

COLLECTIVE MEMORY WORKSHOP

11-12 MAY 2022

InterGender event (irl) for PhD Candidates*

organized by María Vlachou and Ruben Hordijk (Linköping University)

Join us for a two-day in person event where we will explore collective memory work (CMW) as a method step-by-step. The aim is to introduce collaborative and affective methods that counter the academic expectations and norms that individualize, isolate and de-socialize our work and reproduce the mind/body split by valuing cerebral intellectual output over embodied and relational experience. Instead, CMW takes as its point of departure that we are relational complex emotional beings, and that academic work needs to reflect such relation, complexity and wholeness of each and everyone. Next to that, the purpose of the InterGender events is to create and cultivate our cross-national gender studies network of support and solidarity. Because of the importance of relation and embodiment, we decided that it is important -especially nowadays- to gather in person rather than meeting online, despite the logistic difficulties and pandemic-related uncertainties. If there are dramatic pandemic-related changes then we will turn it into a one-day online event (11 May) instead.

**This event is directed at PhD Candidates associated with the Partner Units/Organizations of InterGender.*

Location

Norrköping LiU Campus, Sweden

Schedule

11 May

12:30—18:00: Collective Memory workshop
(Lunch and dinner are not included)

12 May

9:00—12:30: Collaborative Writing session

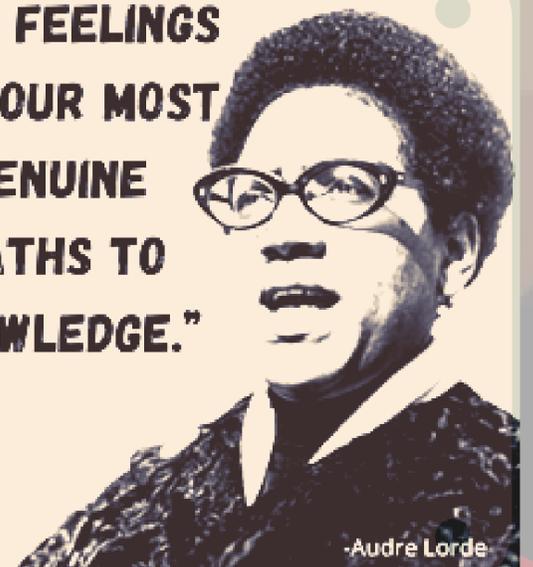
Registration

You can register by sending an email with a short motivation letter (100-300 words) to [ruben.hordijk\[at\]liu.se](mailto:ruben.hordijk@liu.se) by 3 April. The maximum number of participants will be twelve (including María and Ruben). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Funding

The event is free. In terms of traveling costs, we can offer four grants of 1500 SEK (ca. € 140) each. If you wish to apply for this grant, please provide a brief extra motivation in your registration email.

**"OUR FEELINGS
ARE OUR MOST
GENUINE
PATHS TO
KNOWLEDGE."**



-Audre Lorde

What is Collective Memory Work?

CMW was developed in the 80s by Frigga Haug and a group of women called frauenformen (women's forms). Briefly, CMW takes the everyday experiences of participants in memory work groups as a starting point in order to shed light on often marginalised/silenced perspectives on the sociopolitical organisation of life at a specific tempo-locality. *In practice*, we will start by writing a short memory related to the chosen topic.

The written memories will be anonymised and read by everyone in the group. *Please note* that strong emotions often come up during CMW and that we must collectively create a response-able and safe environment for each other and ourselves.

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The Event

The first day we will do a CMW session together, centered around a topic of our own collective choosing. We will end the CMW session with some relaxing yoga-inspired breathing exercises led by María Vlachou (please bring a mat or a blanket with you if you can). During the second day, we will have our final morning session focused on collaborative writing to explore other, relational and creative modes of academic writing that draws on our exploration of the previous day.

One important aspect of CMW is that it is democratic and self-organized. We will therefore not decide beforehand what the exact focus of our CMW session will be. We will dedicate enough time to decide consensus-based together. Possible topics are our experiences in the neoliberal university, doing a PhD in gender studies, acceleration and social media, climate crisis, academia vs. the outside world/academic feminism vs. street feminism. If you have other suggestions or wishes for a topic to be explored, please feel free to mention that in your registration email.

A warm welcome!