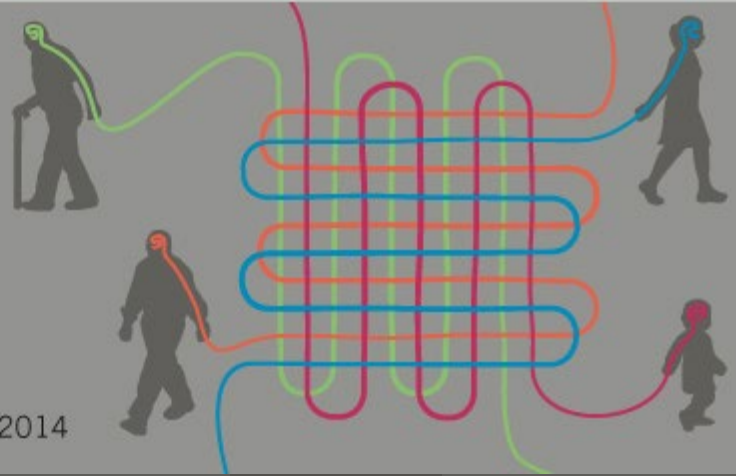


# Imagining What Might Be:

*Memory and the Power  
of Connectivity*

The Cornell Club | New York City | 6, 7, and 8 June 2014



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"The remem-  
brance of a  
certain  
image is  
but regret  
for a  
certain  
moment;  
and  
houses,  
roads,  
avenues  
are as  
fugitive,  
alas, as  
the years."

Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*

Contact: Mary Ann Meyers, Ph.D., *Senior Fellow*

## Purpose

The premise with which we begin is that memory occurs in the space between individuals and the past to which they

belong. We know it has a double basis: neural and social. What neuroscientists are beginning to realize is that human memory didn't evolve only so we could remember, but also to allow us to imagine what might be. To create imagined future events, it is postulated that individuals must be able to recall previously experienced ones, extract details, and put them together to simulate what could happen at a later subjective time.

The purpose of this symposium is in turn twofold. It is to explore how the discoveries being made about the relationship of episodic memory (memory of particular past events a person has directly experienced) to foresight and ingenuity can suggest ways to solve problems and offer comfort to individuals during periods of stress and anxiety. It is also to consider whether such important new findings might have an impact on what we are learning about how societies, forged in no small part by types of communal memory termed communicative memory (shared yet changing) and the more stable cultural memory, respond both to ongoing challenges and catastrophic change. Cultural memories, which are maintained through oral stories, texts, song, pictorial images, monuments, rites, and festivals, preserve the store of knowledge from which a group derives an awareness of its unity and peculiarity. But these memories work through reconstruction, that is, by relating what is known of the past to actual and contemporary situations. It has also been posited that what has been termed canonical memory, drawn from and connecting particular caches of cultural memories, can be a creative and dynamic force both in forging good character and, more generally, opening the future to new possibilities.

The assumptions driving our conversation are that what neuroscience is telling us about how memory works at the molecular and cellular levels together with what psychologists are learning about the development of individual memory, especially the internal processing of experience and how external circumstances affect it, could have clinical applicability in treating stress disorders and aid those trying to assist people in moral quandaries or spiritual distress. The insights thus derived also might have an application on a larger scale—helping us to understand and even diffuse religious conflict and cultural clashes in a way that permits creative forward movement. The wisdom of scholars who study memory from a humanistic perspective must surely guide us in exploring these broader issues. Among the specific big questions to be pondered are:

What is the role of memory in shaping human well-being?

What exactly is the relationship between individual memory and memory that an individual shares with his/her contemporaries?

Can what we are learning about the basis and development of these two forms of memory help resolve personal and group tensions through the simulation of possible futures?

Can imagination conditioned by memory foster personal growth and contribute to new forms of social relations and transcultural interactions?

Can it transform our understanding of others as well as ourselves?

Twelve scholars and scientists from five countries—Australia, Germany, Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States—come together to probe for answers in a great crossroads city, where the painful memory of 9/11 is preserved and honored in a landscaped plaza on the site of the former World Trade Center.

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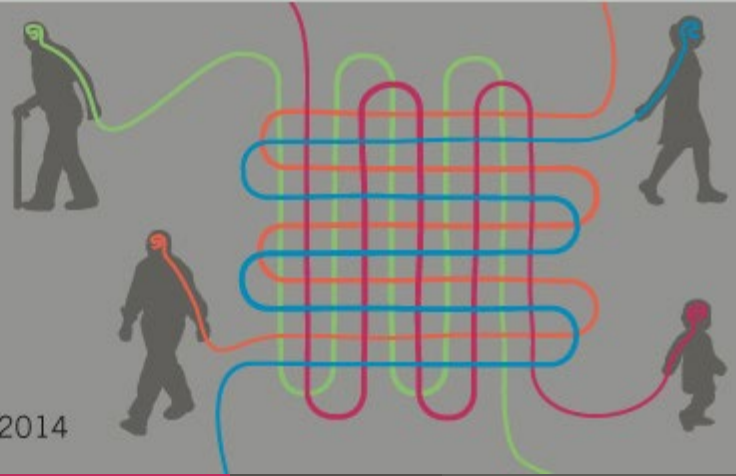
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"It's a poor  
sort of  
memory  
that only  
works  
backwards,"  
the White  
Queen  
remarked."

