



A Companion to Cultural Memory Studies

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This companion represents the interdisciplinary and international field of "cultural memory studies" in one volume. Articles by renowned international scholars offer readers a unique overview of the key concepts of cultural memory studies. The book not only documents current research in an unprecedented way; it also serves as a forum for bringing together approaches from areas as varied as sociology, political sciences, history, theology, literary studies, media studies, philosophy, psychology, and neurosciences. "Cultural memory studies" - as defined in this book - came into being at the beginning of the 20th century, with the works of Maurice Halbwachs on *mémoire collective*. In the course of the last two decades this area of research has witnessed a veritable boom in various countries and disciplines. As a consequence, the study of the relation of "culture" and "memory" has diversified into a wide range of approaches. This companion is based on a broad understanding of "cultural memory" as the interplay of present and past in sociocultural contexts. It presents concepts for the study of individual remembering in a social context, group and family memory, national memory, the various media of memory, and finally the host of emerging transnational *lieux de mémoire* such as 9/11. This book first appeared as a hardback volume in the De Gruyter series "Media and Cultural Memory" under the title "Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook". With the present companion the original articles are reissued in an affordable paperback edition.

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