

Fourth Annual Conference of the Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Network Conference theme: Human Rights and Memory

The conference will be held at Lund University, Sweden, December 4-6, 2014.
Conference webpage: <http://humanrightsandmemory.wordpress.com>

This conference is sponsored by the Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Network (www.historicaldialogues.org). The Network is a joint initiative of the Historical Justice and Memory Research Network (HJMRN) at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, and Columbia University's Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA), at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR). The 2014 conference will be organized by the Swedish partners, the Center for European Studies and the Human Rights Studies division at the Department of History, Lund University, under the theme Human Rights and Memory.

Human rights have become a globally accessible moral and legal language for expressing universal claims and measuring development; it forms the goal of activism and the ground of resistance. It is also an indispensable part of international political rhetoric and is sometimes used as virtually synonymous with concerns of justice. But how does the human rights perspective relate to collective experiences and memories of injustice, violence, or exclusion? In the field of memory studies many scholars tend to see transculturality and cosmopolitanism in normative terms and memories of past atrocities as promoting a discourse on human rights around the world, but we cannot take that on faith. For example, the common assumption that the memory of the Holocaust served as the impetus for the international human rights doctrine has lately been forcefully challenged. What is the relation between collective memory and experience and human rights? Cultural and transcultural memories can lead to the transcendence of boundaries and an inclusive solidarity, or to contestation and competitive claims. When and why do they aggravate conflicts and when and why do they open up for inclusive approaches or tend towards a universalization of experiences? This conference aims to discuss and analyze enabling and disabling power of collective memories and lived experiences in relation to human rights.

Keynote speakers

Amir Eshel , Stanford University, USA

Gunlög Fur, Linné University, Sweden

Tyrell Haberkorn , Australian National University

Erica Lehrer , Concordia University, Canada

Samuel Moyn, Columbia University , USA

Klaus Neumann, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia