Between @SOSCarabanchel and #BerlinMemorial
Locating Urban Memory, Conflict and Digital Space in Berlin and Madrid

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Abstract

Though an important amount of scholarship has been produced on urban memory, there is a comparative lack of inquiry in how digital technology is changing how personal and collective memories and experiences of conflict-based memory sites are understood. This thesis aims to do that, by analysing the impact of a variety of linked digital "sites" (a photography project, a blog, Instagram, and Twitter) related to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin and the former Carabanchel Prison site in Madrid. The thesis employs a two-step analytical framework, which utilizes discourse analysis and the analysis of social media datasets, relying on notions of the globital, the digital bricolage and the rhetoric of memory (sites) to explain how digital memory may expand geographic boundaries, all while remaining localised to a site through a variety of strategies.

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While working on this thesis, I always had in mind:

those who were lost in conflicts not of their own making, whose stories might never be told, but whose lives still reverberate with us today.

those always read the plaques that mark our cities and are moved by the uncanny presence of something more behind the brick and mortar.
"Back then the city - a beautiful, immortal thing, an indestructible republic of urban spirit - was fully alive both inside and outside me. Its indelible sensory dimension, its concreteness, seemed to defy the abstractions of war"
- Aleksandar Hemon, *The Book of My Lives*

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1. Introduction | Grey Memorials and Grassy Fields

1. It’s a grey morning in Berlin and I’m overcome by the weight of the skies and the weight of that concrete. I can’t help but feel that no abstractions can explain or give meaning to so many lives robbed of their vitality. I want to scream at Eisenman.

2. It’s an empty, grassy field, large and tranquil - there is so much going on around it, but its core seems like a void. The police questioned us when we tried to escape, they even tried to take Iris’ film camera.

3. I stopped using Instagram a while ago, and Jason and Kristen just asked me if I was still alive.

These three notes are taken from my journal, and represent sketches of experiences that relate to this thesis. The first was scribbled in frustration in a Berlin cafe on a cold March day, the second after my first visit to the former Carabanchel Prison site in Madrid, and third after finally giving up on social media (for a bit). Each represents a small germination of an idea, which led me to this thesis project. The first two became the sites I chose to study, and the third is the way in which I approached them.

Memories structure space. Pasts, presents, and palimpsests define our uncanny relationship with the brick and mortar that is laid by one generation, only to be crumbled by the next. Cities become become thresholds when the architecture of our own collective lives finds embodiment in urban space. This historical negotiation is ongoing and embodied by the steps we take everyday.

Cities bear witness to how spaces of social memory are hidden, made visible, or exist somewhere in between. The relational dynamics of the tourists taking selfies at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin or how a field of grass and debris in Madrid can be understood in a myriad of ways. Conflict: we build for it, commemorate it, or explain the voids created by it. In this contextual system, how do we approach a present life of a past site or memory? And what of technology? How does it blur, or improve the experience? Rose-Redwood et al. (2008) claim that “what memories are ultimately made visible (or invisible) on the landscape do not simply emerge out of thin air. Rather, they result directly from people’s commemorative decisions and actions as embedded within and constrained by particular sociospatial conditions” (162). I would like to consider in this thesis the “sociospatial conditions” to be the digital interface that has permeated our lives.

Proceeding from my literature review on urban memory, I will elaborate on my research question, which seeks to frame how memories and experiences of conflict-based memory sites are understood. I will then describe the two cities and case studies in question, explaining my motivations for choosing the three-part structure of “physical site-initial online space-social media space” for each. These linked digital “sites” (a photography project, a blog, Instagram, and Twitter)
related to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin and the former Carabanchel Prison site in Madrid will provide the baseline for my analysis, which will contain two steps, utilizing discourse analysis and then analysis of social media datasets, relying on notions of the *global, the digital bricolage* and the *rhetoric of memory* (sites) to explain how digital memory may expand geographic boundaries, all while remaining localised to a site through a variety of strategies.

2. Literature Review | Hauntings at the Crossroads of Inquiry

Setting a problem does not imply an easy answer, or of a conclusive set of reasoning. To quote Avery Gordon, “[to say] that life is complicated may seem a banal expression of the obvious, but it is nonetheless a profound theoretical statement” (Gordon 2008, 3). The theme of her book *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination* is precisely that; complications, traces, and ghostly apparitions is the structure, and that a “haunting is a constituent element of modern social life. It is neither pre-modern superstition nor individual psychosis; it is a generalizable social phenomenon of great import” (idem, 5). To claim a haunting is to imply a multiplicity of perspectives, power structures, and embodiments of modern life. To think of cities as haunted by the past is to recognize their nature as the spaces of what Massey (2005) would understand as being composed with a number of facets, structured by relations, where the imaginary is articulated doubly through being in space and conceptualizing of it.

I aim to trace a historical trajectory in this literature review, dwelling on what I consider important in the vast literature surrounding memory, memorials, and the urban. In thinking of these different concepts, I would like to reflect on how these intersections can be read as “crossroads;” to quote Walter Benjamin in the context of Surrealism, “where ghostly signals flash from the traffic, and inconceivable analogies and connections between events are the order of the day” (Benjamin 1978, 51). In this literature review, the “ghostly signals” can be read as flashpoints of conflict, which coalesce around urban objects as their locus.

