

DEATH/DARK/THANATOURISM

An Interdisciplinary Conference

New York, April 22-23, 2010

Sponsored by Transitions,
A Center for International Research in the Humanities
and Social Sciences (NYU-CNRS)

www.cnrsnyu.com

Location: 4 Washington Square North, 2nd floor



Thursday, April 22, 2010

9am-11am: Pre-conference program for presenters only

12:30 pm: **Opening Remarks** (Brigitte Sion, NYU)

12:45pm-2:15 pm: **Tourism and/as Memory** (Moderator: Edward Berenson, NYU)

Shirley Carrie (Queens College, CUNY): *Going Back through the Door of No Return: Roots, Routes, Disjuncture and Black Collective Memory*

Cynthia Milton (Université de Montréal, Canada): *Promoting Peru: Tourism and Post-Conflict Memory*

Delphine Lauwers (European University Institute, Italy): *Sacred and/or Profane? Battlefield Tourism and Pilgrimage in the Ypres Salient, 1918-1925*

Mark Pendleton (University of Melbourne, Australia): *A Plaque in a Corner: Commemorating and Forgetting Violence in Japan*

2:45pm-4:15 pm: **Touring the U.S.** (Moderator: Laurie Beth Clark, U. Wisconsin-Madison)

Mary Gould (Saint Louis University): *Returning to Alcatraz: Dark Tourism and the History of the U.S. Prison System*

Ann Carden (SUNY Fredonia): *Ready or Not, Here They Come: An Analysis of Kent State as a Tourism Destination*

Stephanie McKinney (Mt. San Antonio College, CA): *Developing the Dark Side: The Los Angeles Gang Tour*

Alexander Riley (Bucknell U.): *Thunder on the Mountain: Religion and Cultural Narrative at the Flight 93 Chapel in Shanksville, PA*

4:45pm-6:15pm: Space and Place (Moderator: Denis Peschanski, CNRS)

Kate Palmer Albers (U. of Arizona): *The Artist as Thanatourist: Joel Sternfeld's On This Site*

Susanne Knittel (Columbia): *Intruding on the Present, Searching for the Past: Negotiating the Memory of Nazi Euthanasia at a German Care Facility*

Guadalupe Arenillas (Notre Dame): *Thanatos' Music: Celebrating Memory in the Ex-Detention Center D2 (Córdoba, Argentina)*

Cara Levey (University of Leeds, U.K.): *The Argentine Auschwitz? The ESMA as Site of Trauma and Tourism*

6:30pm-8pm: Keynote Lecture

Diana Taylor (NYU): *The Politics of Being There: A Walk Through a Chilean Concentration Camp*

Diana Taylor is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies at New York University. She is the founder and director of the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics. She is the author of *Acts of Disappearance* and *The Archive and the Repertoire*, among other books.

Friday, April 23, 2010

9am-10:30am: Exhibiting Death (Moderator: Christophe Goddard, *Transitions*, CNRS-NYU)

Lindsey Freeman (New School for Social Research): *Happy Memories under the Mushroom Cloud: The American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, TN*

Thomas Cauvin (European University Institute, Italy): *Between Economic Interest, Local Pride and Peace Process: Representing Violence in Irish Heritage Centers (1995-1998)*

Rainer Schulze (University of Essex, U.K.): *The New Permanent Exhibition at the Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen: Trying to Reconcile Commemoration, Education and the Need to Attract Visitors*

Mark Schaming (New York State Museum): *Collecting a Crime Scene: Evidence as Exhibition*

11am-12:30 pm: Keynote Lecture

Laurie Beth Clark (U. Wisconsin-Madison): *Neither Prurient nor Gratuitous: Trauma Tourism as a Politics of Hope*

As a scholar and artist, Laurie Beth Clark has been engaged since September 2001 in a global study of trauma tourism, as well as an analysis of the discourses that surround the production and consumption of memorial sites. Her comparative analysis will include cases in Europe (Germany and Poland), Africa (Ghana, Rwanda, and South Africa), Asia (Cambodia, Japan, Vietnam), and South America (Argentina and Chile).

1pm-1:45pm: Film screening

Dark Tourism, written and directed by Manfred Becker (York University, Canada). 2007, 45 min.

2pm-3:30pm: Pilgrimage and Performance (Moderator: Brigitte Sion, NYU)

Maura Coughlin (Bryant U.): *Bodily Absence and Visual Representation on the Brittany Coast*

Shelley Salamensky (UCLA): *Noshing at the Necropolis: Thanatouristic Consumption in East-Central Europe and Eurasia*

Rebekah Sobel (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum): *From Memory to Action: (Encouraging Visitors to) Meet the Challenge of Genocide*

Joyce Apsel (NYU): *Thanatourism and Thanaeducation: Moral, Pedagogical and Political Dilemmas*

4pm-5:30 pm: Objects and Commoditization (Moderator: Emilienne Baneth-Nouailhetas, Transitions, CNRS-NYU)

Sandie Friedman (George Washington U.): *Restitution Tourism: Performing Forgiveness in Berlin's Emigrant Program*

Patrick Naef (Université de Genève, Switzerland): *Exploring War Tourism in Vietnam: the Case of the Cu Chi Tunnels*

Alejandro Castillejo-Cuellar (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia): *Fictions of Closeness: Place, Transgression and the Circulation of the Past in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

Andrea Zittlau (University of Rostock, Germany): *Dark Souvenirs*

5:30: Closing Remarks