



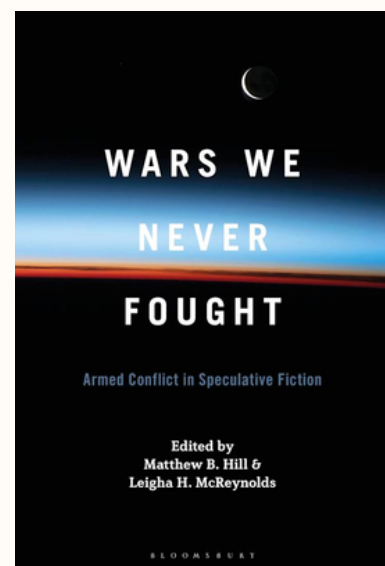
BEYOND POSTMEMORY

December 2025

Publications

Sara Martín in *Wars We Never Fought*

"The Posthuman Patriarchal Villain as Absolute Military Threat: Winston Duarte's Wars in The Expanse Novel Series" is Sara Martín's latest publication. This chapter is part of the volume *Wars We Never Fought* – a collection of essays examining how armed conflict functions as a subject, theme, metaphor, symbol, or plot device in popular works of speculative fiction, including novels, films, television, and video games.



Wars We Never Fought offers innovative, accessible, and wide-ranging critical analyses of how speculative fiction employs war as a narrative device and explores its social, cultural, political, and moral consequences. By examining depictions of war and warriors in relation to race, class, gender, sexuality, difference, sociopolitical power, and other cultural values, the volume contextualises the cultures in which these narratives are produced and consumed, demonstrating how fictitious wars can reflect, interrogate, and shape understandings of warfare in the real world.

Reference: Martín, Sara. "The Posthuman Patriarchal Villain as Absolute Military Threat: Winston Duarte in The Expanse Novel Series." *Wars We Never Fought: Armed Conflict in Speculative Fiction*, edited by Matthew B. Hill and Leigha H. McReynolds, Bloomsbury, 2025, pp. 177-193. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/wars-we-never-fought-9798765121535/>



Call for Papers

"THE AGE OF TRAUMA AND MEMORY: LITERATURE'S ROLE IN SHAPING (POST)CONFLICT NARRATIVES AND MEANINGS"

UNIVERSITÉ DE TOURS, FRANCE


16 – 18 JUNE

The international conference "The Age of Trauma and Memory: Literature's Role in Shaping (Post)Conflict Narratives and Meanings" responds to the need to rethink how literature shapes memory and figures trauma in (post)conflict situations by focusing on active, unresolved or ongoing antagonisms. It aims to investigate the analysis of narrative forms that evoke trauma, as well as their deciphering, interpretation and reception, to grasp not only the expressive but also the performative dimension of writing, and to examine how readers engage with narratives of trauma across linguistic, cultural and geopolitical divides. Drawing on case studies from Europe (with a particular focus on the war in Ukraine), as well as the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and South Asia, the conference seeks to encourage comparative dialogue between different memory regimes and cultural practices of storytelling.

Proposals are structured around key themes such as literature as active memory and cultural archive, interdisciplinary approaches to the poetics of extreme violence and trauma, the relationship between individual and community, the ethics and politics of trauma narratives, and the role of polyphony in representing gendered, racialised and subaltern experiences, with panel proposals combining disciplinary and geographical perspectives particularly welcome.

SUBMISSION

- Paper proposals of approximately 300 words, accompanied by a short presentation of the author's academic career and a brief biobibliography.
- Deadline: **1 February 2026** to eredutrauma2026@gmail.com
- Notification of acceptance: **15 February 2026**.
- Registration fee: €50, payable before **1 April 2026**.



