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DISSERTATION

Longing for the Bomb: Atomic Nostalgia in a Post-Nuclear Landscape

Can nostalgia for an atomic past, not only serve to spark remembrance for a bygone era, but also lead to critical thought that could affect social change now and in the future? Often connected to a sense of home or home-ness, nostalgic sites are places where we imagine that we fit, a community of which we are a part that circumstances have separated us from, but to which we long to return. If this is nostalgia, are there people that actually long for the atomic bomb, for the imagined hearth of the uranium production plant? In places that owe their existence to the dawn of the Atomic Age, the answer is yes. It is often forgotten that nuclear energy and weapons programs created real communities, in such places history, memory, and nostalgia meet in a landscape both lived and imagined, where they converge in ways that are sometimes unexpected and contradictory. It is at these points of tension where critical thought can emerge. Two decades after the close of the Cold War, a space has opened up for the renegotiation of atomic memories. Compared with the contaminated materials of the Atomic Age, historical memory has a much shorter half-life; in light of this fact questions about the nuclear past, present, and future are immediate and pressing. Through Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of the three secret cities created for the Manhattan Project, I explore the American relationship to the rise and decline of the Atomic Age from atomic utopianism to atomic nostalgia.

Dissertation Committee: Vera Zolberg (Chair), Jeffrey Goldfarb, Elzbieta Matynia & Oz Frankel

Proposed Completion Date: Fall 2012

EDUCATION

PHD Candidate (Sociology & Historical Studies), The New School for Social Research, New York, NY

Concentrations: Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Memory, Historiography, Social Theory.

Democracy & Diversity Institute, Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, Krakow, Poland, 2007.

MA (Sociology), The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2006

Concentrations: Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Memory, Sociology of Media.

BA (Sociology & Government), Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC, 2000

University of Amsterdam, Study Abroad Program, 1999

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Arthur J. Vidich Dissertation Fellowship, Sociology Dept, The New School for Social Research, 2011 – 2012.
- Dean's Fellowship, The New School for Social Research, 2007 – 2009.
- Teaching Fellowship, The New School for Social Research, 2007 – 2012.
- Teaching Assistantship, Parsons School for Design, "Social Thought," 2008.
- Research Assistantship, Jonathan Veitch, PhD, Humanities Dept, Eugene Lang College, 2008 – 2009.
- Research Assistantship, Vera Zolberg, PhD, Sociology, The New School for Social Research, 2009.
- Research Assistantship, Jaeho Kang, PhD, Sociology & Media, The New School for Social Research, 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The following classes were taught and designed:

- Introduction to Sociology, Pratt Institute & Fashion Institute of Technology, 2008 – 2009.
- Classical Social Theory, Rutgers-Newark University, 2008 – 2012.
- Contemporary Social Theory, Rutgers-Newark University, 2008 – 2012.
- Critical Tourism, Dept. of Sociology, Eugene Lang College, 2010, 2012.
- Atrocity Tourism, Dept. of Culture & Media, Eugene Lang College, 2007.
- Spaces of Memory, First Year Writing, Eugene Lang College, 2011-2012.
- The Utopian Imagination, First Year Writing, Eugene Lang College, 2010 – 2012.

PUBLICATIONS & REVIEW ARTICLES

- Forthcoming in 2013. "The Manhattan Project Time Machine: Atomic Tourism in Oak Ridge, Tennessee" in *Death Tourism: Disaster Sites as Recreational Landscape.* Ed. Brigitte Sion. Seagull Books.

- Forthcoming in 2013: "A Plutonium Tourism Ode: The Rocky Flats Cold War Museum" in *Moral Encounters of Tourism.* Ashgate.

- "Museums of Experience: The Artist as Curator of Memory & Loss" in *Art Reflects Life: The Artist as Observer and Social Critic.* Ed. Shawn Bingham. Lexington Books, 2012.

- "Happy Memories under the Mushroom Cloud: Utopia and Memory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee" in *Memory and the Future: Transnational Politics, Ethics, and Society*. Palgrave Macmillian Press, 2010.

- "Introduction: Is an Interdisciplinary Field of Memory Studies Possible?" with Adam Brown, Yifat Gutman, Amy Sodaro, & Alin Coman in *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* (2009): 117-124.

- Review article of *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin. Metropolitan Press, 2009 for *e-misférica*.

- Review article of *Highway of the Atom* by Peter C. van Wyck, McGill-Queen's University Press for the *Canadian Journal of Communication,* 37.2 (2012).