2.1 History, Society, and Politics

In a “classical” understanding of memory and space/place, groups would forge a sense of nationhood by designating sites of memory as a way to articulate stability (Till 2008, 292). These pasts, be them recent or further back in time, acted as a definitive narrative of the state, how it was formed, and how it was to be understood. More often than not, these places of memory were imbedded in urban contexts, as they were the loci of power and statehood. Furthermore, these stable processes depended on previous renderings of history; they were built in layered sequences (Johnson, 1995). The 20th century saw an important shift in how memory was conceptualised - with the horrors of two World Wars, the social space of remembrance took on a new, ethical and political dimension (Margalit 2000). The world post-1989, where the political shifts and the rise of democratic systems throughout Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet state redefined what kind of power was articulated in the public sphere, and to what ends. As liberal democracies were (re)established around Europe, distinct changes in “official memories” rather than “official memory” have led to conflictual interpretations of what is and what should be. A pluralist society depends on the “free market” of memory, where it can move from one social sphere to the next without
hindrance (Jovic 2004, 105). When this process is embedded in urban space, it can lead to a splitting of collective memory, where one narrative, usually a state-sanctioned one dominates. Thus, the effect can be jarring, and can lead to conflictual situations in urban life, such as civil protest (Ramet 2013; Finney 2002).

The social nature of memory, is not to be discounted either. Halbwachs (1995) foregrounds how remembering is a collective act, and that it is not removable from its social context. Memory is a subjective entity, and never makes claims to a past as was experienced, and as such, an individual stands in relation to a memory through an “intersection of collective influences” that form conventions and structures (Halbwachs 1995, 44).

However, to quote Sabrina Ramet, “collective memories are sturdy, but not immutable” (2013: 879). Karen E. Till’s work on places of memory in Berlin outlines how this paradigm works. She describes social memory as “an ongoing process whereby groups map understandings of themselves onto and through a place and time” (Till 2005, 8). This ongoing process is a negotiated one, where determined “topographies” of memory are “fixed” given a number of factors, including politics, economics, and national priorities (Till 2005, 9). This merging of material and immaterial practices is useful, but the interplay between the public and private can also be problematic, when variable “turns” of affect, mediation, and performance might be taken into account, that is to say when the body and its relation to space is foregrounded (Jones, 2011).

Thus, spatial structures of urban memory are for the most part, defined in a contemporary sense, as both fixed, localized, and tied to the understanding of history as contingent on these material processes, but not without a strong current of social relations.

2.2 The Shock of the New, the Revenge of the Old

The urban development of cities, spurred on by recent changes in urban governance, economic priorities, or even recent wars, also reorients our understanding of memory and/in conflict. Berlin, the post-1989 mantra of vergangenheitsbewältigung (the struggle to overcome the [negatives of the] past) that expanded into the former East Germany is an example of this, where expansion, reconciliation, and memory were deeply engrained in the explosive growth of the city post-reunification, reckoning both a divided political past and a repressed sense of guilt (Till 2005; Azaryahu 2012). In what Andreas Huyssen describes as “voids,” the city’s past, present, and future lives are written on the buildings that are removed, rebuilt, or constructed (Huyseen 2003, 51).

Within this paradigm of memory and change, the real danger of competing interests as discussed in the previous section as the centrality of individual memory as structured by social relations and politics, comes to the forefront. When the old intersects with the new in the rubric of urban (dis)investment and increasing foreign interests in urban development projects, two contradictory forces can be seen to be in competition: either a hypervisibility and atonement of memory can be enacted, or of a specific favouring of spatial sites in the city, to the detriment of others.
Under the rubric of tourism and new knowledge industries, less desirable or complicated sites of memory can be forgotten, as is the case in the post-Yugoslav War Mostar or Sarajevo (Grodach 2002; Jauković, 2015). Without the distance of history, or of true democratic structures that allow for debate and safe disagreement to occur, it becomes easier to ignore or “forget” previously marked spaces of conflict and memory. However, the opposite may also be true – in stable democratic states and cities such as Vienna, memories of past conflicts and brutal disenfranchisement can be buried under too many layers of historical discourse to warrant any popular discussion, and when they do, they are marred or warped by interests that go beyond simple discursive strategies of place-making for memory (Kuttenberg 2007; Silverman 2003; Pages 2003).

2.3 Heritage, by Designation or Otherwise

Another dimension to this debate about memory and the city revolves around the role of heritage buildings and designations in urban space. Deep divisions exist over what should be acceptable in terms of “heritage,” for whom that demarcation is beneficial, and for what aims. Beyond monuments, buildings, streets, parks, and other spatial assemblages that make up urban life can be considered have value as related to memory (Tweed and Sutherland 2007). The types of urban structures up for heritage status, and implicitly state approval, can be controversial. For example, modernist constructions, as related to socialist-era regimes in Eastern Europe are rarely seen as valid heritage buildings, or ones that might be legitimate places of memory.

