

BERLIN
BERLIN
BERLIN
BERLIN
BERLIN
BERLIN
BERLIN

YUQING EVA CAO

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course and Learning Objectives

Objective 1:

Develop an understanding of land narratives by conceptualizing and conducting historical, social, and cultural research. Learn how to articulate findings through media-based storytelling that explores themes of conflict lands, colonial lands, urbanization lands, resource extraction lands, identity, displacement, and territorial conflict etc.

Objective 2:

Examine the role of Monuments, Counter-monuments, and contested memory in shaping land narratives. Engage with theoretical and artistic perspectives on how sites of memory function in public space, interrogating historical representation, trauma, and the politics of remembrance.

Objective 3:

Analyze Ostalgie and its relationship to nostalgia, memory, and cultural identity in post-socialist landscapes. Ungleiche Vereint, unequally united. Ossification is used as a metaphor to describe what has happened in East Germany since 1990. Investigate how material culture, collective memory, and shifting political narratives influence the perception of land, place, and belonging.

Objective 4:

Critically explore the intersections of gentrification, migration, and urban transformation, with a focus on Turkish migrant populations and the phenomenon of Gastarbeiter (guest workers) in Berlin. Study the spatial, social, and political dimensions of displacement, integration, and transnational identity, situating these processes within broader land narratives.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction – Berlin as a Site of Memory and Conflict

Overview of course themes: monuments, nostalgia, migration, and urban transformation

Introduction to Berlin's historical layers: Cold War division, post-socialism, gentrification

Readings:

Pierre Nora, "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire"

Week 2: What Do Monuments Want? – The Role of Monuments in Berlin

The politics of commemoration: who gets remembered, and why?

The role of monuments in contested landscapes

Readings:

W.J.T Mitchell, "What Do Monuments Want?"

James E. Young, "The Texture of Memory" (pp. 1–15)

Week 3: Counter-Monuments and the Ethics of Remembering

The counter-monument movement in Germany

How do counter-monuments challenge historical narratives?

Readings:

James E. Young, "Memory, Countermemory, and the End of the Monument"

Quentin Stevens, Karen A. Franck, and Ruth Fazakerley, "Counter Monumental, the Anti-Monumental and the Dialogic"

Week 4: Trauma, Public Space, and the Memory of Violence

How does trauma shape public memory and space?

The role of art and design in representing historical violence

Readings:

Judith Herman, Trauma and Recovery

Zadie Smith, "What Do We Want History to Do to Us?"

Week 5 : Reunification and the Borders of Identity

How did reunification reshape Berlin's social and spatial divisions?

Borders, memory, and the experience of change

Readings:

Daphne Berdahl, "Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland"

Kristen Ghodsee, Red Hangover: Legacies of Twentieth-Century Communism

Stephen Mau, Ungleich Vereint (Unequally united)

Week 6: Berlin and the Memory of the GDR – Understanding Ostalgie

Introduction to Ostalgie: nostalgia for East Germany

Commodification of socialist memory in post-reunification Berlin

Readings:

Dominic Boyer, "Ostalgie and the Politics of the Future in Eastern Germany"

Daphne Berdahl, "(N)Ostalgie for the Present"

Week 7 : Material Culture and Everyday Life in the Former East Germany

East German artifacts and their role in contemporary memory

How is nostalgia connected to physical objects and urban space?

Readings:

Jonathan Bach, "The Things They Carried (and Kept)"

Daphne Berdahl, "On the Social Life of Postsocialism"

Week 8: Turkish Immigration to Germany

Turkish workers were invited to Germany to help rebuild post-war Germany. Turkey was the fourth country to sign such a deal, allowing its young, single male workers to stay in Germany for up to two years. The recruitment agreement between the federal republic of Germany and Turkey was signed on 30 Oct, 1961—the so-called Gastarbeiter, (guest workers).

Readings:

Ruth Mandel. Turkish Challenges to Citizenship and Belonging in Germany (2008)

Sarah Thomsen Vierra. Turkish Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany: Immigration, Space, and Belonging, 1961–1990.

Leslie A. Adelson. The Turkish Turn in Contemporary German Literature: Toward a New Critical.