Lewis Carroll,  
*Alice's Adventures  
in Wonderland &  
Through the  
Looking-Glass*

## Approach

The symposium is part of the John Templeton Foundation's *Humble Approach Initiative*. The goal of the initiative is to

bring about the discovery of new spiritual information by furthering high-quality scientific research. The “humble approach” is inherently interdisciplinary, sensitive to nuance, and biased in favor of building linkages and connections. It assumes an openness to new ideas and a willingness to experiment. Placing high value upon patience and perseverance, it retains a sense of wondering expectation because it recognizes, in Loren Eiseley’s haunting phrase, “a constant emergent novelty in nature that does not lie totally behind us, or we would not be where we are.” A fundamental principle of the Foundation, in the words of its founder, is that “humility is a gateway to greater understanding and open[s] the doors to progress” in all endeavors. Sir John Templeton believed that in their quest to comprehend foundational realities, scientists, philosophers, and theologians have much to learn about and from one another. The humble approach is intended as a corrective to parochialism. It encourages discovery and seeks to accelerate its pace.

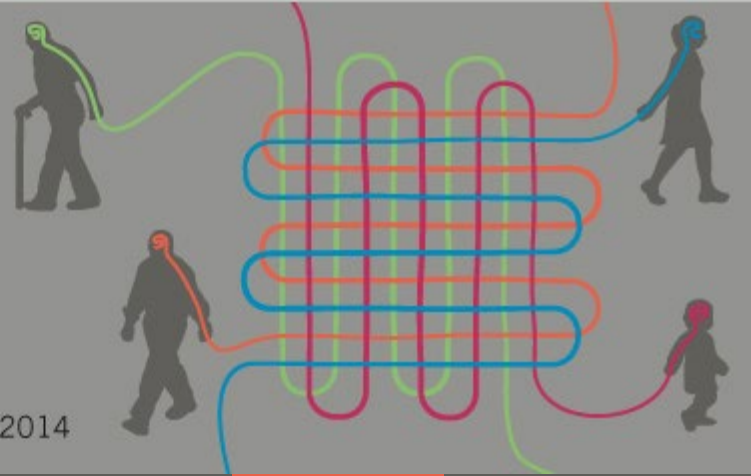
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## Co-Chairs

One of the world's leading researchers on the cognitive psychology of memory, Daniel L. Schacter, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the nature of memory. His work has demonstrated how memory is constructed and influenced by multiple factors that include emotions, beliefs, and life events—and some of the reasons for its fragility. Recent studies he has carried out at the Harvard memory lab that bears his name concern how memory is used to imagine or simulate possible future events. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Schacter earned a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Toronto in 1981 after pursuing research in experimental psychology at Oxford University as a visiting scholar. He remained at Toronto as an assistant professor of psychology for six years, then moved on to the University of Arizona as an associate professor of psychology, and was named a full professor in 1989. He went to Harvard as a professor of psychology in 1991 and was appointed to his present position in 2002. Dr. Schacter chaired Harvard's psychology department for ten years. He has been a visiting professor at the Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London and has held a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. A member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), he is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Society of Experimental Psychologists (SEP), the Neurosciences Research Program, and the Association for Psychological Science. His numerous awards include the Arthur Benton Award of the International Neuropsychological Society, the Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology in Human Learning and Cognition given by the American Psychological Association (APA), the NAS's Troland Research Award and its Award for Scientific Reviewing, the Harvard-Radcliffe Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize, the James McKeen Cattell Fund Award, a MERIT Award of the National Institute on Aging, the APA's Presidential Citation and its Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Psychology, the Distinguished Lecturer Award of the Swedish Neuropsychological Society, and the SEP's Howard Crosby Warren Medal. Dr. Schacter serves on the governing board of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, the scientific advisory board of the Center for Law, Brain and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital, and the scientific advisory board of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Cognition and Disorders at Macquarie University. He is currently an associate editor of the Annual Review of Psychology and on the editorial advisory boards of Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, Cognitive Neuropsychology, Consciousness and Cognition, Learning & Memory, Memory, Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, Neuro-Psychoanalysis, Psychological Science and the Public Interest, the Review of



General Psychology, and the Year in Cognitive Neuroscience. Recognized by the Institute for Scientific Information as the most frequently cited researcher in psychology for the period 1986 to 1990, Dr. Schacter has published more than 400 papers in scientific journals or in volumes of collected works. He is the editor or co-editor of twenty-three books, including fifteen volumes of the Annual Review of Psychology, and the author or co-author of five other books, including *Stranger Behind the Engram: Theories of Memory and the Psychology of Science* (1982 and 2001) and two widely-used textbooks (with Daniel Gilbert and Daniel Wegner): *Psychology* (2009 and 2011) and *Introducing Psychology* (2011 and 2013), which were both published by Worth. His *Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past* (1996), which won the William James Book Award given by the Society for General Psychology and the APA and was recognized among the Notable Books of the Year by the New York Times Book Review and among the Best Science and Technology Books of the Year by the Library Journal, has been translated into nine languages. Dr. Schacter's second book for a general audience, *The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers* (2001), which discusses categories of memory errors and has been translated into thirteen languages, also won the William James Award and was named by Amazon.com as among the Best Books of 2001.