We can turn to what would constitute “built” dimensions. Two major theories underlie this dimension, specifically heritage by designation, a top-down system by which a honorific is applied to a monument or building by experts, or heritage by appropriation, by which a space is de facto understood as heritage-worthy by use and collective understanding (Tweed and Sutherland 2007; Dupagne et al. 2004). The latter is of consequence to numerous urban assemblages that are not necessarily sanctioned by the state or are considered central, where permeable boundaries and complex histories are not easily summarized. Space by appropriation usually exists at the periphery, and might constitute a lieu de mémoire for a marginalised group. Nevertheless, both rely on identity, conflict and negotiation to be formed, and can ultimately infuse debates around authoritarian systems of control as related to heritage and its interface with memory.

2.4 Indexes, Voids, Thresholds, and Mediations

To further this debate, I will turn to Soja and Nora’s notions of shifts and splits in the urban fabric. For them, and for Foucault, the potential for change, or resolution, or successful ideological negotiation is at the margins, or in the spaces of imagined fissure (Johnson 2013; Legg 2005). The thresholds, heterotopias, and thirdspaces of urban discourse are in themselves valuable, and can ultimately offer a sense of understanding that stands outside of the established norms of conduct. Thinking in terms of “otherness” may also challenge the consensus models that the post-political can infer, to ultimately include the multiplicity of voices and memory structures that can inhabit one given city.
The issue remains with the “stickiness” of urban objects. Memories are anchored and localized and must be mediated through and by everyday elements. Novel approaches include the study of the interface of photography and digital technology, like in Mostar’s sites of remembrance (Halilovich 2016), in the “revenge” of memory in a small model of Teblinka (Witcomb 2010), the renaming of streets (Azaryahu 2012), or the stolperstein that exist in a number of European cities (Cook 2014).

Furthermore, they also include more classical versions of mediation, like Aleksandar Hemon’s memoirs on Sarajevo entitled The Book of My Lives, or Miljenko Jergović’s collection of stories entitled Sarajevo Malboro. Both work within the rubric of ironic rhetoric, which I suggest is similar to Roland Barthes’ introductory passage in Mythologies, in which he notes “the full the contradiction of [our] time, which may well make sarcasm the condition of truth” (1972, 11). These experiential strategies attempt to work in between what we might term the “indexical trap,” which is to say rather than to point at a monument, a void, or a space, to point through it, revealing what might be concealed in a personal memory, but perhaps not in a collective one, or vice versa.

2.5 Conclusions, Area of Focus & Research Question

Hypervisibility and the stability of state and consensual structures usually lead to clear systems of memory and place-making. What might be lost in this formulation are the complicated relationships and configurations that enable, cloud, and distort these practices, and put the private in conflict with the public. Localizing the personal within the larger narratives of urban life and trauma or conflict creates the interface by which places of memory in contemporary society can be formed. One thing is clear: to quote Drozdzewski et al, “thinking specifically of the remembrance of (or resistance to) memory of war and conflict, we would stress the usefulness of a more-than-representational approach, one seeking to disentangle the tangible and intangible strands of melancholia, nostalgia, sorrow, and loss of belligerent times” (Drozdzewski et al. 2016, 453).

One overlooked element in the current literature is the effect new digital technologies are having on an understanding of urban memory. Returning to the idea of the more than representational, how memory is articulated in the digital realm, and its impact on urban life, expands the boundaries of current geographical understandings of memory as place and time-specific. By localizing in other ways, or by focusing on how these waypoints are blurred by the interjection of technology, we can interrogate the emancipatory, and perhaps radical potential of urban memory.

In approaching this issue, it is useful to clarify a few notions related to the urbanity of memory. As Ladd (1997) notes, “cities serve as powerful symbols and repositories of memory,” and offer a gateway for approaching the stratified and “polyvocal” nature of urban life (Nas, 1998). Cities and their sites of memory “often possess an official meaning bearing the intentions of the creator or creators in mind, but informal references may be attached to them, enforcing, neutralizing and even counteracting the original intention” (idem, 457). The memories inherent in urban life are symbolic and discursive, and can ultimately perhaps gesture towards larger issues of community, development, and politics.
Keeping in mind all the of the above issues, my research question is as follows:

*How are personal and collective social memories of conflict represented and contextualized in digital representations of urban memory space?*

3. Cities and Case Studies | **Hypervisible Berlin and Amnesiac Madrid**

Given the large number of possible cities and case studies related to urban memory, the choice of Berlin and Madrid offer interesting opportunities for comparison. At the national scale, there is developed and state-sanctioned program of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* in Germany and a less than cohesive policy in Spain that is still often debated in the political arena, where a pac of forgetting was considered essential to the cohesive development of democracy in the immediate post-Franco era (Till 2005; and Preston 1986). The institutional level of support in Germany and the very open possibilities in Spain entail very different memorialisation processes, with variable goals, tactics, and potential outcomes. In reflecting on topographies of memory as evolving, these two oppositional contexts will provide space for anchoring these cities in the debate around what remembering or forgetting might in fact mean in practice.

