

Cahiers d'histoire

Call for papers

Of Memory and History

Due date for proposals: **January 10, 2021**

Deadline for articles: **May 10, 2021**

Les Cahiers d'histoire journal is presently accepting proposals for its 2021 regular issue, co-directed by PhD candidate Luca Sollai and Professor Samir Saul. This number will address a debate around the interactions between **history** and **memory**. More precisely, we wish to reflect on the epistemological distinction made by Pierre Nora in the 1980s: « The collective memory, globalizing and borderless, blurred and telescoping, is a matter of belief, only assimilating what strengthens itself. Analytical and critical, precise and distinct, the historical memory is the domain of reason, which instructs without convincing »¹

In the context of the Shoah's praxis of remembrance, Pierre Nora offered an epistemological reflection on the relation between memory and history. His reflection allowed a renewal of the figure of the witnesses who were formerly attached to the identity of the historian. In this new context, the witness became a vehicle for the transmission and diffusion of memories, and gradually began to occupy a place of significance in our collective recollections of the past.

The emergence of the witness also strengthens the process of historical analysis conducted by historians. The concept brought to the forefront the limits of traditional sources for the reconstruction of certain historical subjects. The limits can be overcome by providing elements of factual knowledge that are unavailable in other types of primary sources. Through their lived experiences, witnesses can describe atmospheres, explain attitudes, feelings and emotions that are sometimes imperceptible in what are considered traditional archival sources.

Reflections on the relation between history and memory began a few decades ago but are still relevant today. Whether it is by the unbolting of the statue of John A. MacDonald, the Amherst street being renamed to Atateken street, or the more recent petition asking for

¹ Pierre Nora, « La mémoire collective », in Jacques Le Goff (dir.), *La nouvelle histoire*, (Paris : Éditions Complexe), 1988, 332

historical contextualization for dictator Benito Mussolini's fresco in the Church of Notre-Dame de la Défense, the city of Montreal is no exception to this aforementioned process.

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In view of these preliminary reflections, the goal of this issue of *Les Cahiers d'histoire* is to regroup articles from different fields within the humanities, as long as they incorporate a historical dimension and the methodological bases of the historical discipline. Here is a non-exhaustive list of topics that could be addressed:

- Opposition and/or collaboration between history and memory
- The creation of archives, their existence, their history
- Links between media and memory
- The construction of a national/ collective/ individual identity, its maintenance or its questioning
- Links between gender identity and memory
- The transmission of culture and traditions
- The role of institutions in the construction of collective memories
- The use of history and/or memory in today's social and/or political debates
- History and memory as an instrument for emancipation (or repression) of visible minorities
- The international in memory

Those interested are warmly invited to submit a **300-word** proposal describing their intended articles, including references and primary sources used, as well as explaining clearly the article's originality and contribution. Proposals must be submitted no later than **January 10, 2021**. Completed articles must count **between 7,000 and 10,000- words** (endnotes included) and must be received by the editors no later than **May 10, 2021** for the evaluation process. Articles may be written in either English or French. Feel free to include images in your document if they are relevant to your research or study.

Les Cahiers d'histoire expects to receive articles that follow the specific **presentation and formatting guidelines**, which are available online: <http://www.cahiershistoire.org/directives.html>. **Please submit your proposals, or write with any requests for additional information at: publication@cahiershistoire.org.** *A few reviews ranging from 700 to 800 words including footnotes, on books related to this issue's theme will also be accepted. Write to us at recensions@cahiershistoire.org with your review proposal.*