

# Dr. Taylor Andrew McConnell

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## Education

09.2016 to  
11.2020

**University of Edinburgh**, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**School of Social and Political Science**

**PhD Sociology**

Dissertation Title: "Još Hrvatska ni propala [Still Croatia Has Not Fallen]: Examining the Public Face of Memory in Croatia", supervised by Mr Ross Bond (Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences) and Dr Andy Aydin-Aitchison (Criminology, School of Law)  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.7488/era/1266>

International Fellow, Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, and Centre for Southeast European Studies, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Co-chair, Memory Studies Association "Critical Thinking on Memory and Human Rights" Working Group and Co-ordinator of SPSS PhD–MSc Mentoring Group (Edinburgh)

My research focused on the links between memory studies, politics and conflict management by suggesting how the intentional manipulation, if not abuse, of memory feeds into mechanisms that perpetuate social divisions brought about through violent means. Using the spaces formerly populated by ethnic Serbs in Croatia as a context for this research, I explained the role of "memory abuse" in maintaining previously non-observed or non-existent social divisions that have emerged as a result of the Homeland War/Croatian War of Independence. As well, my dissertation examined the construction of Croatian national identity through the commemorative process and the tensions that emerge between the predominant "defender"/"branitelj" narrative and those of forgotten civilian victims.

Interactive map of Croatian memorial sites at [taylormcconnell.com/croatian-monuments](http://taylormcconnell.com/croatian-monuments)

09.2014 to  
11.2015

**University of Edinburgh**, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**School of Social and Political Science**

**MSc International Development**, with Distinction

Dissertation Title: "The Abuse of Cultural Memory in Politics and Media in Bosnia-Herzegovina"

09.2010 to  
05.2014

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business**

**BS Econ Management**, The Wharton School, *cum laude*

**BA International Studies and German Studies**, *cum laude*, with honors in German Studies

Dissertation Title: "Die Rolle der Erinnerung in den gegenwärtigen deutsch-amerikanischen und deutsch-türkischen Beziehungen [The Role of Memory in Contemporary German-American and German-Turkish Relations]"

Guest Student, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

## Work Experience

04.2023 to  
present

**Johannes Gutenberg–Universität Mainz**, Mainz, Germany

Postdoctoral Researcher, Institut für Film-, Medien-, Theater-, und Kulturwissenschaft

- Erasmus+ departmental coordination, advising of incoming and outgoing exchange students
- Advising for all students in MA Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology program
- Research on intersection of memory, violence, power and identity; gas station ethnography
- Webmaster for English- and German-language departmental pages

## Teaching

"Built Environment and Mnemonic Landscapes in Post-Independence Croatia",

Summer Semester 2025

“Erinnerungsforschung: Kulturelle Narrative, Identität und Repräsentation” (Memory Studies: Cultural Narratives, Identity and Representation), Winter Semester 2024/2025

“Berufliche Perspektiven” (Career Perspectives), Winter Semester 2024/2025–present  
Erasmus+ guest lectureship, Department of Cultural Studies, University of Rijeka, November 2023

“Cultural Memory and Digital Humanities”

“Introduction to Cultural History”

“Cultural Politics”

“Lektürekurs: Grundlagen der Kulturanalyse” (Foundations of Cultural Analysis reading course), Winter Semester 2023/2024–Summer Semester 2024

“Praktische Übung zu kulturwissenschaftlichen Berufsfeldern” (Practical Tutorial in Professional Fields of Cultural Studies), Summer Semester 2023–Summer Semester 2024

### **Research Projects**

Interactive map of Croatian memorial sites at [taylormcconnell.com/croatian-monuments](http://taylormcconnell.com/croatian-monuments)

“The Airport is Home: Creating Identity and Meaning in Non-Places”, proposed habilitation project (from Summer 2025)

### **Affiliations**

Memory Studies Association

“Slow Memory” COST Action, Working Groups 3 (Transformation of Politics) and 4 (Transformation of Conflict), Co-Chair Working Group 7 (Dissemination and Communication)

Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft

### **Peer Reviews**

*History & Memory*

*Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research*

*Communist and Post-Communist Studies*

Berghahn Books

### **Pedagogical Training – Rheinland-Pfalz-Zertifikat für Hochschuldidaktik**

“Feedback Methods for Innovative Teaching”

“Introduction to Racism-Critical University Didactics”