Michael Welker is a senior professor in the Theological Faculty of the University of Heidelberg and director of the university's Research Center for International and Interdisciplinary Theology (FIIT). Renowned as a systematic theologian, he is an ordained minister in the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz (Protestant Church of the Palatinate). Dr. Welker works through the biblical traditions and through philosophical and sociological theories to address questions of contemporary culture. Warning against a reductionist systematics that can block, as well as guide thought, he has focused on the interplay among religious, legal, moral, scientific, and other cultural codes that shape the ethos of the postmodern world. His work is exceptionally wide-ranging, and he has recently considered problems of pluralism in societies, cultures, and canonic traditions, as well as exploring notions of human personhood in pre-modern, modern, and contemporary periods. A graduate of the University of Tübingen where he studied with Jürgen Moltmann and earned a doctorate in theology in 1973, Dr. Welker received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Heidelberg in 1978. He was professor of systematic theology in the Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen from 1983 to 1987 and, for the next four years, he held the chair in Reformed theology in the Theological Faculty of the University of Münster before returning to Heidelberg as professor and chair of systematic theology, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. He also served as director of the university's Internationales Wissenschaftsforum for a decade. He has held an honorary research fellowship at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School and has been a visiting professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and the Princeton Theological Seminary, as well as a guest professor at the Harvard Divinity School, on the Divinity Faculty at Cambridge University, and at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. A member of the Heidelberg Academy and a corresponding member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Dr. Welker has served on the board of advisors of the John Templeton Foundation. He is a member of the editorial boards of *Evangelische Theologie*, *Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie*, *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Process Studies*, *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, and *Verkündigung und Forschung*. The author of some 350 papers published in scholarly journals and in volumes of collected works, he has written or edited fifty books. Among his latest books are: *Theologische Profile: Schleiermacher—Barth—Bonhoeffer—Moltmann* (2009), *The Theology and Science Dialogue: What Can Theology Contribute?* (2012), and *God the Revealed: Christology* (2013). Dr. Welker's latest thinking on the kind of bridge building between realms of knowledge to which he has been a major contributor for decades can also be found in two new edited volumes, *The Spirit in Creation and New Creation: Science and Theology in Western and Orthodox Realms* (2012) and (with Gregor Etzelmüller) *Concepts of Law in the Sciences, Legal Studies, and Theology* (2013), and three books published in 2014: *The Depth of the Human Person: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (Wm. B. Eerdmans), (with Jürgen von Hagen) *Money as God? The Monetization of the Market and its Impact on Religion, Politics, Law, and Ethics* (Cambridge University Press), and *The Science and Religion Dialogue: Past and Future* (Peter Lang).

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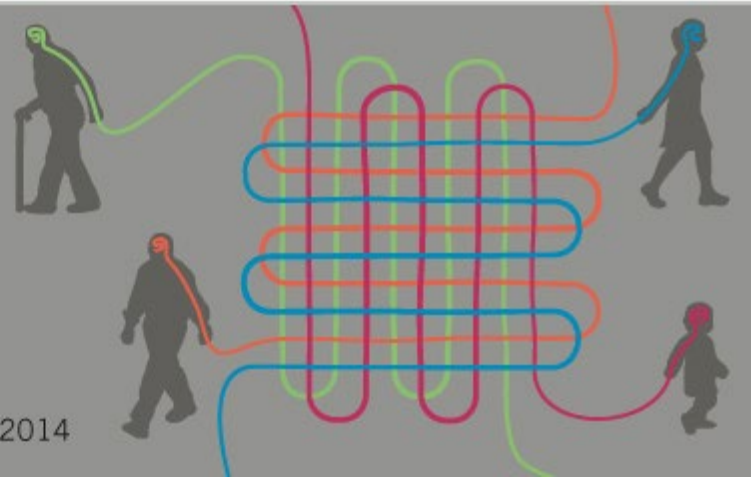
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## Participants

Professor of cognitive psychology, associate dean of research, and head of the psychology department at City University London, Martin A. Conway, FRSA, has been studying human memory for more than thirty years. He is known for his pioneering theoretical work on autobiographical memory, as well as for his studies of the neuropsychology of memory and memory's neurological basis. His research also includes memory impairment and enhancement, and he has recently explored the links between the ability of humans to remember past events and imagine future ones. A graduate of University College London, Dr. Conway earned a Ph.D. in psychology at Open University in 1984. He worked as a post-doctoral research scientist with the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge until 1988 when he was appointed a lecturer in psychology at the University of Lancaster. He moved on to the University of Bristol five years later as professor and chair of psychology and, in 1994, was named head of the university's department of experimental psychology. In 2001, he accepted appointment as professor of psychology at the University of Durham, where he also chaired the department for two years before becoming professor of psychology at the University of Leeds. He subsequently served for five years as head of Leeds's Institute of Psychological Sciences. Dr. Conway was named to his present position in 2012. A fellow of the Royal College of Arts, the British Psychological Society, the Academy of Social Sciences, the Psychonomic Society, and the American Psychological Association, he was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Liège. He has been active in providing accessible accounts of research on memory to the lay public through radio and television, and he has been involved in a variety of collaborations with artists that focus on remembering and forgetting. Dr. Conway has been an advisor in many legal cases, and he chaired the committee of the Research Board of the British Psychological Society that produced an influential report on memory, *Guidelines on Memory and the Law: Recommendations from the Scientific Study of Human Memory* (2008). He has published more

than 150 papers in scientific journals and volumes of collected works, and he is the editor or co-editor of seventeen books, including, most recently, (with Aikaterini Fotopoulou and Donald Plaff) *From the Couch to the Lab: Trends in Psychodynamic Neuroscience* (2012) and (with M.L. Howe) *Memory and the Law: Case Studies* (2013). Dr. Conway is the author of *Autobiographical Memory: An Introduction* (1990), *Flashbulb Memories* (1995), and the forthcoming *Autobiographical Memory*, which will be published later this year by Oxford University Press.

