: War, Trauma, and Environmental Postmemory' at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. In a series of individual presentations, the members of the research group shared their latest research on the notion of "environmental postmemory", exploring how ecosystems and non-human agents transmit and transform the legacies of conflict across generations.



Promotional posters for the Nature Remembers Seminar designed by Hugo Palomino (left) and Cristina Franco (right)



We were honoured to welcome Dr María Gaviña, from Universitat de València, who joined us in the seminar and engaged in lively discussion with our students and faculty. Following a warm reception by Dr Cristina Pividori, the first block of presentations was opened by the group's PhD students, Cristina Franco and Elvira Aguilera, who shared their analyses of Michael Cunningham's *Day* (2024) and Hala Alyan's *Salt Houses* (2017). They explored how nature functions as an active agent in remembering Palestinian displacement and representing the pandemic as a form of conflict within ecologically vulnerable settings. They were followed by Dr Christina Howes, whose intervention on Richard Flanagan's novel *Question 7* (2023) expanded on Rob Nixon's theory of slow violence and Stef Craps' articulation of postcolonial memory and planetary amnesia.





Dr Sara Martín centred her presentation on the concept of 'zero ecology' in relation to Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* (2006), while Dr Nicholas Spengler focused his intervention on a new materialist approach to deal with the memory of war represented through the brains and bodies of human and nonhuman beings in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* (2019) and John Akomfrah's video installment *Vertigo Sea*.



Dr Sara Martín presenting her research at
the Nature Remembers Seminar



Dr Nicholas Spengler presenting his
research at the Nature Remembers Seminar





After the coffee break, Dr Andrea Bellot and Dr Cristina Pividori presented their joint paper on Lynn Nottage's theatre play *Ruined* (2008) and Eve Ensler's *In the Body of the World* (2013), set against the backdrop of the wars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both argued that war marks both the female body and the land, transforming them into sites of traumatic memory and resistance through theatre as an enactor of postmemory. Next, Prof. Andrew Monnickendam travelled through the Vietnamese mausoleums and statues as sites of material and environmental memory. Finally, Dr David Owen presented his paper on the Scottish folk song "Jamie Foyers", which he also performed, arguing that performances are dynamic rituals of remembrance.



Dr David Owen performing the song
"James Foyers" at the Nature
Remembers Seminar

The event concluded with the announcement of a joint publication, which Dr Nicholas Spengler will coordinate. The volume will encompass the research presented during the seminar, as well as other novel contributions that will be open for submissions in a forthcoming Call for Papers.

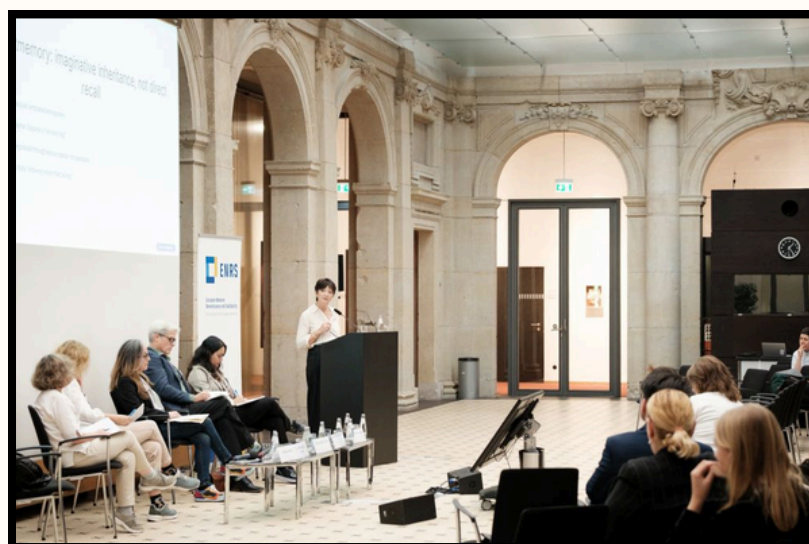




GENEALOGIES OF MEMORY 2025:

What Remains from the Second World War? Remnants, Memories and Narratives Revised

The European Network for Remembrance Solidarity (ENRS) held the conference 'Genealogies of Memory 2025: What Remains from the Second World War? Remnants, Memories and Narratives Revised', where Dr Christina Howes (UIC) presented her paper "The Space Between: Postmemory, Wartime Space, and the Ethics of Proximity in Rachel Seiffert's *A Boy in Winter*".