Karin Hunn. Nichts als 'Gastarbeiter'?: Die Anwerbung türkischer Arbeitskräfte in der Bundesrepublik 1961-1973 (2005)

Rita Chin. *The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany*.

Week 9: Turkish Communities - Space, Belonging, and Exclusion

Urban spaces of Turkish communities in Berlin

Readings:

Sarah Thomsen Vierra, "Turkish Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany: Immigration, Space, and Belonging, 1961–1990"

Annika Marlen Hinze, "Turkish Berlin: Integration Policy and Urban Space"

Week 10 : Gentrification and the Transformation of Berlin's Urban Spaces

The impact of gentrification on historical and immigrant neighborhoods

Who benefits from urban renewal?

Readings:

Ilse Helbrecht and Hedwig Braun, "Now the German Comes: The Ethnic Effect of Gentrification in Berlin"

Ayse Caglar and Nina Glick Schiller, "Housing Experiences of Turkish (Im)migrants in Berlin and Istanbul"

Week 11: Migration and Transnational Belonging

How does migration reshape urban landscapes?

The transnational identity of Turkish Germans

Readings:

Ayse Duman, "A Case Study on Neighborhood Use of Young Turkish Newcomers in Berlin"

Şeyla Benhabib and Peter C. Meilaender (eds.), *Turks in Europe: From Guest Worker to Transnational Citizen*

Week 12: Memory, Displacement, and Protest in Berlin's Public Space

The intersection of migration, memory, and activism

How do protests shape the identity of Berlin's urban spaces?

Readings:

Case studies of urban protests in Berlin

Berlin's Alternative Monument for Migration to Launch, Blending Art and Digital Spaces

Migrants: Pictograms of Migration in Public Spaces

Visibilities and the Politics of Space: Refugee Activism in Berlin

Week 13: Final Project – Storytelling and Land Narratives

Workshop session: developing a project that examines Berlin's conflict lands through memory, space, and identity

Integrating research, fieldwork, and creative practice.

RESEARCH TO VISUALISATION



INSTALLATION

The Land as Palimpsest: Conflict, Memory and Transformation in Berlin.

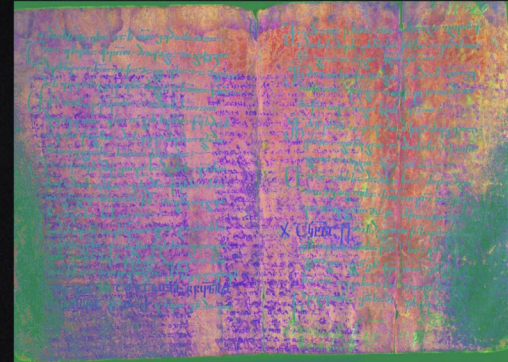
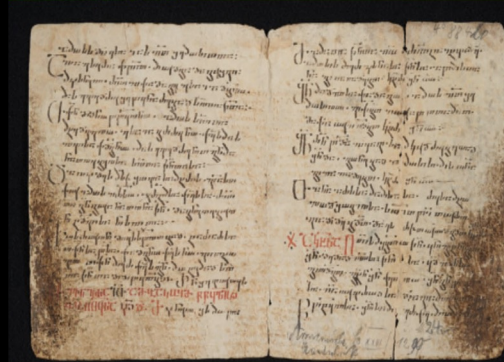
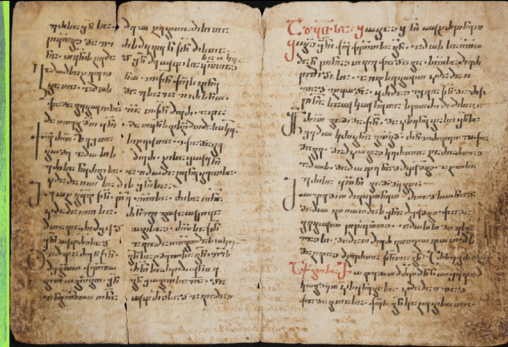
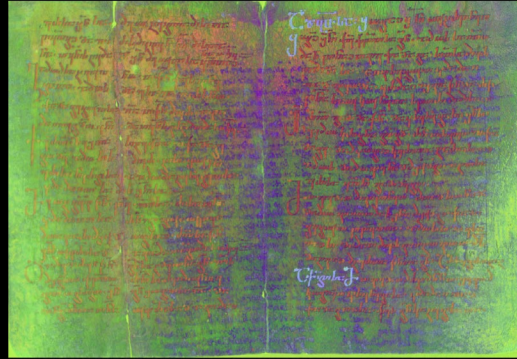
- ***MONUMENTS & COUNTER-MONUMENTS***
- ***(N)OSTALGIE NARRATED THROUGH TOUCHDESIGNER IMMERSION***
- ***STREET ART AS PROTEST AGAINST GENTRIFICATION & ERASURE***