At the urban scale, Berlin and Madrid have always played an outsized role in their respective national contexts, as the seats of government, the centres of culture, and of a particular kind of national-self understanding. Over the past 300 years, their histories as capitals of empires, fascist dictatorships, and of newly-minted democratic projects have led to a palimpsest of hopes, aspirations and competing ideologies to be contained within their city limits. Of interest for this thesis is the urban history of the past 40 years, when both Berlin and Madrid have been presented with a particular reckoning of their pasts. In each case, the approach has been different.

I have chosen to concentrate on the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin (hereafter referred to as the MMJE) and the former Carabanchel Prison Site (hereafter referred to as the FCPS) as a way of localising these urban memory processes. In essence, each case study is threefold:

- Berlin: the MMJE $\rightarrow$ *Yolocaust* $\rightarrow$ geolocated Instagram images of the MMJE
- Madrid: the FPSC $\rightarrow$ *Salvemos Carabanchel* blog $\rightarrow$ @SOSCarabanchel Twitter feed

In this introductory section for the case studies, I will briefly explain, in the case of the MMJE, its development as a site, and how it is localised in discourses of nationhood, experience, and belonging in Germany. In the case of the FPSC, I will describe in more detail the construction and life, and aftermath of the Carabanchel Prison complex. As a little-known space outside of Spain, and to a certain extent within the country as well, I believe that understanding the historical timeline of the site is essential to then observing how it functions today, as a ruin and a void Madrid’s urban fabric. The main objects of analysis in both cases are the online iterations of these sites, and I will proceed by using a particular example of each. In Analysis I, I will focus on Shahak Shapira’s *Yolocaust*, and the *Salvemos Carabanchel* blog. In Analysis II, I will focus on how geolocated Instagram images of the MMJE and the @SOSCarabanchel Twitter feed function, in relation to both the physical sites themselves, and the first online iterations I have chosen as significant. I will do this because I see memory structures as “an ongoing process” like Till (2005),
and understand Drozdzowski et al.’s (2016) assertion that understanding memory in relation to war and conflict’s complicated “strands” might necessarily entail exploring a few different paths.

In observing these sites, I see them as emblematic of Tweed and Sutherland’s (2007) notions of heritage/memory by designation (the MMJE) and by appropriation (the FCPS). To put it crudely, one is a site in search of re-articulations of memory, and the other is a memory in search of a site, but both are in a sense articulating a void - the MMJE wrestles with 6 million lost lives and the individuals who visit the site, and the FCPS contends with an empty field full of meaning. In thinking of the research question, each site represents an interesting nexus of personal and collective, embedded in their different histories these contextual spaces can be expanded upon by adding the different digital layers.

3.1 Berlin: The Memorial to the Missing and Murdered Jews

There is a vast amount of material about the MMJE, and for the purposes of the this section, I will focus on a few elements to build a coherent timeline, and attempt to localise it within the context of Berlin’s development in the years proceeding unification.

The genesis of the MMJE began in August of 1989, when an a citizen’s initiative called “Perspective Berlin” called for the creation of a memorial to commemorate the murdered Jews during the Holocaust. The site was to be highly symbolic - initially the location was to be the former Gestapo headquarters, but it was eventually moved to an area north of the Reich Chancellery in 1992, after the project was formalised by the new Chancellor of a united Germany, Helmut Kohl in the immediate political moments after the fall of the Berlin Wall. By the Spring of 1995, an initial public competition for the memorial design was initiated, and 528 proposals were submitted, but the chosen designs were ultimately rejected by Kohl (“History of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe”).

After that, the project entered period of conflict and crisis, that played out on a number of political and institutional scales (Carrier 2005). The project was ultimately re-initiated in June of 1997 with a narrower focus and with only 25 architects and designers invited to participate. Peter Eisenmann and Richard Serra’s design is chosen and revised, and in June of 1998, Serra withdrew from the project. In the following two years, the project receives yet another revision on the insistence of the State Minister for Culture and the Media, Michael Naumann, where an interpretation centre is added underneath the field of stelae, to add an “authentic” site of memorialization to complement the severe and intentional abstractness of Eisenman’s work (“History of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe”).

Beginning with the Bundestag’s approval in 2000, the memorial is constructed over the next four years in a number of stages, with various conferences including an international symposium in November of 2001 complementing the construction work. On the 15 December, 2004 the last of the 2,711 stelae is put in place in a public ceremony, and the official opening of the memorial takes place on 10 May, 2005 (“History of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe”).
The symbolic positioning of the MMJE is important, both in its physical location, and its political context. Its immediate urban surroundings situate it at the heart of a "new" Berlin: it is at the centre of a new government zone, the new Reichstag building and Brandenburg Gate, the Potsdamer Platz, Leipziger Platz, the Topography of Terror museum, and the Jewish Museum. As Carrier (2005) notes, the MMJE "exemplified the problematic culture and symbolic transformation of this city prior to and following its reinstatement as the seat of government in 1999" (Carrier 2005, 99). Furthermore, by occupying the no-man's land between the old East and West Berlin, it “acquired national symbolic significance that neutralized discrepancies between separate commemorative traditions of the former East and West Germany[s] [sic]” (idem, 100).

