

Rome, May 24-26, 2021

*Reconstructing: The Places of Memory in the Americas*

In line with its tradition of biennial international conferences, the Interdepartmental Research Center for American Studies (CRISA) at Roma Tre University proposes a conference on the widely debated topic of *Reconstructing: The Places of Memory in the Americas*.

In dealing with “places of memory,” the first reference is often to sites of historical interest linked to wars. On the contrary, the expression “places of memory” has in its semantic matrix a much more articulated significance. A place of memory can be understood as a unit of meaning, of a both material and ideal order, which the desire of human beings or the work of time have turned into a symbolic element for the community (Nora 1997). Currently, memory has also become a contested terrain (Jelin 2017) in which different subjects and experiences interact (post-memory, anti-memory, and so on).

There are places of memory that do not primarily refer to physical spaces but to symbolic places, and as such have contributed to forming the culture of a community and, unmistakably, to conditioning both the narration of its identity and the subsequent course of events. Suffice it to think of the vast literature on memory, myths and rituals; or the literary *topoi*, namely, those stereotyped units of meaning that reconstruct in their persistence a linguistic-semantic trace that nourishes a cultural memory. Or, in the historical and philosophical field, think of the question of virtual documentality: documents, as social acts inscribed on a virtual support, determine “places of memory”, with all the problems that this entails with regard to their preservation, elimination or overwriting and the role they can play in the processes of historical-cultural reconstruction.

On the other hand, talking about places of memory also allows us to consider the redefinition of physical spaces and possible symbolic spaces that, in the historical process, shape urban environments and with them the spaces of the collective imagination. A wide range of disciplines are pertinent to these other *topoi* and can offer different examples of the possible interweaving of these elements. One only has to think, even in this case, of the many issues related to the processes of reconstruction of the urban landscape as a place of memory and continuous change: a place deeply crossed by dynamics of recognition, resignification, and re-appropriation.

There are therefore various articulations and nuances that indicate possible directions of research on the subject of “places of memory” as well as potential developments. The theme, *Reconstructing: The Places of Memory in the Americas*, constitutes a fruitful area of investigation to a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary complex. History, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, literature, architecture, geography, music, and visual arts are all disciplines that can approach the issue using different methodological tools and providing interesting contributions.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Social/cultural memory in the Americas
- Documentality, virtuality and memory
- Cinema, television, photography, and visual culture
- Virtual sites of memory
- Literary *topoi*
- City, territory, and heritage

- Literature, memories, reports
- Musical and theatrical places
- Places of indigenous transculturation

## APPLICATION

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the conference had to be postponed to 2021. Consequently, the call for papers has been reopened and dates rescheduled. Registration fees have been modified accordingly.

Applications must be sent to [crisa@uniroma3.it](mailto:crisa@uniroma3.it) by **December 31, 2020** by filling out the attached form with title of the proposed paper, subject, abstract (max. 200 words) and a short CV (max. 15 lines: academic or institutional position, research areas, last three publications).

The conference official languages are Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French.

Proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee by **January 31, 2021**. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance by **February 15, 2021**.

Papers must be six/seven pages long (1.5 line spacing), each speaker will be allotted 20/25 minutes.

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee is € 80.

For non-tenured scholars (PhD students, post-doctoral or research fellows, adjunct professors) the fee is € 30.

For auditors only, access is free.

The registration fee includes:

- conference folder
- access to social activities that will be organized during the Conference
- volume of the Conference proceedings.

The bank data for the registration fee will be communicated only to participants whose proposal has been accepted by the Scientific Committee.

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

At the moment, the realization of the conference is planned in mixed mode (both in-person and remote modes).

For in-person presentations, the conference will take place in the building of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures – CRISA's current address (Roma Tre University, Via del Valco di San Paolo 19, Rome). In the remote mode the conference will be held on a platform such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or Meet.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The final papers for publication must not exceed 40,000 characters, including notes and spaces.

Papers will undergo blind peer review.

The Conference scientific committee will send to each contributor the stylesheet and communicate the deadline for submission.

### Scientific Committee:

Luca Aversano, Rosa Calcaterra, Camilla Cattarulla, Mario Cerasoli, Antonello Frongia, Manfredi Merluzzi, Susanna Nanni, Maria Anita Stefanelli, Maria Rosaria Stabili, Sabrina Vellucci, Vito Zagarrio.

### Organizing Committee:

Guido Baggio, Michela Bella, Camilla Cattarulla.