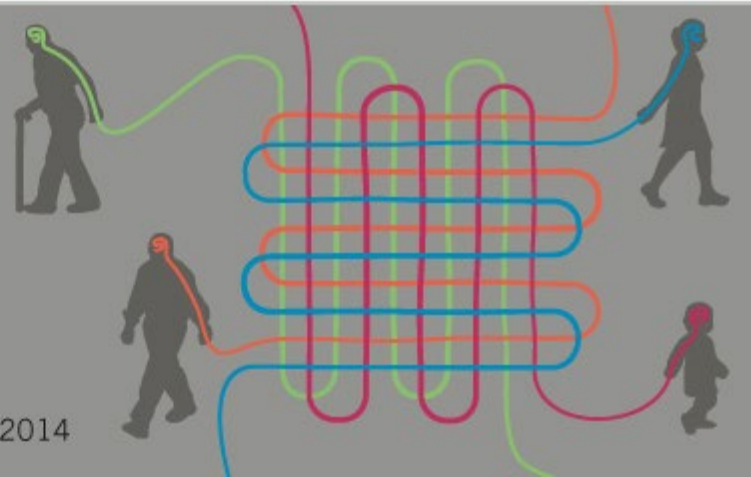
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Yadin Dudai, the Sara and Michael Sela Professor of Neurobiology at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is also the Albert and Blanche Wilner Family Global Distinguished Professor of Natural Science at New York University. His research focuses on the investigation of memory mechanisms in the brain, the veracity of memory, and the interaction of individual memory with the social milieu. He has contributed to the elucidation of the machinery of memory encoding, memory consolidation, and its experimental extinction in the mammalian neocortex. In addition, he studies collective memory and the evolution of cultural organs, such as the cinema. Dr. Dudai earned a baccalaureate degree with distinction at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He received a Ph.D. in biophysics from the Weizmann Institute in 1974 and did postgraduate work as a research fellow at the California Institute of Technology. There he worked with the biologist Seymour Benzer whose laboratory pioneered the neurogenetic analysis of memory mechanisms. Dr. Dudai returned to Weizmann as a senior scientist in 1976 and was named a full professor in 1988. He formerly served as Weizmann's dean of biology and chair of neurobiology. He has been a visiting professor at Columbia University's Center for Neurobiology and Behavior, Harvard University, Yale University, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, the Collège de France, and Boston University. He currently serves as scientific director of the Israeli Center of Research Excellence in the Cognitive Sciences and on the team of the Human Brain Project, part of the Flagship Program of the European Commission in connection with its initiative on Future and Emerging Technologies. A former president of the European Society of Molecular and Cellular Cognition and a former chair of the European Network on Learning and Memory, Dr. Dudai is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Association of Psychological Science, a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), and an honorary member of the Argentinian Society for Neuroscience. Among his many awards are the 2007 Eduardo De

Robertis Medal given by Institute of Cellular Biology and Neuroscience at the University of Buenos Aires and the 2013 Neuronal Plasticity Prize of the Foundation Ipsen. He is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Neurogenetics, Learning & Memory, Trends in Cognitive Science, and Behavioral Science & Policy. The author of some 200 papers published in scientific journals and volumes of collected works, he is the editor (with Henry L. Roediger and Susan M. Fitzpatrick) of Science of Memory: Concepts (2007). In addition to three books on scientific research in Israel and one, in Hebrew, on the biology of memory, Dr. Dudai is the author of The Neurobiology of Memory: Concepts, Findings, Trends (1989) and Memory from A to Z: Key Words, Concepts, and Beyond, which was published in 2002 by Oxford University Press.

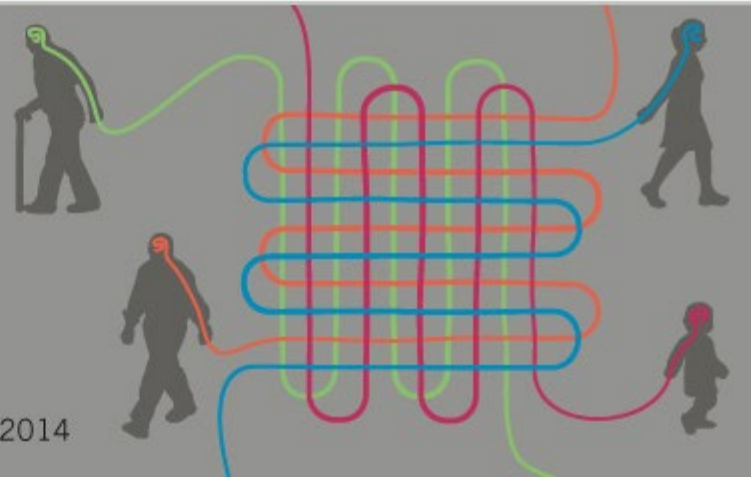
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Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology at Emory University, Robyn Fivush conducts research on early memory with an emphasis on the social construction of autobiographical memory. Her work focuses on how people remember and narrate the events of their lives and how these stories help define the self and relationships with others. She directs Emory's Family Narrative Lab and is a senior fellow in the university's Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Law and Religion. A graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Dr. Fivush earned her Ph.D. in psychology at City University of New York in 1983. She held a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Information Processing at the University of California, San Diego, before joining the Emory psychology faculty as an assistant professor in 1984. Named a full professor in 1996, she was appointed to her present chair in 2001. Dr. Fivush has served as director of Emory's Institute for Women's Studies and chaired its psychology department. She has been both a visiting professor and a William Evans Fellow at the University of Otago in New Zealand. A fellow of the American Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association (APA), she is the recipient of a Lilly Foundation Teaching Award. She formerly served on the board of scientific affairs of the APA, the board of directors of the Cognitive Development Society, and the governing board of the Jean Piaget Society, and she currently serves as a member of the governing board of the Society for Applied Research on Memory and Cognition. A member of the editorial board of *Memory Studies*, Dr. Fivush has been a guest editor of special issues of *Memory*, the *Journal of Cognition and Development*, and *Cognitive Development*. She has published some 160 papers in scientific journals and volumes of collected works and is the co-editor of seven books, including, most recently, (with Patricia J. Bauer) *The Wiley Handbook on the Development of Children's Memories*, a two-volume collection published last year by Wiley-Blackwell. Co-author (with Susan Golombok) of *Gender Development* (1994), she is completing a new book, *How We Remember*

Ourselves: The Development of Autobiographical Memory, for Psychology Press.

