

Forms of Memory and the Role of Law

Sciences Po Law School Graduate Conference

Friday 16 June 2023, 10.30-17.00

Sciences Po Paris - Amphithéâtre Erignac

13 rue de l'Université 75007

Program

10.00-10.30 **Welcome**

10.30-11.00 **Keynote**

Sebastien Ledoux, Professor and Researcher at Université Paris 1 et Sciences Po

11-12.30 **Session 1. Law and Memory through legal institutions/Droit et mémoire(s) dans le processus judiciaire**

Helena Alviar, Professor of Law at Sciences Po (moderator)

Esteban Restrepo Salgadoarriaga, Associate Professor, Universidad de los Andes

Mariana Diaz Chalela, PhD Candidate, Yale University

Julia Emtseva, Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute

12.30-13.30 **Lunch break**

13.30-15.00 **Session 2. Memory policies between private and public incentives/Les politiques mémorielles : régulations et réceptions**

Raphaële Xenedis, Assistant Professor in European Law at Sciences Po (moderator)

Marina Bán, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Copenhagen

Mathilde Unger, Maître de conférences en droit public, CEIE, Université de Strasbourg

Maria Giusti, Postdoctoral researcher, Università degli Studi della Tuscia and Visiting Fellow at Sciences Po

15.00-15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30-17.00 **Session 3. Memory and territory: Safeguarding the natural element in cultural heritage/Mémoires et territoires : repenser le droit du patrimoine culturel**

Alain Pottage, Professor of Law at Sciences Po (moderator)

Anaïs Mattez, PhD Candidate and researcher, University of Hong Kong

Fabien Girard, Maître de conférence-HDR, CRJ, Université Grenoble Alpes

About

Past, history, and memory deeply involve jurists. Memory as a social and political phenomenon emerges both as an immediate resource for practitioners as well as for scholars, who can not do without works of historians. On the other hand, memory gives lawyers a true conceptual and methodological stumbling block. This paradox arises in at least three contexts that the Conference aims to explore.

First, the meaning collectively given to the past is decisive in the development of legal concepts, institutions, cultural and educational policies. At the same time, law as discourse and impact on reality informs memories, because it selects or conceals events or historical figures. It shapes memory policies, conditions the expression and treatment of history, including in the media. Law takes part in the building of public space and the circulation of values and speeches within it.

Secondly, justice and memory seem codependent. Testimony, archives, and remains of the past are necessary for judicial activity, from the filing of a complaint to the judge's decision. However, because it exhumes and creates stories, the trial gives a specific form and meaning to the past. Memory therefore appears as a powerful political discourse that influences the law, allows justice administration, and ultimately provides prevention mechanisms. The juridical activity itself takes part in and shapes the making of individual, collective, or national memories.

Lastly, law aspires to act both as a protector and a preserver of national or collective memories. But are its concepts and methods suitable for defending all forms of memories? Memory is intimately linked to culture, and is part of places, practices, tangible or intangible supports, natural and cultural areas, living spaces. This entanglement questions the relevance of the legal categories for the protection of cultural as well as natural heritage.

Registration is mandatory by compilation of this [online form](#). The event will be in person only. Presentations will be held in **English** (session 1 and 2) and **English & French** (keynote and session 3). For more information: graduateconference2023@gmail.com