"POSTMEMORY AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD" 7TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

LONDON CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, BIRKBECK, UNITED KINGDOM
20 – 21 JUNE

Memory is central to contemporary life and serves as a key to personal, social and cultural identity. Scholars from diverse disciplines – philosophy, sociology, anthropology, geography, architecture, psychology, literature and the interdisciplinary field of place studies – have explored memory and its intersections with place. Pierre Nora's concept of lieux de mémoire (places of memory) describes sites where "memory crystallises and secretes itself," emerging through the interplay of memory and history. These sites can be material, symbolic, or functional – or a combination of all three – and embody the essence of collective memory.

The "Postmemory and the Contemporary World" conference seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and new conversations within memory and place studies and invites contributions from a variety of disciplines. Topics include, but are not limited to, monuments and sites of trauma; childhood homes and personal memory; city spaces, sightseeing and urban memory; burial places, ruins, abandoned spaces and forgotten places; heterotopias, heterochronies, toponymy, cartography and memory mapping; sacred spaces, borders and contested spaces; literary and artistic representations of memory and place; memory and migration; digital spaces and cyber-memorials; memory and landscape; the architecture of memory; memory and temporality; and questions of nostalgia, belonging and cultural heritage.

SUBMISSION

- Paper proposals of a maximum of 250 words, accompanied by a 100-word bio of the author.
- Deadline: **20 February 2026** to **memory@lcir.co.uk**
- Registration fee:
 - Online participation £90
 - Physical participation £150



"TRAUMA IN EASTERN EUROPE" CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ, AUSTRIA
12 - 13 JUNE

Eastern European societies have been shaped by political and social violence, war and genocide, expulsion, and persecution - experiences increasingly framed in terms of collective or individual trauma. The Trauma in Eastern Europe conference aims to shift perspectives in ethnographic, historical-anthropological, and ethno-psychoanalytic research by examining concepts of the traumatic in historical and contemporary Eastern European contexts. This involves broadening ethnographic methodologies through subject-oriented research with individuals who have experienced violence, and investigating the sites, influences, and practices of traumatic collective memories.

The call addresses interdisciplinary researchers and welcomes contributions grounded in research and lived experience from Southern, Central, and Eastern Europe, as well as from contexts of displacement and diaspora, engaging with questions of how trauma has been conceived, described, and negotiated; the linguistic, medical, social, and cultural frameworks used to interpret violence; international and region-specific trauma concepts; the narration and silence surrounding violence, including through cultural forms of expression; research practices and ethical challenges; and the ways collective memories are formed, contested, transformed, or suppressed in places, practices, and discourses of remembrance, including through theoretical approaches such as racism studies and decolonial theories.

SUBMISSION

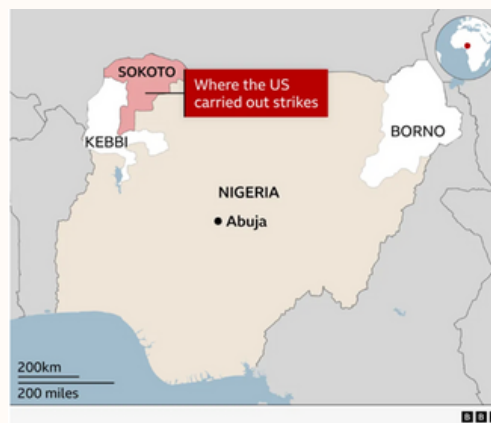
- Paper proposals: 2,000 characters, including a content summary; research context; technical, methodological and theoretical approaches; and relevance.
- Deadline: **31 January 2026** to **projekt.kulturanthropologie(at)uni-graz.at**
- Notification of acceptance: **mid-February 2026**
- Funding opportunities: partial coverage of travel and accommodation costs for precarious and non-institutional presenters.