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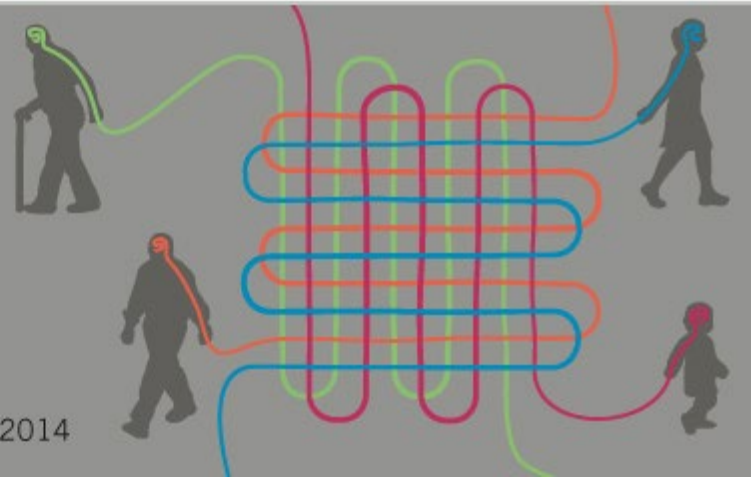
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William Hirst, a professor of psychology at The New School for Social Research, is a cognitive scientist who studies memory and attention with a special focus on social remembering. Among his various research projects, he is conducting a large-scale investigation of 9/11 memories with colleagues throughout the United States. The project is shedding new light on the memory-making role of emotions. Dr. Hirst received a baccalaureate degree from Carnegie Mellon University and earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Cornell University in 1976. He was a postdoctoral fellow at The Rockefeller University, where he subsequently taught psychology for two years before moving on to Princeton University as an assistant professor of psychology in 1980. Six years later, he was named a research associate professor in the neurology department of what is now Weil Cornell Medical College, and in 1987 he joined the psychology faculty of the New School. Appointed a full professor in 1991, he has twice chaired the school's psychology department and served as acting dean. Dr. Hirst currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General Cognition*, *Brain, Behavior and Memory Studies*, and he has edited special issues of three journals, *Social Research*, *Social Psychology*, and *Memory Studies*, on collective and social memory. The author of some 120 papers published in scientific journals or volumes of collected works, he has edited four books: (with J.E. LeDoux) *Mind and Brain: Dialogues in Cognitive Neuroscience* (1986), *The Making of Cognitive Science: Essays in Honor of George A. Miller* (1988), (with Eugene Winograd and Robyn Fivush) *Ecological Approaches to Cognition* (1999), and, most recently, (with Boicho Kokinov) *Constructive Memory*, which was published in 2003 by New Bulgarian University Press.

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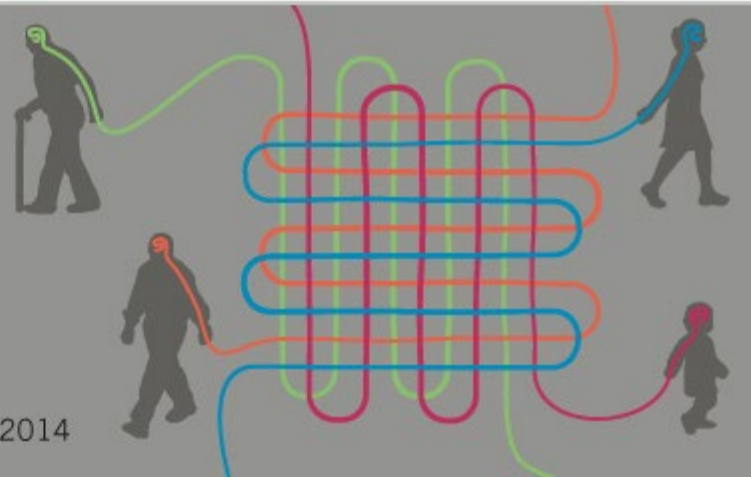
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A professor clinical psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London, Andrew K. MacLeod is the director of clinical psychological training at Royal Holloway. His research has focused on future-directed thinking and the processes underlying it, including the role of memory. The main applied thrust of his investigations has been to try to understand how different ways of thinking about the future relate to various types of emotional distress in clinical groups and to different facets of well-being in the general population. His work has presented empirical and conceptual support for the importance of positive cognition in mental health and the value of enhancing positive aspects of experiences (as well as reducing negative ones) in treating depression and promoting human flourishing. Educated at the University of Aberdeen where he took first-class honors, Dr. MacLeod earned a Ph.D. in psychology in 1991 at Cambridge University, where he also trained as a clinical psychologist. He then joined the psychology faculty of Royal Holloway as a lecturer and was named a full professor in 2004. He has published some eighty papers in scientific journals and volumes of collected works. He is currently completing a book, *Prospection: Well-Being and Mental Health*, which will be published by Oxford University Press.

