早稲田大学総合人文科学研究センター

「知の蓄積と活用にむけた方法論的研究」部門主催 講演会

カウンターモニュメント: 現代ドイツにおける記憶の文化 Counter-Monuments: Memory Culture in Contemporary Germany

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During the recent decades German artists, architects, and museum planners began to claim a radically new way of approaching the exhibitions of World War II and the Holocaust. The representation of historical trauma, violence, and destruction should no longer be conveyed in the form of a linear plot, a national narrative, or heroes. Rather there are efforts to work against linearization, narrativization, and normalization. A key-concept within this movement embodies the idea of the so-called counter-monument. These anti-monuments are designed to irritate processes of reconciliation and should subvert an authoritarian relationship between society and practices of memory. Counter-monuments aim to be non-representational, highly-controversial, unconventional, and aesthetically challenging. They do not evoke an atmosphere of historical authenticity and presence, but rather provoke an abstract self-reflection about the modes of representing historical trauma. Thereby the individual experience of the viewer becomes a central moment within the mourning and recollection process, a moment that should emphasize the contingency and discontinuous tangibility of history. In my paper I will analyze examples of German counter-monuments [such as Peter Eisenman's Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe (Berlin, 2004) and the Military History Museum of the Armed Forces (Dresden, reopening 2011)], and discuss their vital role in perpetuating a more democratized and de-centralized collective memory culture surrounding World War II. Power Point Presentation with pictures from the respective monuments and museums is provided. Lecture in English.

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