News

THE UNITED STATES STRIKES NIGERIA AND OTHER SIX COUNTRIES

On Christmas Day, President Donald Trump announced that the United States had bombed Islamic State militants in northwest Nigeria, near the Niger border, as a response to the group's persecution and murder of Nigerian Christians. The Trump administration had already claimed that Christians were victims of genocide in Nigeria, and its government was failing to protect them against jihadism. The attack was coordinated with the Nigerian army, as reported by an anonymous US military official and by the spokesman for Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kimie Ebiyenfa. The operation involved a dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles fired off a Navy ship in the Gulf of Guinea. The strikes hit insurgents in two ISIS camps in Sokoto State.



Map of Nigeria and the areas affected by the US attack.

Source: BBC

These strikes in Nigeria are preceded by a series of military retaliation against the Islamic State. A week prior to these bombings, Donald Trump had conducted dozens of airstrikes against the Islamic State in Syria in response to a terrorist attack earlier in December that killed two US Army soldiers and a civilian interpreter.



In total, the US has bombed seven countries in 2025: Nigeria, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Venezuela. Across theatres, the US administration has presented its bombing campaigns as responses to terrorism, threats to American interests or its allies, and international security risks. However, critics have described these operations as aggressive foreign policy and rose fears of American interventionism.

SOURCES:

Cooper, Helene, Saikou Jammeh, and Eric Schmitt. "U.S. Strikes in Nigeria Targeting ISIS Fighter Camps." The New York Times, 25 Dec. 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/25/us/politics/trump-isis-nigeria-strike.html>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

Lawal, Shola. "How Many Countries Has Trump Bombed in 2025?" Al Jazeera, 31 Dec. 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/12/31/how-many-countries-has-trump-bombed-in-2025>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

Lukiv, Jaroslav, and Makuochi Okafor. "US Launches Strikes against Islamic State in Nigeria." BBC News, 27 Dec. 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj69j8l918do>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

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Searcey, Dionne, and Eric Schmitt. "U.S. Strikes in Nigeria After Attacks on Muslims." The New York Times, 5 Jan. 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/05/world/africa/nigeria-us-strikes-muslims.html>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]



THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ISRAEL'S RECOGNITION OF SOMALILAND

Somaliland's sovereignty has been recognised after thirty-four years of declaring its independence from Somalia by Israel. The Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gideon Sa'ar, announced that both countries had started full diplomatic relations – a measure part of the Abraham Accords, a set of agreements signed in 2020 with the purpose of normalising relations between Israel and primarily Arab countries. The measure, however, may transcend diplomatic compromises and lean toward geopolitical strategy.



Map of Somalia and Somaliland.

Source: BBC

Al Jazeera reports that Somali intelligence has found out that Somaliland would have traded Israeli recognition for "the resettlement of Palestinians, the establishment of an Israeli military base on the coast of the Gulf of Aden, and Somaliland joining the Abraham Accords." In addition, the alliance with the African country would provide Israel with a strategic outlet to offset Iran's control of the Red Sea region.



Thus, rather than defending the right to self-determination, Israel seems to be securing its national security interests, as analyst Cameron Hudson told the BBC. The agreement has been largely criticised by neighbouring countries – like Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the African Union, Yemen, Sudan, Nigeria, Libya, Iran, Iraq and Qatar – and Western powers, like the European Union and the United Kingdom, who advocated for Somali territorial integrity and refused to recognise the independence of Somaliland.

SOURCES:

Al Jazeera Staff. "Israel's Recognition of Somaliland 'Strange, Unexpected': Somali President." Al Jazeera, 31 Dec. 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/12/31/israels-recognition-of-somaliland-strange-unexpected-somali-president>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

Chibelushi, Wedaeli, Ameyu Etana, and Farah Lamane. "Why Israel's Recognition of Somaliland as an Independent State Is Controversial." BBC News, 30 Dec. 2025, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c14v4kmg275o>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

CNN. "Israel Recognizes Somaliland." CNN, 26 Dec. 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/26/africa/israel-recognizes-somaliland-latam-intl>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]

Christou, William. "Israel Becomes First Country to Recognise Somaliland as Sovereign State." The Guardian, 26 Dec. 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/dec/26/israel-first-country-to-recognise-somaliland-sovereign-state>. [Accessed 7 January 2026]





Don't Miss...