Visual Elements: Layering, Erasure, Transparency, Hauntology...

OVERARCHING CONCEPT

A palimpsest is originally a manuscript or piece of writing material that's reused after the original text was erased ...

Metaphorically, it's something that has multiple layers of meaning, history or memory.



MONUMENTS

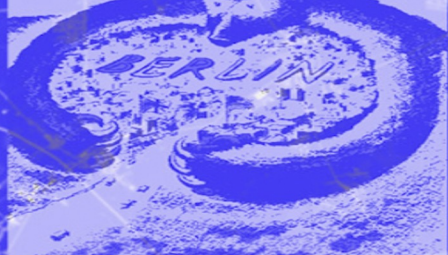
&

COUNTER - MONUMENTS

COUNTER - MONUMENT

Provoke self-reflection and continuous engagement with the past.

They often reject the grandeur and permanence of traditional monuments, instead favoring forms that are temporary, self-destructive, or interactive.





HIER WOHNTE

FELIX

MECHELSOHN

JG. 1888

DEPORTIERT

39. OSTTRANSPORT

HIER WOHNTE
ISAAK BER BURG
JG. 1889
AUSGEWIESEN 1938
ERMORDET IM
BESETZTEN
POLEN

HIER WOHNTE
TAUBE WARECH
BURG
JG. 1897
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET 1940
GHETTO KRAKAU

HIER WOHNTE
CILLY BURG
JG. 1915
UND IHR BABY
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET 1941
KOŁOMYJA

HIER WOHNTE
SALLA BURG
JG. 1921
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET IM
BESETZTEN
POLEN

HIER WOHNTE
PEPPI BURG
JG. 1923
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET 1940
GHETTO KRAKAU