Dr Christina Howes presenting her paper *The Space Between: Postmemory, Wartime Space, and the Ethics of Proximity in Rachel Seiffert's A Boy in Winter* at the 15th Conference of the 'Genealogies of Memory'.

From September 17 to 19, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences hosted a series of interventions centred on three key themes: theoretical reflections on the materiality of memory, reexamining post-war memory cultures through the lens of the present, and case studies that bridged theoretical frameworks with memory practices.





Jay Winter giving his keynote speech "The Second World War Between History and Memory" at the 15th Conference of the 'Genealogies of Memory'.

Presentations explored how the physical remnants of World War II continue to shape contemporary historical consciousness, how shifting geopolitical and civilizational contexts have influenced the memory of the war, and examined specific instances of both symbolic and literal ruins. Discussions also addressed the intergenerational transmission of complex memories and trauma, as well as the enduring impact of war on culture and language. A highlight of the event was the keynote lecture by Jay Winter, titled "The Second World War Between History and Memory", which offered a particularly insightful framing of the conference's themes.

News

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HOLOCIDES IN GAZA

Amid the ceasefire declared on October 11, many Palestinians find that they cannot return home. Although Israel had agreed to retreat to a boundary known as the "Yellow Line", the IDF are placing yellow concrete blocks further from the agreed-upon area and threatens to shoot anyone who crosses the border. The UN rapporteur Francesca Albanese warns that Israel has violated the truce on at least 125 occasions, a prelude to the bombings of October 29, which were allegedly committed in response to Hamas' attacks on Israeli soldiers and disobeying the agreement to return the bodies of hostages (Al Jazeera).

Yellow blocks more than 500m from Yellow Line



Source: Planet Labs PBC

BBC

Map depicting the Yellow Line in comparison to the yellow blocks laid by the IDF

Source: [BBC Verify](#)

In Gaza, peace is uncertain. War has already torn apart social and political fabrics, but the environment is also a witness to the destruction and cruelty of the Palestinian genocide. Alongside the annihilation of the human population, Israeli occupation forces have also systematically attacked farmland, which allowed Palestinians to be self-sufficient.



Currently, the UN reports that only 1.5% of the agricultural land remains accessible and undamaged after “ground troops have demolished greenhouses; bulldozers have toppled orchards, ploughed out crops and crushed the soil; and planes have sprayed herbicides over the fields” (Monbiot). Hamza Hamouchene argues this is a “holocide”, that is, the complete social and ecological destruction of Gaza.

Indeed, these actions will have long-lasting effects both on the territories of Palestinians, as severe malnutrition can delay cognitive and physical development, said Aashima Garg (in Arranz, et al.). In blocking access to food and education, Israel is harvesting a weaker opposition, cultivating a peopleless land to occupy—a goal not delayed or paused despite the ceasefire truce.

SOURCES:

Arranz, Adolfo, Jitesh Chowdhury, Mahmoud Issa, Mariano Zafra, and Tom Perry. “Gaza Hunger: How Israel’s War Has Created a Food Crisis.” *Reuters Graphics*, <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/GAZA-HUNGER/myvmakwxrvr/>. Accessed 28 Oct. 2025.

Garman, Benedict, Emma Pengelly, and Matt Murphy. “New Images Show Israeli Control Line Deeper into Gaza Than Expected.” *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2y00g4x29o>. Accessed Oct. 29 2025.

Kolinjivadi, Vijay, and Asmaa Ashraf. “Sustainability Fantasies/Genocidal Realities.” *Transnational Institute*, 13 Nov. 2024, <https://www.tni.org/en/article/sustainability-fantasiesgenocidal-realities>. Accessed 28 Oct. 2025.

