WOMEN MOBILIZING MEMORY
COLLABORATION AND CO-RESISTANCE

September 10, 2015

Examining the politics of cultural memory from the perspective of social difference, this international conference will analyze strategies by which artists, scholars and activists have succeeded in mobilizing the memory of political and social violence to promote redress, social justice, and a democratic future. The conference features members of a multi-year transnational and interdisciplinary working group that is bringing to New York discussions generated in Chile and Turkey. They are joined by local colleagues working on gender and memory. Roundtables will address protest actions and their efficacy, ranging from the "Saturday Mothers" to "Black Lives Matter;" strategies for mobilizing political action around memory sites in Istanbul, Santiago and New York; and the ways in which lives touched by political violence and social death can be reanimated through writing and art. Exploring resonances and connections among divergent histories of violence, the conference will also explore the limits of such comparative work, while attempting to forge a feminist practice of solidarity and co-resistance.

The conference accompanies an exhibit **"Collaborative Archives: Connective Histories"** at *Leroy Neiman Gallery, Columbia University and the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics, NYU.*
September 7-18, 2015.

Opening Reception, September 8, 5-7;
Artists' Roundtable, 7:30 – 9, East Gallery, Buell Hall.

Women Mobilizing Memory is part of the Women Creating Change initiative of Columbia University's Center for the Study of Social Difference, working in close collaboration with the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics. We are grateful to the generous co-sponsorship, at Columbia, of University Seminars, School of the Arts, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia Global Centers, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Oral History Research Office, Heymann Center for the Humanities, Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Department of Iberian and Latin American Studies, Armenian Center; Institute for the Study of Human Rights, as well as the Barnard Center for Research on Women, the New York State Council for the Humanities and Sabancı University.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Columbia University,
East Gallery, Buell Hall

9:30 INTRODUCTIONS
Safwan Masri
Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development
Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Diana Taylor
Women Mobilizing Memory Co-directors

10–12 PERFORMANCES OF PROTEST
Moderator: **Alisa Solomon**
Meltem Ahiska; Andrea Crow & Alyssa Greene; Nancy Kricorian; Carla Shedd; Diana Taylor
A roundtable discussion about collective protest actions, local and global: the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, the Saturday Mothers, Black Lives Matter, Act Up, student activism, and other movements of solidarity and co-resistance

12-1:30 LUNCH AND EXHIBIT VIEWING

1:30-3:30 MOBILIZING MEMORY SITES: SANTIAGO, ISTANBUL, NEW YORK
Moderator: **Andreas Huyssen**
María José Contreras, "Unmarked Places in Santiago de Chile: Scratching Memories Into the City of Forgetting"
Ayşe Gül Altınay & Bürge Abiral, "Cins Adımlar [Queer Steps]: Mobilizing Gender and Memory Through Collective Touring in Istanbul"
Deborah Willis, "Harlem: Art and Social Activism"
Nicole Gervasio, "Intersecting Race, Place, & Memory on a Walk Through Harlem"
Marita Sturken, "Memory Culture and Protest in Downtown New York"

3:30–4 COFFEE BREAK

4-6 INTIMATE ARCHIVES/ POLITICAL VIOLENCE
Moderator: **Tina Campt**
Leo Spitzer, "The Stowaway"
Kellie Jones, "Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties"
Milena Grass, "Family Archives in Recent Chilean Cinema: Constructing the Postgeneration"
Dilara Çalışkan, "We don't use the word 'generation' in the way heteros do:" Can We Speak of Queer Postmemory?
Hazel Carby, "Imperial Intimacies"

6-7 WISHING TREE COMMEMORATIVE PUBLIC EVENT

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

1. PERFORMANCES OF PROTEST

Alisa Solomon, moderator, directs the Arts & Culture concentration in the MA program at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. A theater critic and general reporter for the *Village Voice* from 1983 to 2004, she has also contributed to *The New York Times, The Nation, Tablet, The Forward* and other publications, covering theater and performance as well as subjects like US immigration policy, queer politics, Israel-Palestine, reproductive rights, women's sports. She is the author of *Re-Dressing the Canon: Essays on Theater and Gender and of Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof.* Solomon also works as a dramaturg, most recently with Anna Deavere Smith on the "Pipeline to Prison Project."