As part of a larger matrix of museums and memorial sites constructed after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the MMJE contributed to the creation of a new “landscape of memory”, which Kashuba (2001) evaluates as a “working off” of the past, where a potential praxis can occur, which is to say where theories of memory can be enacted through the body (Kashuba 2001 in Denkel 2013, 18). As one of the first “all-German site[s],” it acts as a complement to other memorials built around Germany since 1989 (Carrier 2005, 101). As a material object, its status is also unique - rigorously non-representational and abstract, Eisenman describes it thus: “the enormity and horror of the Holocaust are such that any attempt to represent it by traditional means is inevitably inadequate. The memory of the Holocaust can never be one of nostalgia” (“Peter Eisenman – Architect of the Field of Stelae”). The MMJE has no “goal, no end, no working one’s way in or out," the field of stelae that form its grid logic consciously rejects any figurative interpretation (ibid). As such, it “breaks with the tradition of commemorative forms used in both the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic. It is not designed to mark and trace the history of a specific authentic site of event on a specific day, but recalls the genocide as a whole” (Carrier 2005, 99). As a monumental work of 20,000 square metres, its scale is also significant, for Judt (2005) the message is explicit: it “contrasts sharply with the ambiguity and prevarication of an earlier generation of lapidary commemorations” (Judt 2005, 851). It does not “ecumenically” commemorate the “victims of Nazism,” rather it is unflinchingly a Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Furthermore, the site is an important space of urban tourism in general and memory tourism in particular. Dekel (2013) situates it at a crossroads of Berlin, German, and European history: the history of Prussian architecture, World War II, the GDR all find their nexus in this area.
As a “Memorial Quarter,” the area of central Berlin is a “space that enables wandering in the discourse about memory, leisure and pastime, accidental tourism, and play [which] do not disconnect visitors from the urban surrounding” (Dekel 2013, 30). The “recreational turn” of the site has enabled a new set of opportunities for engagement in an individual’s “memory way,” that is to say the path that they follow through their own approaches to the site. This new way of “seeing” has reoriented behaviours at the site, and has engendered different responses, including online pieces like Stelen, Tindercaust, Grindr Remembers, and most recently Yolocaust, which will be discussed in the following sections of this thesis. As an affective space, its impact is clear - Dekel (2013) notes a newspaper piece taken a year after the MMJE’s inauguration, where centrality, time and experience dominate:

The memorial is a central point. Sometimes the tourists hop into the Field of Stelae, a little reminiscent of the skyline of Manhattan, to photograph or walk into the nothingness, in which one feels power-less, or can be afraid, or unafraid. [...] Memory is also set free between the stelae. ‘The memorial casually gets a face through the people’. [...] The stelae-jumpers have become seldom. It seems that school classes, differently from a year ago, know where they are. It is not a cemetery but a memorial” (Dekel 2013, 27).

This blurring of space and time is intentional, and relates Eisenman’s original intentions. He describes the temporal nature of the MMJE as “the time of the monument [...] is disjoined from the time of experience. In this context, there is no nostalgia, no memory of the past, only the living memory of the individual experience. Here, we can only know the past through its manifestation in the present” (“Peter Eisenman – Architect of the Field of Stelae”).

As a final note on the MMJE, I would like to turn again to Judt (2005), to mention a European dimension to the memorial. For him, the one of the central tenants of “Europeanness” is recognizing the horrors of World War II, “Holocaust recognition is our contemporary European entry ticket” (Judt 2005, 803). The concept of full citizenship in Europe rests on first assuming “a new and far more oppressive heritage. Today the pertinent European reference is not baptism. It is extermination” (ibid). Thus, considering the MMJE at the heart of the capital of the most economically powerful European state, is a provocative one, and underscores the importance of the memorial far beyond Berlin.

