Join Radboud Summer School 2017!

Things to Remember: Materiality, Memory and Identity
We remember the past materially. That is to say, the objects with which we surround ourselves are laden with memories. Some objects we preserve, others we throw away. Certain objects we cherish as our inheritance, while we are less attached to others. When we recall the past or want to share a memory with friends and family, we use photographs or souvenirs that we bought on a holiday trip. Over time, these objects will define what we will remember of the past, as well as how we remember it. Likewise, memorials and monuments are collective expressions of the will to remember particular events and, simultaneously, forget others that we deem less important or too disturbing to recall. Still, sometimes events that we choose to forget about manifest themselves unexpectedly in the form of objects we come across in the depth of wardrobes and drawers while moving house or, in a radically different context, a mass grave giving evidence of genocide at an unlikely location. While we reconnect with the past through objects, recent theories of material culture demonstrate that the material world is not simply a tool for us to remember but it can also build memories on its own. Recent scientific achievements, as well as the advance and ubiquity of digital devices at our disposal, bear testament to the ability of objects to remember for us, rather than we remembering through them.

This course aims to introduce you to cutting-edge research that combines the recent achievements of Cultural Memory Studies and Material Culture Studies. Collectively known as the material turn in the humanities and social sciences, the recent upsurge of interest in materiality has given rise to a variety of theories, ranging from Bill Brown’s “Thing Theory” through various forms of New Materialism, that have significantly influenced research into cultural memory over the past years. It sets out to acquaint you with this rich body of research and theory in the form of lectures and seminars. In addition, the layered history of the city of Nijmegen and its surroundings yields a variety material remains to explore from the ancient Romans to the memorialization of the city’s destruction during World War II. We will visit these sites in the form of field trips designed to apply and “test out” the theories discussed in classroom settings.
After this course you are able to
- Reflect critically on diverse practices of remembering in the material world. Apply theoretical perspectives and methodological tools to studying memory and materiality to diverse cultural contexts
- Raise questions and articulate problems pertinent to the fields of Memory Studies and Material Culture Studies
- Identify the role of power relations in practices of memory

**Numer of EC**
2 ECTS credits

**Entry level**
Advanced bachelor, Master and PhD

**Course leader**
Dr. Laszlo Muntean, Assistant Professor, Cultural Studies (ACW) Radboud University

This course is designed for students interested in cultural memory, history, anthropology, archaeology, and material culture.

If you have a background in the humanities as well as the social and natural sciences you will equally benefit from the course.

**Admission documents**
CV

**Dates**
Monday 14 August - Friday 18 August 2017
Want to be part of the RSS experience?

Course fee
€ 400

Discounts
• 10% discount if you register before April 1, 2017.
• 15% additional partner-discount for students from partner universities on all course fees!
  See website for complete partner list!

More than just a course!
Radboud Summer School is more than an academic event. It is a unique opportunity to meet other international students and researchers and to get to know Radboud University and the city of Nijmegen. Our participants come from all over the world and have different cultural and academic backgrounds. Our programme includes the following activities free of charge: welcome reception, sports activity, guest lecture and farewell drink. We offer also a BBQ, River Cruise, City Tour, Pub quiz and excursion for a small fee.

Have a look at what participants had to say about their experience!

And do not forget to register now!

Deadline application
June 1, 2017

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www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool, August 6-18 2017