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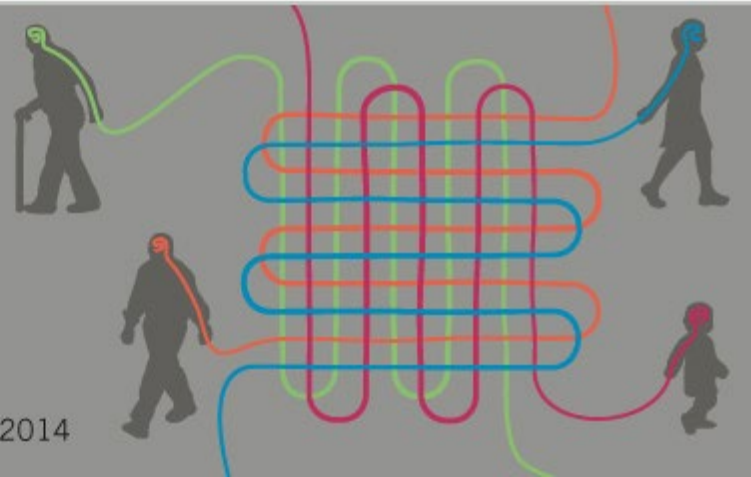
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Jeffrey K. Olick, professor of sociology and history at the University of Virginia (UVA), is a social theorist who is recognized as one of the world's preeminent sociologists of memory. He has played a major role in reviving the concept of "collective memory" as an organizing process of meaning-making through time. His work has been integral in the turn toward a new approach to the sociological study of culture that insists collective representations not be treated as concrete and material realities but seen as processes structured through ongoing practice. Dr. Olick's empirical studies have focused on how catastrophic, terrible pasts, particularly the Holocaust in post-war Germany, are remembered and how those shared memories, as they change, shape politics and culture. A graduate of Swarthmore College with high honors, he was awarded a Ph.D. in sociology with departmental distinction by Yale University in 1993. Dr. Olick then joined the Columbia University sociology faculty as an instructor and was appointed an associate professor in 2000. Four years later, he moved on to UVA as an associate professor of sociology and was named to his present position in 2007. He currently chairs the university's sociology department. A fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, Dr. Olick has published some twenty-five papers in scholarly journals and encyclopedias. He is the editor of two books, *States of Memory: Continuities, Conflicts, and Transformations in National Retrospection* (2003) and (with Vered Vinitzky-Seroussi and Daniel Levy) *The Collective Memory Reader* (2011). With Andrew J. Perrin, he has translated and edited two companion volumes previously unavailable in English, *Guilt and Defense: On the Legacies of National Socialism in Postwar Germany* (2010) and *Group Experiment and Other Writings: The Frankfurt School on Public Opinion in Postwar Germany* (2011). He is also the author of three other books: *In the House of the Hangman: The Agonies of German Defeat, 1943-1949* (2005), *The Politics of Regret: On Collective Memory and Historical Responsibility* (2008 and 2013), and *The Sins of the Fathers: Germany, Memory, and Method*, a study of changing images of the Nazi past in German

politics, which will be published later this year by the University of Chicago Press.

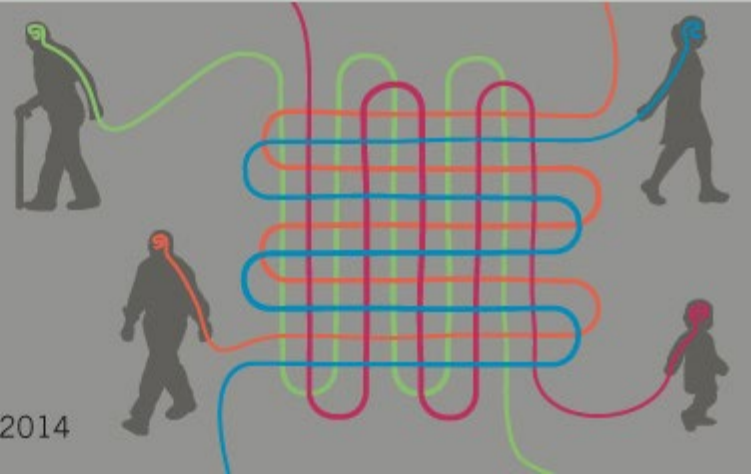
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## Participants

Martin Buber Professor of Comparative Religion Emeritus at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and professor emeritus of the study of Abrahamic religions at Oxford University, Guy G. Stroumsa has focused much of his research and writing on cultural memory in the context of seeking to understand and explicate the dynamics of encounters between religious traditions in the Mediterranean world from the mid-1st through the mid-7th centuries. He has shown that transformations within one Abrahamic religion have had an impact upon the other Abrahamic communities in what he has called the Abrahamic eco-system. He also has examined the birth of the study of religion in the modern period. Born and raised in Paris, Dr. Stroumsa studied at the École Normale Israélite Orientale under the philosopher Emmanuel Lévinas and at the Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Economiques of the University of Paris before graduating cum laude from Hebrew University. He earned an M.A. at Harvard University, did further graduate work in religious sciences at the École Pratique des Hautes, Paris, and received a Ph.D. with distinction in comparative religion at Harvard in 1978. Returning as a lecturer to Hebrew University, where he served for six years as the founding director of the Center for the Study of Christianity, he was named Martin Buber Professor in 1991, a position he held until his retirement in 2009. He then went to Oxford as the first professor of the study of Abrahamic religions and a professional fellow of Lady Margaret Hall (LMH). When he retired last year, LMH elected him to an emeritus fellowship. Dr. Stroumsa has been a visiting professor at the École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem, the University of Montreal, the University of Geneva, Complutense University of Madrid, Goethe University Frankfurt, the Fondazione Istituto San Carlo in Modena, Italy, the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, and the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a visiting fellow at Penn's Center for Judaic Studies, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., Wolfson College, Oxford, the Annenberg Institute in Philadelphia, the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany, the Program in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, and the Institute for Advanced