3.2 Madrid: The Carabanchel Prison Site: Past and Present

The Carabanchel Prison site has a long and complex history, which I will outline here, ending with the civil society groups that advocate on behalf of the site into the present day. There is a comparable lack of documentation on the site, which perhaps speaks for itself, and I have based this overview primarily on Hepworth (2013), Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz (2015), and a number of articles and blog posts from Salvemos Carabanchel in an attempt to adequately frame the site. Tackling the urban planning legacy of the Franco regime in Madrid can be a challenge, given that cities, as areas that were strongly Republican during the Spanish Civil War, “were not a priority in the new regime’s post-war reconstruction agenda” (Muñoz-Rojas, 2009: 149). Save the imposing Air Ministry building in Moncloa, completed in 1951, much of what was planned for Madrid was never constructed, and the imposing Carabanchel Prison was only of the only urban interventions of note for a number of years.
Following the Spanish Civil War, there was urgent need for new prison space: 270,000 people were imprisoned in a system designed to accommodate just 15-20,000 (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015). A new, monumentally-sized prison was intended to improve this situation and avoid the risk of further disorder and the potential for rioting. Completed in 1944, this new prison site was located in Carabanchel. Even with the implementation of gulags throughout the country, a redención (atonement) program was initiated in the early 1940's, freeing many of the political prisoners who had been held. This amnesty program was not one done out of benevolence or true forgiveness for crime, but one that was intended to solely alleviate the massive amounts of overcrowding and the risk of disease, reduce the risk of prison revolts, and to aid in the reconstruction of the country (Rubial and Ortiz 2015). The area was an important site during the Battle of Madrid, when General Francisco Franco’s forces attempted to seize the capital, entering from the southwestern suburbs of the city. Following the war, Carabanchel was left with large empty spaces; 48% of it was in ruins (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015). It was a name now associated with Republican working-class resistance to the now triumphant regime. Thus, the area of Carabanchel became a loaded site of symbolic retribution by Franco’s regime on a spatial scale. As a suburb of Madrid, Carabanchel’s location was ideal: it evacuated a great number of political prisoners from the city centre, all while reminding nearby inhabitants of their existence with its imposing structure.

![Figure 2: The Carabanchel Prison Complex (source: Atlas Obscura)](image)

The Carabanchel Prison site was also already historically loaded before its construction for two main reasons. Firstly, The Cárcel Modelo de Madrid was situated in the area, and was the site of a massacre of 2,000 presumed Francoists in 1936 by the Republican forces. It was demolished to make way for the new prison, erasing the physical proof of the previous incident and replacing it with a new act of spatial revenge on the city. Secondly, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Carabanchel was a location in which there were similar exclusionary institutions were found. Spaces for society’s ‘deviants’, excluded from regular society populated the space, some still there today: for orphans, the mentally ill, epileptic people.
The repressive purpose of the building was reflected in its design. Following the ideas of the panopticon, devised by enlightenment philosopher Jeremy Bentham, the system intended for the prisoner to always feel under surveillance. The symbolism of the building's design was intended to project an image outwards too, of the essential nature of Franco’s regime. To the outside world, Franco wanted to project an image of his society as modern, treating prisoners in way that was both technologically advanced and humane. Following the Second World War, and the defeat of fascist powers in Germany and Italy, Franco wanted to transform the image of his regime in the eyes of the international community, and removing the image of a repressive regime, with Franco as the Spanish counterpart to Hitler and Mussolini (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015). Instead of medieval dungeons or Nazi camps, his regime would be represented by efficient, humane modernity. For Foucault, the panopticon is the embodiment of a modern society (Foucault 1995); however modernity should by no means be necessarily linked with humaneness. In the case of Carabanchel, overcrowded and cruel from the start, it certainly was not.

Something entirely different was hoped for with the image projected by the prison onto the immediate neighbourhood. The true function of the Carabanchel prison, as with all prisons but especially so in a totalitarian regime, was order, control and surveillance. The Carabanchel neighbourhood, again due in a large part due to its Republican history, was being warned of the futility of revolt to Franco’s regime. Furthermore, the neighbourhood was burdened with an institution that fundamentally symbolised repression, and then later, deprivation and decay. The neighbourhood of Carabanchel became a place where its identity and history were refused, for the sake of the stability of wider society. Having opened in 1944, the prison was to remain in use for over five decades. Statistics show that in the early period of the prison’s existence, there were 4,922 political prisoners from the war, 535 post-war political prisoners and 1,552 common criminals. Over three times the capacity of the prison, tactics such as executions, torture and censorship were common. The result of this is was the standardization of the “exceptional practices” that define war, and they were normalized and ingrained within Spanish society (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015).

As the prison entered the 1960s the prison’s function shifted. There was a stark decrease in the number of political prisoners, towards a penal system filled with petty criminals. Of note, a Reformatory for Young Offenders was established, which offered job training programs at the Carabanchel prison. During this period, the political prisoners were relocated to a 6th wing, one which was roomier and more luxurious than the rest of the prison (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015).

As the political shifts in the 1960s and early 1970s tested the Francoist state. In 1973 a state of emergency was declared and arbitrary detentions were once again initiated. Resistance to the prison system mounted as calls for amnesty were made from both political, and common prisoners, culminating in the Battle of Carabanchel on July 18, 1977 where several hundred inmates took to the top of the prison before being subdued by riot police. A young anarchist was beaten to death, and the director of prison was murdered in retribution (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015). In 1979, as part of the transition to democracy, a new law was introduced to reform the prison system, which eliminated the need for large prison complexes. From then until its closing in 1998 there were several incidents and high profile political prisoners, but mainly the cells were filled with common criminals or young working-class people that were involved in the drug
business. The prison began to disintegrate: “Carabanchel in the 1980s and 1990s can only be described as a place of abjection, a symbolic and spiritual ruin before the actual, physical ruin” (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015, 147). What Hepworth (2015) describes as a “grotesque structure,” the neo-Herrerian Carabanchel Prison, with its initial grandeur and expression of power began to collapse (Hepworth 2015, 284). The prison was officially closed in 1998 without any clear plan of action for its future. The ruined state of the prison created an intricate network of traces indicating the once occupied cells and spaces. What Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz (2015) termed ‘acts of memorialisation’ took place in the first two years, such as guided tours of the complex and photography exhibitions of when the prison was in use or a concert in the old prison yard (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015, 149). The site’s new life as a memorial had begun.