“Flipping the Course: Active Competence-Orientated Learning in the Inverted Classroom”

“Moderating Discussions in Courses”

“Teaching and Learning in Theory and Practice”

“Working with Case Studies and Project-Based Learning”

08.2021 to

12.2024

**korrektur.me**, Wiesbaden, Germany

Copyeditor and German–English Translator, Sole Proprietor

- Professional language services for early-career academics and small businesses
- Experience in edited volumes, PhD dissertations, monographs and grant applications
- Intermediate Member of Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading (CIEP)

01.2017 to

08.2018

**University of Edinburgh**, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Tutor in Sociology, Political Science and Public Policy

- “Evidence, Politics and Policy” (Social Policy Pre-Honours, Dr Lindsay Paterson)
- “International Cooperation in Europe and Beyond” (Politics Pre-Honours, Dr Julia Calvert)
- “Designing and Doing Social Research” (Sociology Honours, Dr James Kennedy)

06.2014 to 05.2016	<p><b>Post-Conflict Research Center</b>, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Communications Manager from 04.2015, previously Intern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established <i>BalkanThemes</i> periodical with regional focus on contemporary themes in and near Balkans, including missing persons, LGBT rights, Roma, and human trafficking</li> <li>Conducted research on themes related to post-conflict developments in BiH, including constitutional reform, youth journalism training and preventing sexual violence</li> </ul>
05.2013 to 08.2013	<p><b>United States Department of State</b>, Munich, Germany</p> <p>Intern, Political/Economic Section, United States Consulate General Munich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed protocol in German and English, event database for Fourth of July celebration, Ambassador's Farewell and other summer programs</li> <li>Provided research for Consul General on renewable energy, Afghanistan policy and Munich Security Conference</li> <li>Drafted briefing materials for meetings with Bavarian political, business and religious leaders</li> </ul>
09.2012 to 05.2014	<p><b>University of Pennsylvania</b>, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA</p> <p>Administrative Assistant, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised first point-of-contact for student and staff inquiries</li> <li>Provided support for event planning, communications, marketing and expense reporting</li> </ul>
01.2012 to 03.2012	<p><b>Metzler Asset Management GmbH</b>, Frankfurt am Main, Germany</p> <p>Intern, Absolute Return and Capital Preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compiled data on 40+ European covered bonds into 28-page Excel worksheet and translated from English into German</li> <li>Created sample client portfolios based on selected maturity and national credit rating profiles</li> <li>Drafted comparative performance charts for Metzler and competitive benchmark funds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Publications</b></p>	
under contract	McConnell, T., Dragovic-Soso, J. and Barton-Hronesova, J. (forthcoming handbook) <i>Memory Studies in South Eastern Europe: A Handbook</i> . Brill.
under peer review	Djordjevski, J. and McConnell, T. (forthcoming) Memoryscapes, Tourism, and the Environment in Croatia: Slow Memory and Sites of Conflict and Slow Violence.
01.2021	McConnell, T. (2021) <i>Erasing Yugoslavia, Ignoring Europe: The Perils of the Europeanisation Process in Contemporary Croatian Memory Politics</i> . In: <i>Europeanisation and Memory Politics in the Western Balkans</i> , edited by Ana Milosevic and Tamara Trost. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-3-030-54700-4.
09.2020	McConnell, T. (2020) Review of <i>Framing the Nation and Collective Identities: Political Rituals and Cultural Memory of the Twentieth-Century Traumas in Croatia</i> , edited by Vjeran Pavlakovic and Davor Paukovic. London: Routledge, 2019. Pp. 246. £120.00 (hbk). <i>Nationalism and Ethnic Politics</i> . 26 (3). pp. 336–338. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2020.1791024.
09.2019	McConnell, T. (2019) Memory abuse, violence and the dissolution of Yugoslavia: A theoretical framework for understanding memory in conflict. <i>Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research</i> . 32 (3). pp. 331–343. DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2018.1508334. (Published online 9 August 2018).
08.2018	McConnell, T. (2018) Nationalism, Violence and the State in the Balkans: A Comparative Review. <i>Nationalism and Ethnic Politics</i> . 24 (3). pp. 348–358. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2018.1489579.

10.2017 McConnell, T. (2017) Review of Jelena Subotic, *Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016. Pp. xviii + 201. \$22.95 (pbk). *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 23 (4). pp. 480–482. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2017.1380466.

