

Don't forget to remember: mnemohistory's role in shaping education's future

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Mnemohistory

1. Educational reforms often privilege innovation and futurity over memory and heritage.
2. Yet education is almost always already historical!?
3. Mnemohistory (Tamm, 2024): not just the study of past events, but how those events are remembered, mediated and mobilised in the present.
4. This talk explores how collective memory intersects with educational practices, and how historical narratives shape what is considered **legitimate** knowledge.

From history to mnemohistory

1. Coined by Jan Assmann, developed by scholars like Tamm (2024).
2. Moves beyond positivist history >> asks how history is **remembered** and used in the present.
3. Mnemohistory is selective, affective and also constructed: **an act of remembrance** that can be both emancipatory and exclusionary.
4. Operates within the cultural memory framework: memory as stored in texts, rituals and institutional practices (Assmann, 2011).

1. Dominant curricula often reproduce colonial, patriarchal and ableist narratives (Apple, 2004).
2. **Past exclusions** shape present educational access: who teaches, who learns and what is taught?
3. Mnemohistory uncovers silences and erasures in the historical record that perpetuate inequality.
4. Enables critical memory work: reflecting on past injustices to reshape the educational future (Wertsch, 2002).

**Inclusive
education?**

Bridging the past and future

1. Connects history education, curriculum theory, hauntology (Derrida, Fisher) and memory studies.
2. Encourages pedagogies of remembrance (Simon, 2005) and affective learning.
3. Links **past-present-future** in what Cowan (2014, p. 201) calls '*subplans held within a master plan*'.
4. Engages with haunted education: how unresolved histories (institutionalisation, political repression....) linger in classrooms?



Education as a mnemonic project

1. Not about restoring the past but **reclaiming** its meanings to imagine futures more justly.
2. Remembering becomes a strategic practice.