



# Memory and Representation in Contemporary Europe

The Persistence of the Past

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Why do certain places and not others symbolically capture the past and freeze time? Likewise, why does the process of memory, as a fluid and changing activity, seem to prevent its own solidification? *Memory and Representation in Contemporary Europe* reflects not only on the persistence of the past as a theme linked to modernity, media and time, but also discusses the politics of memory within a changing Europe.

Drawing on the theoretical work of Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin and Zygmunt Bauman, Siobhan Kattago uses examples from both Germany and Estonia in order to address the multiple layers of Europe's totalitarian past. Through reflecting on the legacy of totalitarianism and the revolutions of 1989, it becomes clear that the issue is less of whether one should remember, but rather how to internalize the various lessons of the past for the future of Europe. *Memory and Representation in Contemporary Europe* thus offers the reader occasions upon which to take stock of different but overlapping contours of past and present in contemporary Europe.

## Contents

Preface; Introduction; The slippery slope of memory; Agreeing to disagree on the legacies of recent history; The ethics of seeing: photographs of Germany at the end of the war; The sound of silence: reflections on Bernhard Schlink and Gesine Schwan; Living in the third person: the uncanny Hans Schneider/Schwerte; Goodbye to grand narratives? Moving the Soviet war memorial in Tallinn; Memory, pluralism and the agony of politics; The fata morgana of revolution; Postscript: Europe between past and future; Bibliography; Index.

## About the Author

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