### **Conference and Workshop Presentations (Selected)**

07.2025 "Fighting with the past for (and against) the future: Overcoming memory abuse in the former Yugoslavia"  
Ninth Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association ("Beyond Crisis")  
Charles University and Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

07.2025 "Memoryscapes, tourism and the environment in Croaita: Slow memory and sites of conflict and slow violence"  
Slow Memory COST Action Capstone Conference  
University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

06.2025 "Living with memory abuse: social divisions and war memory in post-conflict environments"  
Memory, War, and Social Coherence: Bringing Together and Tearing Apart conference  
University of Eastern Finland, Mikkeli, Finland

07.2024 "The aftermath of memory abuse: Social divisions perpetuated by war memory"  
Eighth Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association ("Memories in Transit")  
Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru

04.2024 "Memory abuse: Revisiting and reviving violent pasts in post-conflict communities"  
Inaugural conference of the *British Journal of Sociology*  
London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom

04.2024 "Memory abuse: Historical revisionism and narrative manipulation in war-time Croatia"  
Nationalism and Memory conference, Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

12.2023 "The normative implications of memory abuse"  
International Memory Studies Group, Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform  
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

05.2023 "The public face of memory and how to find it: Methodological implications for visual memory studies"  
International Memory Studies Group, Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform  
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

05.2021 Discussant, "Post-War Narratives and Identities in Croatia and Bosnia" panel  
Association for the Studies of Nationalities 2021 World Convention  
Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, USA (digital)

12.2019 "Combatting Memory Abuse during Conflict: The Third Sector and Mnemonic Interventions during the Croatian War of Independence"  
Prevention Activism: Advancing Historical Dialogue in Post-Conflict Settings conference,  
Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability  
Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, New York, USA

06.2019 "Erasing Yugoslavia, Ignoring Europe: The Perils of the Europeanisation Process in Contemporary Croatian Memory Politics"  
 Third Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association  
 Compultense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

06.2019 "Abusing the Memory of the 'Homeland': Mnemonic Battles on the Croatian War of Independence"  
 Summer Convention, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)  
 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

02.2019 "Denying women's agency in the Croatian post-war cultural conscience"  
 Complexifying Gendered Victimhood workshop  
 Universität Bremen, Bremen, Germany

05.2018 "They are looking at the stars again, waiting to conquer them: Memory abuse, violence and power in Yugoslavia's demise"  
 Words that Kill conference, George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention  
 American University of Paris, Paris, France

04.2018 "KRVatska, Branitelji, Žrtve: (Re-)framing Croatia's politics of memory and identity"  
 War and Identity in the Balkans and the Middle East workshop, Europe and the World Centre  
 University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

12.2017 "Can memory be abused? The ongoing manipulation of cultural memory in post-independence Croatia"  
 Second Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association  
 Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

11.2017 "Vukovar a ne Вуковар: Civic Institutions, Stigma and Power-Sharing in Croatia's Serb-Majority Communities"  
 Exclusion amid Inclusion?: How Power Sharing Engages Non-Dominant Communities workshop, Centre for the Study of Ethnic Conflict  
 Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom

### **Awards and Scholarships (Selected)**

04.2019 to 03.2020 Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant, British Council, for International Fellowship at Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

10.2018 to 01.2019 Ernst Mach Grant (worldwide), Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung der Republik Österreich, for Visiting Fellowship at Centre for Southeast European Studies, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

02.2015 Graduate School of Social and Political Science, Global Justice Academy and Global Development Academy grants, University of Edinburgh, for "Ordinary Heroes" Workshop of the Post-Conflict Research Center

04.2014 Erich Friedmann Memorial Prize for outstanding performance in German Studies, University of Pennsylvania

04.2013 Adolf D. Klarmann Prize for outstanding achievements in German Studies, University of Pennsylvania

09.2010 to 05.2014	Jesse R. Wike Memorial Scholarship und Matte Family Endowed Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania		
<b>Languages</b>	English (US/GB), native Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, B1	German, C2/fluent French, A2	
<b>Research Methods</b>	Interview, content analysis, participant observation, documentary methods, coding, NVivo, JMP, SPSS		
<b>Interests</b>	Visual education, history of socialism in Central and Eastern Europe, urban studies Volunteer German instructor, Angekommen Wiesbaden e. V., April 2022 to January 2023		
<b>Other</b>	MS Office Suite, Apple iWork, Google Docs, Adobe InDesign, social media		