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Sociology of Culture
- Sociology of Memory
- Science, Technology & Society
- Space / Place
- Tourism & Popular Culture
- Utopian Imaginations
- Social Theory

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Collective Memory
- Nostalgia
- Atomic History
- The Twentieth Century
- Utopias
- Science, Technology, & Society
- Space / Place

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

- Book manuscript of dissertation: *Longing for the Bomb: Atomic Nostalgia in Post-Nuclear Landscape,* (Under Exclusive Review at The University of North Carolina Press).

- *Silence, Screen, & Spectacle: Rethinking Collective Memory in the Age of Information & New Media* (Under Exclusive Review at Berghahn Books. Currently, undergoing external peer review). Papers selected, edited, and introduction and afterward written along with Ben Nienass and Rachel Daniel.

- Special issue on *Screen Memory* (Under Review at *Parallax*).
  Papers selected, edited, and introduction written for the special issue along with Ben Nienass and Laliv Melamed.

- "The Atomic Prophecy: The Myth of John Hendrix and the Historic-Future Atomic City" (Under Review at *Parallax*).

- "Modern Frontier Town or Atomic Shangri-la?: Competing & Complementary Nostalgic Visions of Early Oak Ridge, Tennessee" (Under Review at *American Quarterly*).

PRESENTATIONS

- Meet the Authors of, "The Art of Social Critique: Painting Mirrors of Social Life," Society for the Study of Social Problems, Denver, Colorado, August 2012.
- "Atomic Frontier or Uranium Utopia?," American Sociological Association, Denver, Colorado, August 2012.
- "Atomic Tourism in a Post-Nuclear Landscape," American Association of Geographers, New York, New York, 2012.
- "The Nuclear Prophecy: Appalachia and the Historic-Future Atomic City," Appalachian Studies Association, Indiana, PA, 2012.
- "Museums of Experience," Meet the Authors Panel on *Art Reflects Life: The Artist as Observer and Social Critic,* Association for Humanist Sociology, Evanston, IL, 2011.
- "Collective Memory and Nostalgia in a Post-atomic Landscape," American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV, 2011.
- "Prophetic Geography: The Legend of John Hendrix and the Future Atomic City," New School for Social Research Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Memory Conference, New York, NY, 2011.
- "Happy Memories under the Mushroom Cloud: The Museum of Science and Energy," Dark Tourism Conference, New York University, 2010.
- "Magic Geographies & Nostalgic Geographies," Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA, 2010.
- "The American Museum of Science & Energy: A Crowded House of Uranium, Utopia, Physics, & Fear," American Sociological Association, Boston, MA, 2008.
- "Magic Geography: Memory in Atomic Space," Eastern Sociological Society, New York, NY, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL AFFLIATIONS

- Founding Member, Interdisciplinary Memory Studies Group, The New School for Social Research.
- American Sociological Association: Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Science, Historical Sociology, & Social Theory Sections.
- Eastern Sociological Society
- American Studies Association
- Appalachian Studies Association
- American Association of Geographers

- The Society for the Study of Social Problems
- Science Studies Ethnography Workshop, New York University
- Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies, City University of New York
- Sociology Students Association, The New School for Social Research

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Co-Managing Editor, International Journal of Politics, Culture, & Society, 2010 - 2012.

CONFERENCES & LECTURE SERIES ORGANIZED

- "From the Art of Memory to Memory and Art: A One-Day Conference Honoring Professor Vera L. Zolberg's Career." The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2012.
- "The Arts of Memory." NSSR Interdisciplinary Studies Group, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2012.
- "Silence, Screen, & Spectacle." NSSR Interdisciplinary Studies Group, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2011.
- "The Limits of Memory." NSSR Interdisciplinary Studies Group, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2010.
- "Memory & The Future." NSSR Interdisciplinary Studies Group, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2009.
- "The New Sociological Imagination." The New School for Social Research, Sociology Department, New York, NY, 2009.
- "History Matters." The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2009.
- "Is an Interdisciplinary Field of Memory Studies Possible?" NSSR Interdisciplinary Studies Group, The New School for Social Research, New York, NY, 2008.

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- Bulletin Editor & Program Associate, Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, The New School for Social Research, 2008 – 2009.
- Assistant to the Chair of the Writing Dept, Eugene Lang College, The New School, 2007 – 2008.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Associate of Mapping and Products Development, Social Compact Organization, Washington, D.C., 2000 – 2004. G.I.S cartography and urban demographic research.