Study at Bologna University. Awarded an honorary degree from the University of Zurich, he is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He is the recipient of a Humboldt Research Award and a Médaille d'Or de la Ville de Toulouse, and in 2011, he was named a Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite. Dr. Stroumsa is currently a member of the academic advisory board of the Center for Hellenic Traditions at the Central European University, and he serves as co-editor of two book series, (with David Shulman) Jerusalem Studies in Religion and Culture published by Brill and (with Adam Silverstein) Studies in Abrahamic Religions published by Oxford University Press (OUP), as well as on several editorial boards. In addition to some 120 papers published in scholarly journals, he is the author of ten books in French, English, and German, which include: Another Seed: Studies in Gnostic Mythology (1984), Hidden Wisdom: Traditions and Roots of Christian Mysticism (1996 and 2005), Barbarian Philosophy: The Religious Revolutions of Early Christianity (1999), The End of Sacrifice: Religious Transformations in Late Antiquity (2005 and first English edition 2009), and A New Science: The Discovery of Religion in the Age of Reason (2011), an epistemological and historiographical study of the modern European origins of a discipline, which was named by Choice as an Outstanding Academic Title of the year. He is also the editor of seventeen other books, including, most recently, (with Beale Dignas and Robert B. Parker) Priests and Prophets among Pagans, Jews and Christians, which was published by Peeters last year, and the forthcoming (with Adam Silverstein) Oxford Handbook of the Abrahamic Religions for OUP.

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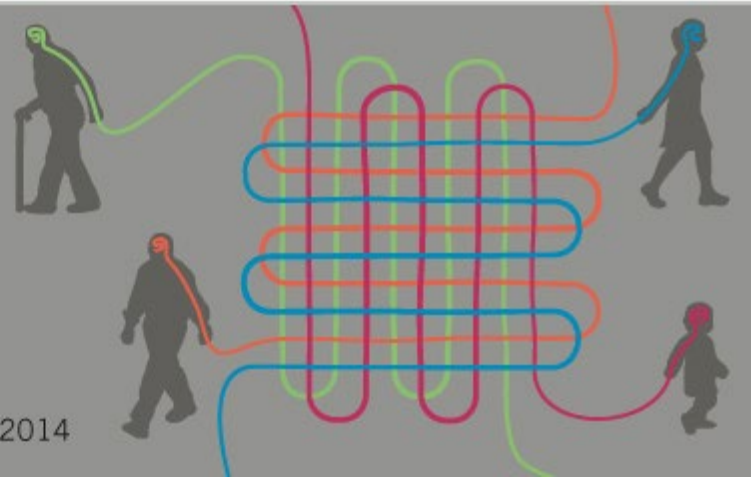
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# Imagining What Might Be:

*Memory and the Power  
of Connectivity*

The Cornell Club | New York City | 6, 7, and 8 June 2014


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## Participants

John Sutton, professor of cognitive science at Macquarie University, is a philosopher of mind who investigates links between autobiographical and social memory and, more broadly, works in the arena of interdisciplinary memory studies. His writing combines empirical research, historical scholarship, and theoretical integration. He also studies perspective in remembering and imagining, as well as embodied skill and kinesthetic memory. He has worked on dreaming and on cognition and culture, among a range of other topics in cognitive theory and in the history of science and philosophy. Educated at New College, Oxford, where he took first-class honors in classics, Dr. Sutton received a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Sydney in 1993. He then joined the Macquarie philosophy faculty as a lecturer, a post he held for two years before moving to the Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles as an Ahmanson-Getty Postdoctoral Fellow. He was subsequently an ARC (Australian Research Council) Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Sydney, and in 1998 returned to Macquarie as a lecturer in philosophy. Appointed associate professor and head of the philosophy department in 2005, he was named to his present position three years later. Since 2012, he has served as deputy head of the cognitive science department, and he is a member of the university's Centre for Agency, Values, and Ethics and its Centre for Elite Performance, Expertise, and Training. Dr. Sutton has been a European Enlightenment Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, a visiting fellow in philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, and a visiting scholar at the Centre for Memory Studies at Warwick University. Co-editor of *Memory Studies*, he serves as joint editor of two book series for Palgrave Macmillan, *Memory Studies* and *New Directions in Philosophy and Cognitive Science*, and on the editorial boards of *Neuroethics*, *The Fiberculture Journal*, and *Philosophical Psychology*. He is the author of some sixty papers published in academic journals and volumes of collected works, and he has edited six special issues of journals. He is the author of

Philosophy and Memory Traces: Descartes to Connectionism (1998), a book that interweaves a discussion of cognitive theories of memory with questions of psychological control and self-mastery, and the editor (with Stephen Gaukroger and John Schuster) of Descartes' Natural Philosophy (2000) and (with Laurie Johnson and Evelyn Tribble) of Embodied Cognition and Shakespeare's Theatre: The Early Modern Body-Mind, which was published this spring by Routledge.

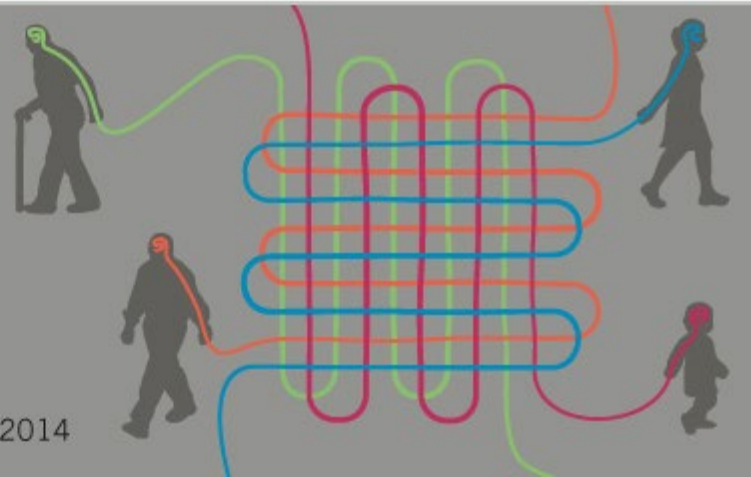
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## Participants

