

Englische Literaturwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

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**Memory and History in 20th
Century British Literature**

Wed (3) Ort (wird von
Bearbeiterin
eingetragen)

After a short general introduction to 'classic' theories of memory, this lecture focuses on how memory and history are represented in 20th century literary texts such as *Ansell* (E.M. Forster), *England, England* (Julian Barnes), *The Remains of the Day* (Kazuo Ishiguro), *Funes the Memorios* (Jorge Luis Borges), or *Remembrance of Things Past* (Marcel Proust). In addition to this, we will analyze the film *Memento* (dir. Christopher Nolan).

Questions we are going to ask include: How does memory work in these texts, how reliable is it, and what distinguishes memory from history and from historiography? What are 'invented traditions' and why do we tend to invent our past? In order to find answers, we will take a close look at a variety of concepts such as collective memory, cultural memory, functional memory, history/historiography etc.

This lecture is open for students who do not have any prior knowledge in the field of memory as well as for students who already attended the first part of this lecture series last term.

Please buy and read:

Julian Barnes. *England, England*. [1998] London: Vintage, 2008.

An extensive bibliography will be handed out in the first session.