Simultaneously, the old prison hospital was turned into an internment centre for foreigners (Centro de Internamiento de Extranjeros) in 2005, undergoing a large refurbishment that covered the the brick of the old building with brightly coloured and strange shapes, making it into a circus-like post-modernist structure. This represented a return to the site’s original function, and one that infuriated the neighbourhood associations, replacing the prisoners with marginalised groups such as immigrants. In 2008, the Carabanchel Prison site was razed to the ground, leaving an empty field, three small walls, and the entrance gate intact.

Far from calming the area’s residents, the proposals for the new life of the site ignited another round of protest and controversy. A brief sketch of the political situation can illustrate the further relationships that have formed around Carabanchel, localizing and embodying a number of issues of note in Madrid, and more generally, Spain during this period. In 2008, Acquiescing to the community groups’ demands for a public hospital to serve the area’s residents, the city government also planned to include a residential complex of 1,300 units, to be sold on the open market (“Sentencia de muerte”, 2008). This was seen as an affront to the citizens, who decried it as an open act of speculation in a politically fragile time, right before the global housing crisis began to have major repercussions in Spain. The negotiations had included this provision because they involved a number of state actors with differing agendas. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, the PSOE (Socialist Party)

![Image](image_url)
Minister of the Interior and Alberto Ruiz Gallardon, the Partido Popular (PP) Mayor of Madrid were the major players. Rubalcaba represented the owner of the land (the Ministry of the Interior), and Gallardon the City of Madrid, who was intent on upgrading the area as part of a larger urban development strategy – nicknamed the “Pharaoh,” his term as Mayor of Madrid included the burying of the M30 highway, the Olympic bid, and the laws that put in allowed for the rapid “upgrading” of neighbourhoods like Malasaña. As such, even if the eventual project was downgrading to include 650 units of social housing, it belied any test of social sustainability, were the “basic rights” of an important interest group was denied, in favour of another set of development goals.

![Figure 4: the former prison fences (source: author's own)](image)

Furthermore, the community group demands included the erection of a monument or of an interpretation centre to commemorate those who died or were incarcerated in Carabanchel. As part of the wider attempt of the Spanish state under the Law of Historical Memory in 2007 to contextualize and effectively acknowledge the victims of Francoism, this was seen as a necessity, and one that reframed Carabanchel’s prison space as one of resistance, struggle, and eventual emancipation from the brutal regime (Gonzalez-Ruibal and Ortiz 2015). This, of course, corresponds to one of its periods, namely in the late Franco era and early shift to democracy (1973-1978), where the final political prisoners included students and a number of intellectuals as well as prominent ETA members, and who staged strikes and protests. It has been noted that the PSOE downplayed this demand, due to their peripheral role in the early period of the democratic transition (Hepworth 2015).

From this period onwards, we can observe a shift in strategies from the community groups in Carabanchel and Aluche. To keep their chosen memory structures alive, they began to engage in
a number of symbolic acts, including the building of a staged hospital, a miniature version of the prison as a memorial, the erection of highly visible signs on the site’s fences, and a protest in 2009 against the detention centre that attracted close to 2,000 participants (“Los vecinos de Carabanchel”, 2009). The city and federal government remained inactive or intransigent to the community groups and the needs of the area. The current situation of the Carabanchel prison site has been defined by the shifts in Madrid city governance and priorities. In 2015, Manuela Carmena, a respected lawyer and civil right advocate became Mayor after her Ahora Madrid party formed a government in coalition with the PSOE. The administration instigated a Commissioner for Historical Memory, which recommended the renaming of a number of streets, and prepared a list of 15 “Places of Memory” that were to be included in a new development plan that put social memory, notably related to the Franco era, as a priority (“Carmena y el PSOE”, 2017). The Carabanchel prison land is featured on that list, and lobbying efforts by a number of community groups has applied pressure on the Commission for it to be the site of a Museum of Peace and Historical Memory. With the claimed approval of Carmena, the site has yet to be turned over to the city, with the old agreement of 2008 with the Interior Ministry still standing. As such, the PP still requires that a large parcel of land be ceded for the construction of a prison guard facilities, which the city does not approve of (Alvarez, 2015).

The most active organization is Salvemos Carabanchel/Carabanluche, and through their multi-scalar approach, have been able to keep the memory of the Carabanchel prison complex alive. A sophisticated network that uses social media, in-person representation at city council meetings, and a distinct desire to connect the events of Carabanchel to a wider Spanish and global context, Salvemos Carabanchel/Carabanluche is continually testing the possibilities for a true model of social sustainability. On their blog, they give prominence to researchers in the fields of social memory, activists who rally members of the neighbourhood, and community members who are searching for information on missing loved ones who served a sentence at Carabanchel. As such, they are connecting the past of the site to the present, while imagining possible futures and offering a robust critique of the structures already in place.