A professor of psychology at Cornell University, Qi Wang conducts research that integrates developmental, cognitive, and socio-cultural perspectives to examine the mechanisms responsible for the creation over time of autobiographical memory. Her focus, in particular, is on the relationship between autobiographical memory and the self as they co-mingle and develop across the life course and in the context of culture. She has undertaken extensive studies to determine how cultural self-constructs sustain autobiographical remembering by affecting information processing at the level of the individual and by shaping social practices of remembering between individuals. A graduate of Peking University, Dr. Wang earned a Ph.D. in psychology in 2000 at Harvard University, where she was a teaching fellow. She then joined the Cornell psychology faculty as an assistant professor and was made a full professor in 2011. The recipient of a Young Scientist Award from the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, an Early Career Contributions Award given by the Society for Research in Child Development, and an Innovative Research Program Award from Cornell's Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center, she has been a visiting professor at Peking University. Dr. Wang serves as a consulting editor to *Indigenous Psychological Research in Chinese Societies* and on the editorial boards of *Memory Studies*, the *Chinese Journal of Psychology*, and the *Journal of Cognition and Development*. She is the author of more than eighty-five papers published in scientific journals and in volumes of collected works. Her first book, *The Autobiographical Self in Time and Culture*, a study that shows how the self that is made of memories of the personal past is formed and shaped by the process of family storytelling situated in specific cultural contexts, was published last year by Oxford University Press.

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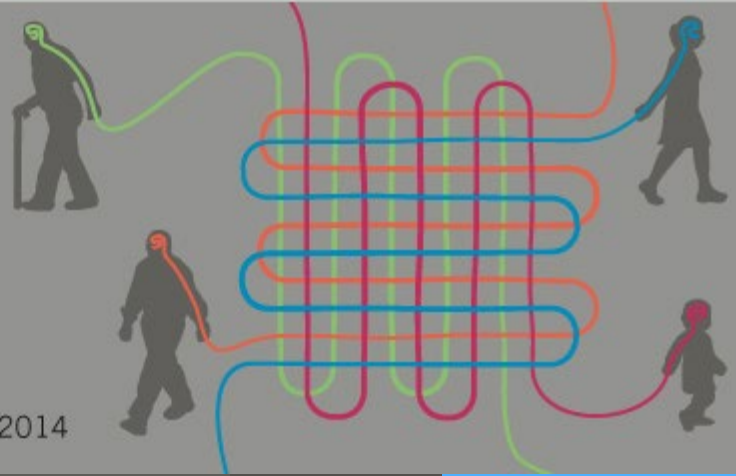
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## Participants

James E. Young is Distinguished University Professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he directs the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies. He has written extensively on public art, memorials, and national memory. He served on the jury for the design competition, won by Michael Arad, for the National September 11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan, which opened in 2011. Earlier, he was appointed by the Berlin Senate to the five-member Findungskommission for Germany's national Memorial to Europe's Murdered Jews, which selected Peter Eisenman's design for a stele field that opened near the Brandenburg Gate in 2005, a half century after the end of World War II. A graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Young earned an M.A. in English and education at the University of California, Berkeley, and, after studying at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University in Jerusalem on a Silberman International Fellowship, he received a Ph.D. in literature from Santa Cruz in 1981. He spent a year at Bryn Mawr College as a visiting assistant professor of religion, then moved to New York University (NYU) as an assistant professor and Dorot Fellow in English and Hebrew/Judaic studies in 1984. Four years later, he joined the faculties of English and Judaic studies at UMass Amherst, where he was appointed a full professor in 1994 and named to his present chair in 2010. Dr. Young served as guest curator of "The Art of Memory" at The Jewish Museum in New York from 1989 to 1994 and edited the exhibition catalog, *Holocaust Memorials in History: The Art of Memory* (1994); he was also co-curator of the "Nauch-Bilder des Holocaust" exhibition at the Neues Weserburg Museum in Bremen, Germany, in 2004. He has been Walker Ames Visiting Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington, a visiting professor at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy, and at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, and a Stewart Visiting Professor at the Center for the Humanities at Princeton University. He also has held a Yad Hanadiv/Barecha Foundation Fellowship at Hebrew University, a John Simon

Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, a senior research fellowship at the Russell Sage Foundation, and a senior fellowship at the Remarque Institute at NYU, where he is an invited permanent member. He is the recipient of a UMass Amherst Chancellor's Medal and a Distinction in Rebuilding Award from former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. A member of the advisory boards of the Remarque Institute and the Ghetto Museum in Terezín, the Czech Republic, as well as of the academic advisory board of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Michigan, he also serves as a member of the academic committee of the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He is American associate editor of *The Jewish Quarterly* and a member of the editorial boards of *Memory Studies*, *Jewish Book Annual*, *Patterns of Prejudice*, *Judaism*, *Dimensions: A Journal of Holocaust Studies*, and *Studies in Audio-Visual Testimony*. Dr. Young serves as editor-in-chief of the ten-volume series, *The Posen Library of Jewish Cultural and Civilization*, being published by Yale University Press. The author of some 150 papers published in scholarly journals or volumes of collected works, he is the author of the first critical study to apply modern literary theory to Holocaust material, *Writing and Rewriting the Holocaust: Narrative and the Consequences of Interpretation* (1988), which won a Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award and was subsequently translated into German and Swedish, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning* (1993), which won the National Jewish Book Award, and *At Memory's Edge: After-Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture*, a collection of essays, which was published by Yale University Press in 2000 (German edition 2001) and tells the inside story of Germany's national Holocaust memorial and his own role in it, as well as considering more broadly how a contemporary generation of artists can remember the Shoah they never experienced and contribute to the discussion of the nature of memory. He is presently completing a new book tentatively entitled *The Stages of Memory at Ground Zero: A Juror's Report on the World Trade Center Site Memorial*.

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