Meltem Ahiska is Professor of Sociology at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. She has written and edited a number of books, most recently *Occidentalism in Turkey: Questions of Modernity and National Identity in Turkish Radio Broadcasting* (2010). Her articles and essays on Occidentalism, social memory, national identity, and gender have appeared in various journals and edited volumes. She is a member of the editorial board of *Red Thread* e-journal.

Andrea Crow is a PhD candidate at Columbia University in the department of English and Comparative Literature and an organizer in the graduate worker unionization movement. Her research focuses on seventeenth-century food politics as well as academic labor and the future of the university.

Alyssa Greene is a PhD candidate in the Department of Germanic Languages at Columbia University. Her research focuses on the figure of the child and depictions of childhood in Cold War and post-Cold War narratives of authoritarian states. She is an organizer with the Graduate Workers of Columbia-UAW and the movement to unionize academic labor.

Nancy Kricorian is a New York City-based writer and activist. She is the author of the novels *Zabelle, Dreams of Bread and Fire,* and, most recently, *All The Light There Was*, which is set in the Armenian community of Paris during World War II. She has been the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, The Anahid Literary Award, a Gold Medal of the Writers Union of Armenia, and the Daniel Varoujan Prize of the New England Poetry Club, among other honors. Kricorian is the Fall 2015 Writer-in-Residence at the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University.

Carla Shedd is Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Columbia University. Her research and teaching interests focus on: crime and criminal justice; race and ethnicity; law; inequality; and urban sociology. Shedd has been published in the *American Sociological Review, Sociological Methods & Research*. She is the author of *Unequal City: Race, Schools, & Perceptions of Injustice* (2015). Shedd's current research examines the juvenile justice system in New York City, investigating how young people's linked institutional experiences influence their placement on and movement along the carceral continuum.

Diana Taylor is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at New York University. She is the author of many books—*Theatre of Crisis, Disappearing Acts, The Archive and the Repertoire, PERFORMANCE,* and *Villa Grimaldi* – and is the founding Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics.

2. MOBILIZING MEMORY SITES: SANTIAGO, ISTANBUL, NEW YORK

Andreas Huyssen, Moderator, is the Villard Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. A founding editor of *New German Critique*, he is the author of *After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism* (1986), *Twilight Memories: Marking Time in a Culture of Amnesia* (1995), *Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory* (2003), the edited volume *Other Cities, Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing World* (2006), *William Kentridge and Nalini Malani: The Shadowplay as Medium of Memory* (2013) and *Miniature Metropolis: Literature in an Age of Photography and Film* (2015).

María José Contreras Lorenzini is a performance artist and Professor at the Theater School, Catholic University, Santiago. Her academic research and artistic creation explore the relation between the body, memory and performance. Some of her recent performances include: "El Examen," enacted over a 24-hour period in Plaza Italia, Santiago; "Prefijos," which took place in the National Stadium; "Conchitusión," at Centro Cultural Palacio La Moneda, Santiago; and "#quererNOver," an urban intervention that involved 1200 people lying in the streets of Santiago.

Ayşe Gül Altınay is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Sabancı University, Istanbul. She works on militarism, (post)memory, genocide, violence and gender. Among her publications are *The Myth of the Military-Nation: Militarism, Gender and Education* (2004) and *The Grandchildren: The Hidden Legacy of "Lost" Armenians in Turkey* (with Fethiye Çetin, trans. Maureen Freely, 2014).