HIER WOHNTE
SABINA BURG
JG. 1925
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET 1940
GHETTO KRAKAU

HIER WOHNTE
HELLA BURG
JG. 1932
AUSGEWIESEN 1939
ERMORDET IM
BESETZTEN
POLEN







MONUMENTS & COUNTER-MONUMENTS

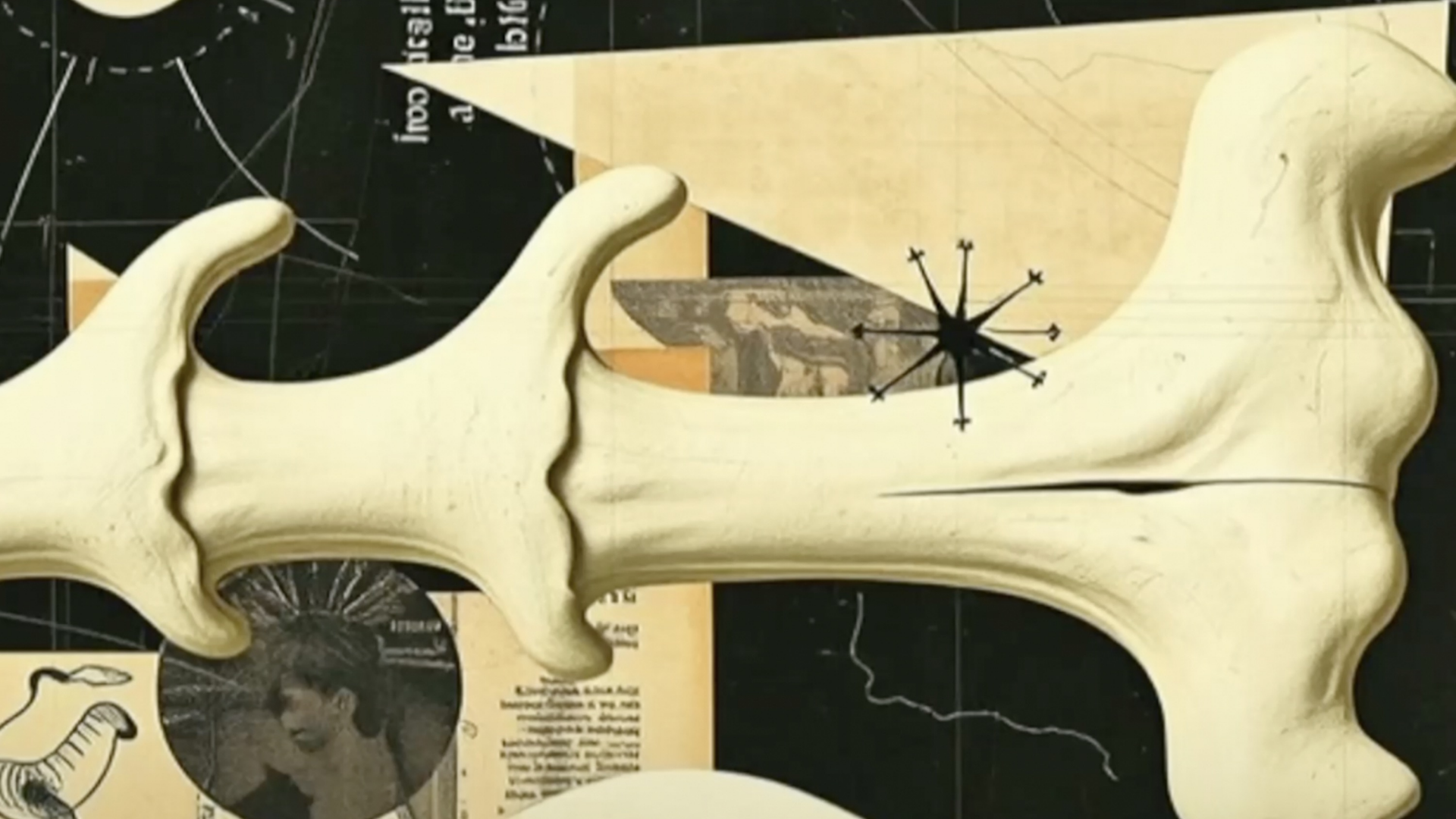
***Counter-monuments* challenge conventional forms by adopting an anti-monumental or dialogic stance.**

They do not simply celebrate; they engage in a conversation with history. Some counter-monuments creates a “monument against itself.”



GDR & OSTALGIE







TIMELINE

1945–1949: Post-WWII Division

1950s: Growing Tensions

1961: Construction of the Berlin Wall

TIMELINE

1960s–1980s: Life Under the DDR

1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall

1990: German Reunification

Spreewald Pickles (Spreewälder Gurken)

Trabbi (Trabant 601)

Ampelmännchen

Club Cola

Pittiplatsch & Sandmännchen



note how this seventeenth-century German medical neologism—intended to be roughly synonymous with, if technically superior to, the vernacular term *Heimweh* (homesickness)—originally signaled a malady of spatial and national displacement. The term *nostalgia*, as has often been observed, is a compound of two Greek words, *nostos* (the return home) and *algos* (grief, pain, or sorrow). One may recall that the *Algea* of Greek myth were the children of *Eris* (strife) and the siblings of *Lethe* (oblivion), *Limos* (starvation), *Ponos* (toil), and many other misfortunes. I focus my comments on the historicity and sociology of the neologism, arguing ultimately that nostalgia represents an important moment in the embodiment of nation. I also argue that the relationship of *algos* to nation is the key dynamic we must decipher in thinking through the presence of nostalgia in contemporary Germany.