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A PHOTOGRAPHER IN GAZA

BY ADAM SHATZ



Fatma Hassona was a Palestinian photographer from Gaza City who was killed with her family by an Israeli airstrike in April 2025. A year earlier, the Iranian filmmaker Sepideh Farsi began recording video conversations with Hassona about her life and work under Israeli bombardment, which became the film *Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk*. In this episode, Adam Shatz talks to Farsi about the process of making the film, the connection she formed with Hassona, and the practical and ethical challenges of documenting Israel's devastation of Gaza and its people.





ON POLITICS: INSIDE BRITAIN'S ASYLUM SYSTEM

BY JAMES BUTLER



The politics of migration have driven some of the most consequential changes in Britain's recent history and look set to dominate the next general election. Since the end of Rishi Sunak's government, the crossings of 'small boats' over the English Channel and the use of 'asylum hotels' have become a focal point for protest, violence and escalating rhetoric, leading most recently to significant changes in the migration system proposed by the home secretary, Shabana Mahmood. To assess these changes and explain how Britain's asylum system works, James is joined by Colin Yeo, a barrister and author of *Welcome to Britain: Fixing Our Broken Immigration System*, and Nicola Kelly, a former Home Office civil servant and author of *Anywhere But Here: How Britain's Broken Asylum System Fails Us All*.



THE ONCE AND FUTURE RIOT

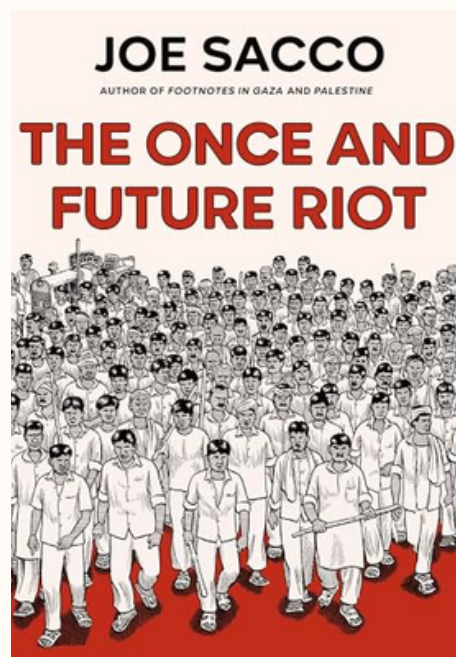
BY JOE SACCO

Publication Date: 14 October 2025

Publisher: Metropolitan Books

ISBN: 9781250880260

Compared to other episodes of lethal Indian communal violence, the clashes in Uttar Pradesh in 2013, the Muzaffarnagar Riot, were a relatively small-scale affair?some scores of people were killed and several tens of thousands displaced. It had happened before and will probably happen Hindus and Muslims, armed with guns and swords, riled up by vitriolic rhetoric and a tangle of accusations, turn on one another. The truth fragments along religious lines, both in the lead-up to the rampage and in its bloody aftermath.



In *The Once and Future Riot*, Joe Sacco immerses himself in Uttar Pradesh, speaking to government officials, political leaders, village chiefs, and especially the victims, who were mostly landless peasants, in a quest to understand this riot as an archetype of political violence. In the process, he probes the role of savagery in a democracy; the power of crowds, rather than leaders, to influence the course of events; the collision of competing narratives; and the accounts that perpetrators construct to explain away their participation in bloodshed.

Hailed as "the heir to R. Crumb and Art Spiegelman" (*Economist*), Sacco has chronicled the urgent histories that define the world around us, from the Great War to Gaza. Here, he turns his masterful visual reportage to a story that is specific to India but with implications and resonance for all precarious multiethnic, multiracial societies everywhere.

