

Remembering and forgetting in making experience matter: issues of detail, place and time.

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This paper examines social practices of remembering and forgetting. It is part of a broader social psychological project studying memory as a relational process in order to overcome the spatial bias in both psychological and sociological approaches. In other words, experience is not studied as being contained in memory, whether individual or collective. The aim is to move away from experience as lived in some linear unfolding of time where memory is taken as the vehicle for linking past, present and future. Memory remains at the centre of lived experience, not as the storehouse of that experience, but, instead, as a relational process at intersections of different durations of living. The particular aim of this paper is to illustrate how, as we endure in time, our rhythm living is slowed or quickened in relation to the durations of others. Drawing on the work of Bartlett, Halbwachs and Bergson the aim is to illustrate how experience matters, not so much in terms of what happened in the past, but in terms of how futures are built back into the past in ways that make for the possibility of becoming different. Imaginary futures in the past are of particular significance in this process. Issues of detail, place and time engage us in imaginative effort after meaning where imaginative hesitations are a consequence of intersecting durations of living.