Malik, Nesrine. “Israel’s Ecocide in Gaza Is a Prelude to a Global Climate Apartheid.” *The Guardian*, 27 Sept. 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/sep/27/israel-ecocide-gaza-bombs-agricultural-land-genocide>. Accessed 28 Oct. 2025.

McVeigh, Tracy. “Education in Gaza: Children and Teachers Face Two Years without School.” *The Guardian*, 19 Oct. 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/oct/19/education-gaza-children-teachers-two-years-without-school>. Accessed 29 Oct. 2025.



DONALD TRUMP RESUMES NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING

According to the United States Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), China has rapidly more than doubled its nuclear stockpile over the past five years. In order to keep pace with China and other countries, such as Russia, Donald Trump has ordered the Department of Defense to resume nuclear weapons testing. In addition, Trump has also allowed South Korea to build its own nuclear-powered submarine after reaching a successful commercial accord with the Asian power. South Korea's president Lee Jae Myung, assures that the only purpose they envision for nuclear power is not the creation of weapons, but rather its use as fuel for submarines armed with conventional armament. However, Trump has not ensured that his nation would provide South Korea with the propulsion technology needed for nuclear-powered submarines, which has only been shared once in the past, with the United Kingdom in the 1950s.



Presidents Lee Jae-Myung and Donald Trump
Source: [White House Instagram Profile](#)



Donald Trump's decision has inspired fears that it might result in other countries resuming their nuclear activity, which has been mostly paralysed since the 1990s. Director of Arms Control Association Daryl G. Kimball warned on his X profile that this announcement could "trigger a chain reaction of nuclear testing by US adversaries, and blow apart the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty". Indeed, Vladimir Putin declared that Russia would resume testing if the United States did. Thus, the political situation is reminiscent of one of the distant past. Although nuclear warfare was seemingly overcome, current scenarios tremble stability and take the world back to a second Cold War.

SOURCES:

Matza, Max. "Trump Urges Pentagon to Resume Nuclear Testing." *BBC News*, 30 Oct. 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gzq2p0yk4o>. Accessed 30 Oct. 2025

Hunnicuttt, Trevor, Ismail Shakil, and Kanishka Singh. "Trump Asks Pentagon to Immediately Start Testing US Nuclear Weapons." *Reuters*, 30 Oct. 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/trump-asks-pentagon-immediately-start-testing-us-nuclear-weapons-2025-10-30/>. Accessed 30 Oct. 2025.

Al Jazeera. "Trump Says US to Resume Nuclear Weapons Tests, Backs S. Korean Nuclear Sub." *Al Jazeera*, 30 Oct. 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/10/30/trump-says-us-to-resume-nuclear-weapons-tests-backs-s-korean-nuclear-sub>. Accessed 30 Oct. 2025.





Don't Miss...

GOTHAM AT WAR: A HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY FROM 1933 TO 1945

WRITTEN BY MIKE WALLACE

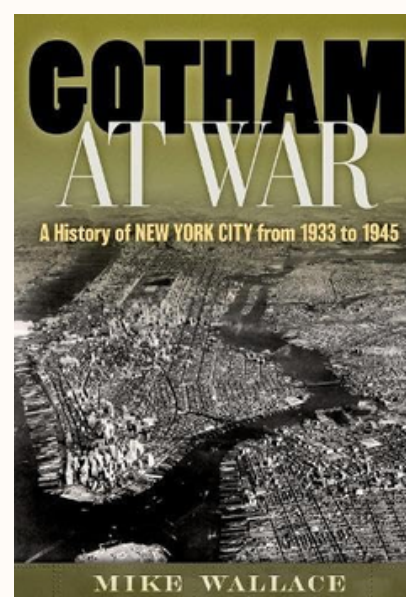
Publication Date: 1 October 2025

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 9780199384518

Gotham at War unveils the history of New York and the Second World War, from isolationism and factionalism to crucible of the American effort and the Allied Cause in a total and global war.

Kaleidoscopic and immersive, Gotham at War captures the full spectrum of New York and the war from every possible aspect-social, political, economic, and military. Even before the war had started street battles between New York's homegrown fascists and the workers' movement-allied with immigrants from all over the world and their children in the barrios of Gotham-played prelude.



