

# *Collective Memory, History and Conflict*

## *Madrid, Spain*

Summer 2014

Profs. Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán & Betty Gilmore

### Course Description:

*Memory* is the manner in which humans process, remember, store information and reconstruct prior experiences. Memory also allows us to learn from our experiences, adapt, and build relationships. Through memory, we can determine if someone has kept a promise, store our perceptions about individuals, and predict future actions. In



many ways we construct who we are based on our stored memories. When specific memories are shared and agreed upon by a group, they become collective memories. Collective memories produced within society are passed on from generation to generation and through these collective memories, individuals can ‘recall’ events that they have not personally experienced (Hallbawchs 1992: 38). Memory allows us to connect with others, but it can also create differences that lead to conflict. Memory can be a powerful instrument for social justice, or a tool for perpetuating injustices.

In this class, we will address the various roles that memory can play in conflict engagement. We will visit heritage sites, museums, and monuments in Spain to illustrate the role of collective memory in conflict. We will also challenge most of the literature in mediation and negotiation regarding conflict resolution as being future-oriented.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Define collective memory
- Understand how people remember their experiences of conflict and how do they influence conflict narratives and their identities
- Identify the role of memory in violence, peacemaking, and forgiveness
- Explore the manners in which memory can be divisive and how it can be unifying
- Explore how museums, heritage spaces, and monuments institutionalize memory
- Understand memory transmitted through generations and how does it lead people to remember events they have not experienced
- Understand what is the relationship of un-lived experiences with conflict
- Understand the role of collective memory in promoting social justice and in perpetuating social injustice
- Explore collective memory as a way of creating counter-narratives

## Topics:

- What do we mean by collective memory?
- How do people remember their experiences of conflict and how do they influence conflict narratives?
- What is the role of memory in violence, peacemaking, forgiveness, and, reconciliation?
- How can memory be divisive? How can memory be unifying?
- How do museums, heritage spaces, and monuments institutionalize memory?
- How is memory transmitted through generations and how does it lead people to remember events they have not experienced? What is the relationship of unlived experiences with conflict?
- What is the role of collective memory in promoting social justice and in perpetuating social injustice?
- How can collective memory be used to create counter-narratives?

## Faculty

The Werner Institute at Creighton University Law & Graduate School and SMU in collaboration with Carlos III University Law School in Madrid, Spain will develop and deliver this course. The two main faculty in charge of the course will be: **Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán**, MHA, JD, Ph.D., The Werner Institute at Creighton University Law School and **Betty Gilmore**, Psy. D., Dispute Resolution Program at Southern Methodist University. Additionally, there will be an academic coordinator from Carlos III University Law School: **Prof. Helena Soletto Muñoz**, SJD.

## Enrollment

Maximum number of students: 30 – 15 from each school

## When and Where

June 15 - June 20 in Madrid, Spain & Online Component