Bürge Abiral is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Johns Hopkins University. She received her BA from Williams College and her MA in Cultural Studies from Sabancı University, Turkey. Her research interests include human-environment relations, climate change, agriculture, political violence, and gender and sexuality. Her translation of *Toward an Anthropology of Women* (ed. Rayna Reiter, 1975) was published in Turkish in 2015.

Deborah Willis is University Professor and Chair of Photography & Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and Dept. of Social & Cultural Analysis. She was a MacArthur, Guggenheim, Richard D.Cohen, Hutchins Center and Harvard University Fellow. She is the author of *Posing Beauty in African American Culture*, among many other books.

Nicole Gervasio is a Ph.D. candidate in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Her dissertation is on the ethics of representing mass political violence in contemporary postcolonial literature.

Marita Sturken is professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. She is the author of *Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, the AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics of Remembering* (1997) and *Tourists of History: Memory, Kitsch, and Consumerism from Oklahoma City to Ground Zero* (2007).

3. INTIMATE ARCHIVES/ POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Tina Campt, Moderator, is Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Africana and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women at Barnard College-Columbia University. She is the author of *Other Germans: Black Germans and the Politics of Race, Gender and Memory in the Third Reich* (2004) and *Image Matters: Archive, Photography and the African Diaspora in Europe* (2012). "Listening to Images" (forthcoming) theorizes the practices of refusal and fugitivity enacted in a frequently overlooked genre of black vernacular photography: identification photos.

Leo Spitzer is Vernon Professor of Comparative History Emeritus and University Research Professor at Dartmouth College. Employing personal and familial oral histories, testimonial documents, and photographic sources, he writes on late 19th and 20th century responses to colonialism, marginality, and subordination. He also writes on Jewish refugee memory and its transmission. He is author of *The Creoles of Sierra Leone; Lives in Between: Assimilation and Marginality in Austria, Brazil and West Africa; Hotel Bolivia: The Culture of Memory in a Refuge from Nazism;* and (with Marianne Hirsch)

Ghosts of Home: The Afterlife of Czernowitz in Jewish Memory, as well as co-editor of *Acts of Memory: Cultural Recall in the Present*.

Kellie Jones is Associate Professor in Art History and Archaeology and the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University. Her writings have appeared in exhibition catalogues and such journals as *NKA, Artforum, Flash Art, Atlantica,* and *Third Text*. Her book *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art* (2011) was named one of the top art books of 2011 by *Publishers Weekly*. Jones has also worked as a curator for over three decades. Her exhibition "Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960-1980," (2011) at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, was named the best thematic show nationally by the International Association of Art Critics (AICA). She was the co-curator of "Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the 1960s" at the Brooklyn Museum which was named one the best exhibitions of 2014 by *Artforum.*

Milena Grass is a professor at the Theater School, Catholic University, Santiago. She has published Spanish translations of English, American, and French plays, and books on Chilean history and theater studies. Her main field of research is theater and memory in post-conflict contexts. Her longstanding methodological research on theater practice appeared in *La investigación de los procesos teatrales. Manual de uso* (2011).

Dilara Çalışkan is currently working at Sabancı University's Gender and Women's Studies Forum. In 2014, she graduated from Sabancı University's Cultural Studies Master Program with a thesis titled "Queer Mothers and Daughters: The Role of Queer Kinship in the Everyday Lives of Trans Sex Worker Women in Istanbul." Since 2010, she has been involved with Istanbul's LGBTI Solidarity Association, which particularly focuses on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, opposes the criminalization of sex work, and supports its recognition as work.

Hazel Carby is Charles C. and Dorathea S. Dilley Professor of African American Studies, Professor of American Studies at Yale University and Director of the Initiative on Race Gender and Globalization. Her books include *Reconstructing Womanhood* (1987), *Race Men* (1998), and C*ultures in Babylon* (1999). She recently completed the manuscript "Imperial Intimacies," an auto-history of the intimate imperial entanglements of the islands of Britain and Jamaica from the anti-Napoleonic war to the anti-fascist war.

Lorie Novak, *Iran Iraq*, 2011