Set in the generation after race "scientists" based in the elite warrens of the Upper East Side championed and then imposed national immigration restriction, Gotham at War sees New Yorkers struggle to shake off the city's eugenic past. Between 1933 and 1945, the city wrestled with itself, starting from the rise of Hitler through isolationism and growing interventionism; through Pearl Harbor and a full-throated war effort, when millions of American soldiers and sailors and billions of tons of materiel passed through New York's waterfronts to the warfronts. Along the way Mike Wallace's saga traces the transformation of New York, embracing garment workers and skyscrapers; the subway and Wall Street; gangsters and idealists; pols and reformers; nightclubs and boardrooms; Nazi infiltrators and FBI gumshoes; magazines and movies; shuls and cathedrals; every neighborhood, every industry, and all the peoples of the city swept up in a world that had caught fire.





SOCIAL WORK IN WAR-TORN CONTEXTS: "FROM THAT MOMENT THERE WAS NO PEACE"

EDITED BY SHULAMIT RAMON AND DARJA ZAVIRŠEK

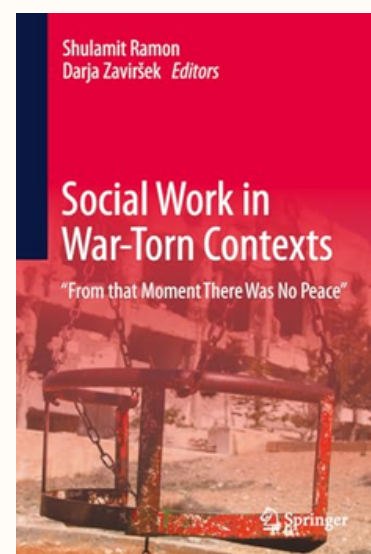
Publication Date: 2 August 2025

Publisher: Springer

ISBN: 9783031887888

This book provides a wide-ranging exposure of current developments related to war-torn contexts, post-war societies and social work approaches as well as analysis of the key issues facing social work in war contexts. The topic is timely due to the increased number of armed political conflicts; the number of internally displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers; increased length of wars;

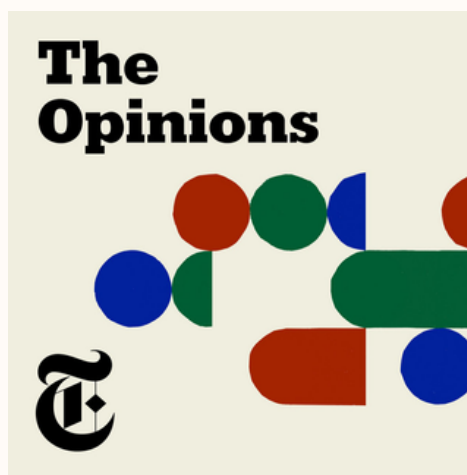
and, consequently, increased number of civil victims, which contribute to an exponential growth in the demand for social work. As there are few updated texts on this issue, this book meets the considerable gap existing in the social work literature and includes updates as well as continuing trends. Currently a huge number of countries are in a state of war in different continents, some of which have gone on for more than a decade. Inevitably this fact has considerable implications for their social workers as well as for the people they serve, with social workers in these countries sharing the reality of the war as citizens. The war experience is known to have long-lasting, intergenerational impacts. It also has a strong impact on the many other countries that receive refugees and asylum seekers and/or support militarily another country at war and/or refuse to support it.





INTERVIEW WITH MARIANNE HIRSCH: "WE NEED TO RETHINK HOW WE THINK ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST"

BY M. GESSEN



*Click on the image to
listen to the podcast!*

M. Gessen interviews Prof. Marianne Hirsch for the *New York Times* podcast *The Opinions*. In this episode, Gessen and Hirsch discuss how the Holocaust is remembered and the role that culture and education play in keeping crimes against humanity as part of postmemory. Their conversation revolves around the idea of the status of exceptionality that the Holocaust is bestowed and how it is contributing to the denial of other massacres, such as the Palestinian genocide. Both Gessen and Hirsch share their complicated experiences in discussing the Nakba within journalism and academia, and how this genocide will be remembered in the future.