Call for papers

**Memory in Africa**

**2nd annual conference on Memory Studies**

University of KwaZulu-Natal

**Durban, South Africa**

14-15 November 2014

This conference follows on from the inaugural Memory Studies symposium held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in September 2013. This year, the event will be expanded to national level and beyond, as it stretches over two days. Its purpose is to provide a highly multidisciplinary platform for information sharing, critical debate and showcasing current research among scholars whose research is substantially focused on memory or informed by theoretical frameworks from the field of Memory Studies.

Memory Studies is a strongly emergent, multidisciplinary field of academic research internationally, but still rather underdeveloped in South Africa and the continent. This is despite the fact that memory has long played a pivotal role in some disciplines, notably history and political science, where it was often the foundation of alternative versions of the past, countering the official narratives promoted by the state. Within the Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, scholars of memory moreover frequently emanate from the disciplines of religious studies, arts, cultural geography, philosophy and heritage; their research spans both personal forms of memory, such as autobiographical memory, and collective forms of memory, including social memory, cultural memory, public memory, generational memory, communicative memory, or political memory. We particularly welcome papers from less likely and ‘typical’ disciplinary backgrounds within the Humanities, as well as from cognitive psychology, neuroscience, biology, and other fields within the sciences, health sciences, the ICT and even engineering sectors. The crossing of disciplinary chasms holds much promise for mutual learning, truly innovative research and ground-breaking insights.

The geographical focus of the papers should be on South Africa and the African continent. A special session will also be organized on institutional memory, i.e. the emergence of a life history or institutional biography of UKZN and its predecessor institutions.

A **Keynote address** on memory and trauma will be presented by **Dr Sean Field**, Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town, the former director of the Centre for Popular Memory.

Please send abstracts (max 300 words) to **memorystudiesconference@gmail.com**

Deadline 30 September

Participants will be notified by 15 October.

**Registration fees**

Early bird rate (until 17 October):

R 500 for 2 days or R300 for one day

UKZN staff: R 200 for both days or R 150 per day

Students: R 100 for both days or R50 per day

After 17th October:

R 700 for both days or R400 per day

UKZN staff: R 300 for both days or R200 per day

Students: R 150 for both days or R75 per day

**Organizers**: Prof Philippe Denis (School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics) & Prof Sabine Marschall (School of Social Sciences)

Follow updates at <http://coh.ukzn.ac.za/memory-studies-conference>