Beyond the 'politics of memory' lies the machinery of the state: How are regimes, both democratic and illiberal, engineering the past to legitimize the power of the present? This conference invites contributions that **rethink memory policies from a global and comparative perspective**, positioning them at the intersection of memory studies and public policy analysis.

While scholarly interest in the governance of collective memory has grown significantly, the concept of memory policies remains undertheorised and is often conflated with broader notions such as memory politics. This conference seeks to address this gap by conceptualising memory policies as deliberate (non)interventions - undertaken by both state and non-state actors - to shape representations of the past in pursuit of present- and future-oriented objectives.

Adopting a public policy lens, the conference encourages contributions that examine how memory policies are formulated, implemented, institutionalised, and contested across diverse sociopolitical contexts. Particular attention will be paid to the role of policy entrepreneurs—including grassroots movements, governments, and international organisations—in shaping and transforming memory agendas, as well as to the operation of memory policies across multiple levels of governance.

We especially welcome contributions that move beyond Eurocentric perspectives and engage with underexplored regions and case studies, highlighting the global diversity of memory policymaking. Contributions may address both democratic and nondemocratic settings, as well as contexts marked by conflict, transition, or political instability.

By bringing together interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives, the conference aims to advance conceptual clarity and foster a more systematic understanding of how memory is administered worldwide. It also seeks to explore the varied outcomes of memory policies - from promoting reconciliation and justice to reinforcing exclusion, silencing, or historical revisionism.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- Conceptualisations of memory policies
- Relationships between memory politics and policymaking
- The role of policy entrepreneurs and mnemonic agency
- Multilevel governance and transnational dynamics of memory policies
- Memory policies in democratic and nondemocratic regimes
- Illiberal memory policies
- Comparative and global perspectives
- Memory policies in contexts of conflict, transition, and crisis
- Sociopolitical impacts of memory policies (e.g. justice, reconciliation, exclusion)
- Memory policies and political violence

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Please submit an **abstract** in English (maximum 300 words) along with a short **one-page CV** using the following link by **August 7, 2026**: *https://forms.gle/bi7J89xwsxUDXEpx5*

Authors of selected abstracts will be provided with **one night of complimentary accommodation**.

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