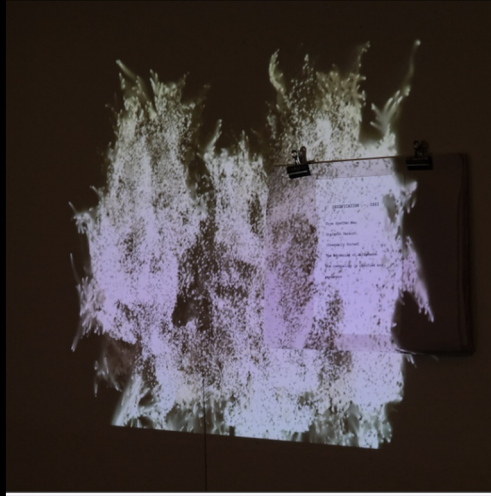


OSTALGIE & GDR

Ostalgie is a manifestation of the tension, where personal and communal memories resist being subsumed by a singular, dominant historical narrative.

Whose memories are preserved?

Which aspects of the past are deemed worthy of celebration/critique.





GENTRIFICATION

&

STREET ART



Timeline:

- ***After World War II, West Germany experienced an "economic miracle"***
- ***Gastarbeiter (Guest Workers) Program***

Guest Worker Program



Squatting and Counterculture



Milieuschutzgebiet Luisenstadt - SO36

www.bizim-kiez.de

- Umwandlung, Modernisierung u.a. geplant oder derzeit ausgeführt
- Haus oder Gewerbe aktuell besonders im Fokus / akut bedroht
- Leerstand
- Neubau
- in Bearbeitung
- Umwandlungsprozess vollzogen
- Kündigung oder sonstige Bedrohung
- Gewerbe (auch z.B. Kita) bereits verdrängt
- Leerstand / angeboten

BIZIM KIEZ

Für den Erhalt der Nachbarschaft im 11. Rangeltkiez













Köpi

Anti-Gentrification Symbol

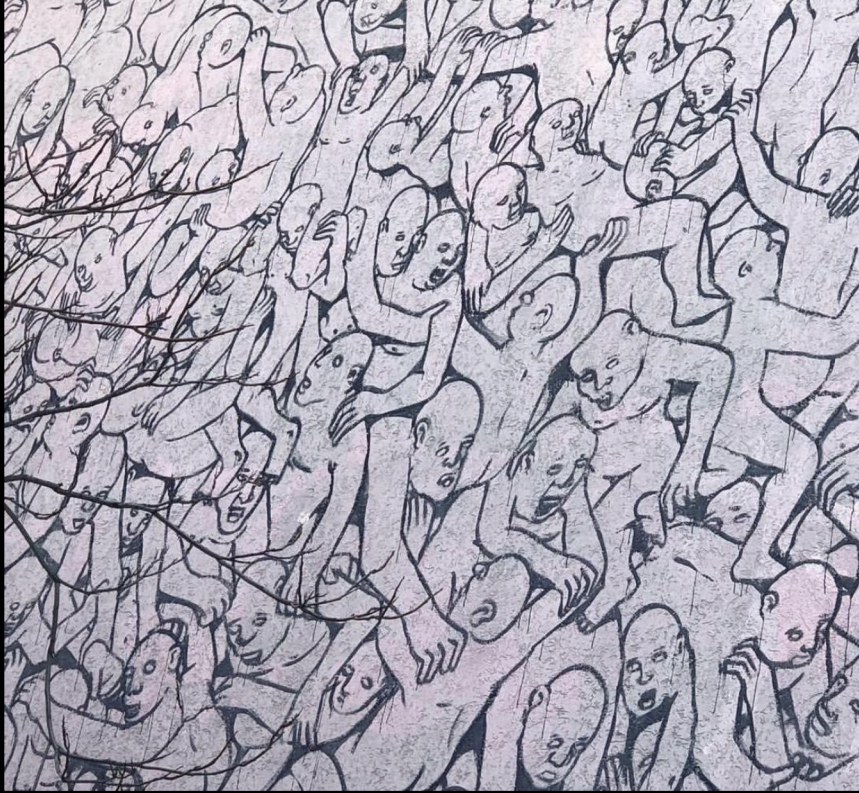
Site of Protest and Activism













The very word “grassroot art” itself resonates with plant metaphors such as “roots”, rootedness”, “groundedness”, “rhizomes”.

A multiplicity of stems and roots which may cross at any point to form a variety of connections or potentialities.



STREET ART AS PROTEST

SO 36 & Köpi

They proliferate through diverse lines of growth, thriving organically and unpredictably outside the institutional frameworks of galleries, museums, and market-driven competitions.