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Exhibiting Atrocity

Amy Sodaro

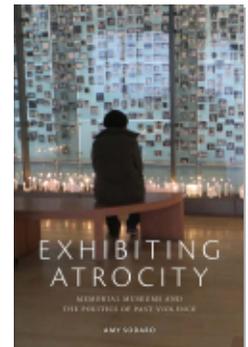
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has been many years in the making. The journey began more than a decade ago with two courses at the New School for Social Research (NSSR): one on Holocaust Memory with the incomparable late Geoffrey Hartman and a summer course on collective memory in Krakow, Poland, taught by Jonathan Veitch and Elzbieta Matynia. The seed that was planted by those courses eventually grew into a master's thesis, then a dissertation on memorial museums, and finally, this book.

I was extraordinarily fortunate to embark on the study of memory as memory studies was burgeoning at NSSR. With NSSR's roots as a University in Exile, it is not surprising that memory became a key area of academic interest, and I benefited tremendously from the strong community of fellow graduate students and faculty working on issues of memory. I am especially indebted to my dissertation committee, Elzbieta, Jeffrey Goldfarb, and the late (and very dearly missed) Vera Zolberg, whose wonderful insight into memory as an object of study helped shape my nascent interests into a worthy academic endeavor. And I am particularly grateful for the NSSR Memory Group, especially Adam Brown, Rachel Daniell, Lindsey Freeman, Yifat Gutman, and Benjamin Nienass. This group was a steady source of intellectual support and companionship during my doctoral work, though I still marvel that any of us were able to finish our studies with the tireless effort we put into organizing conferences and events, publishing books and journals, and working to build a memory studies network.

One of the best things about my research on memorial museums has been the opportunity to travel the world to visit memorial museums, and I must extend special thanks to the many individuals associated with the museums in this book who generously shared their time and knowledge. In Budapest, Hungary, this included House of Terror director Maria Schmidt and researcher Aron Mathe. In Rwanda and the United Kingdom, James Smith, director of Aegis Trust; Freddy Mutanguha, director of the Kigali Memorial Centre; Steven Robinson, Aegis's Rwanda development officer; and Honore Gatera, head guide of Kigali Memorial Centre. And in Santiago, Chile, and the United States, Katherine Hite, professor of political science

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In addition to the many individuals who assisted me in my travels, I have had the valuable support of many people here in New York. I am grateful to my wonderful colleagues at the Borough of Manhattan Community College for their ever useful advice and support, in particular helping me find a balance between teaching, service, and scholarship. I am also deeply indebted to New York University's Faculty Resource Network. In addition to attending two stellar summer seminars at NYU, I would never have finished this book without my participation in their Scholar-in-Residence program in June 2016. Not only did the program afford me access to NYU's vast library and an inspiring group of fellow scholars, but it also gave me the opportunity to work with Dr. Joyce Apsel of NYU's Liberal Studies program, whose encouragement and expertise have been immeasurable. I am also grateful to Marlie Wasserman, now retired from Rutgers University Press, whose initial feedback on parts of the manuscript was extremely helpful, and Rutgers editor Lisa Banning, who has been simply wonderful to work with.

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In the last few months, as I finished the manuscript, the world has changed, becoming a much darker and more frightening place. I know that memory and memorialization will play a role both in the dangerous retreat

from globalization, cosmopolitanism, and democratic ideals that we are witnessing and in resistance to this movement. However, it is too soon to have a clear idea of what role memory scholars and memory workers will play as we grapple with this changing political and social landscape. I have presented some tentative thoughts throughout the manuscript on the relationship of memorial museums to this changing world order, but much remains to be seen. In the meantime, I hope that my two fields of memory studies and sociology can contribute, in some small way, to the fight against creeping authoritarianism, intolerance, and division.