4. Methods and Methodology | Discourses and Datasets

The “more-than-representational” nature of online communications is both fascinating and daunting. The complexities inherent in analysing an object that is expanding exponentially megabyte by megabyte everyday presents a certain set of challenges, even more so when the intention is to explore its locative rather than its networked qualities, that is to say how it can be fixed to a certain site and set of ideas, rather that existing solely as a thread in a larger system of communication. Furthermore, if we are to understand these objects of study as social texts imbued with a particular vernacular expressive style, what are the best methods by which to explore this? Given that the majority of research into social media and online communications is sociological in tone and far-reaching in its methodology and research object, for the purposes of this thesis I have developed a framework that remains relatively focused and smaller in scale. To understand memory structures like Till (2005) as “an ongoing process” of mapping ideas and thoughts rather

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1 A fair amount of technology terms used in social media and larger theories of mass digital communications are employed throughout this thesis, and rather than interrupt the cadence of the text to explain them, I have included a glossary of terms in Appendix 1. I have endeavoured to add as many as I can, but it is quite possible that a few have fallen between the stile.
than an endpoint per se still presents certain difficulties for a researcher. I have elaborated a research design that is summarized in the following chart:

![Diagram]

The research will proceed in two analytical sections. In Analysis I, I will apply discourse analysis to two introductory online manifestations of the memory sites: for the MMJE, I will focus on Shahak Shapira's *Yolocaust* and the media reaction to it, and for the FCPS, I will focus on the *Salvemos Carabanchel* blog. From there, I will compare both approaches, and synthesize a clear positioning for each vis-a-vis the spaces that they purport to comment on or claim to represent.

In Analysis II, I will then evaluate whether these positions are in fact observable in a specific set of social media data that I have collected from Instagram in the case of *Yolocaust/MMJE* or from Twitter in the case of FCPS. From there, I will comment on what alternatives might be present in how digital space (re)presents urban memory. For this, I will employ the theories I have elaborate upon below, and I will concentrate initially on the MMJE Instagram data before suggesting new possibilities for understanding social media interactions in relation to urban memory by outlining two specific instances for discussion, one related to the materiality of the sites which will foreground the @SOSCarabanchel Twitter, and the other related to a specific incident that links both case studies. In the following sections, I will outline the discourse analysis method that I will use, frame social media data as a qualitative method, and explain what comparative strategy I will employ. I have also decided to not use interviews as a method because I feel that the vernacular nature of online communications provide ample data by which to draw adequate conclusions about various behaviours and ideas.
4.1 Discourse Analysis: Volosinovian Dialogism

Discourse analysis has become a major methodological strategy in the social sciences and humanities. Despite its ubiquity, a great number of theoretical strategies and frameworks are unclear in their applications, despite all having a central objective, namely investigating:

"the nature and role of language and other meaning-systems in the operation of social relations, and in particular the power of such systems to shape identities, social practices, relations between individuals, communities, and all kinds of authority" (Baker, 2008: 152).

Issues of “power” are less clearly articulated as most discourse strategies, including critical discourse theory, take it as a given centrality to the matter at hand. Therefore, to keep the focus on the dynamic of social relations in the discursive analytical sets that I will study, Valentin Volosinov's dialogism will be used throughout this thesis, because while “power” is still considered a crucial element of discourse, it is treated as an empirical one that rests on observable elements throughout the texts under analysis.

A member of the Bakhtin Circle of philosophers and thinkers who emerged during the post-Revolutionary period in Russia, Valentin Volosinov was a linguist and scholar who focused on "significance in social life in general and artistic creation in particular, examining the way in which language registered the conflicts between social groups" (Brandist, 1997). The Bakhtin Circle used the term “utterance” as the central component of their analysis of language, locating it as the space in which meaning is generated, in a specific historical and social context. In a concrete sense, the utterance is formed through various interactions between social groups, where what is said or written depends on how they interact, or "interanimate" each other. As such, they are dialogical in form, in which “echoes and reverberations of the voices of previous speakers can be heard in the words of a current speaker” (Collins, 1999: 74). Authority, or power, is thus built within this relationship, and can be mutable as different utterances are adopted over time.

From this Volosinov theorizes that utterances work within a larger rubric of “speech genres.” These are created over a given period of time, when utterances are tied to specific social contexts, and their collective understandings are revealed through “relatively stable types.” These stable types are grounded in what the Bakhtin Circle referred to as “generic/genre” interactions, that is to say a agreed-upon expressions may or may not refer to the “word” or speech pattern in question, rather than “this typical (generic) expression belongs not to the word of language as such but to that genre in which the word usually functions” (Bakhtin in Collins, 1999: 75). As such, the speech genre foregrounds that no utterance is ever individual, rather it represents a constituent part of a larger collective social imaginary.

Because the Bakhtin Circle grounds their linguistic theory in specific historical contexts, as the meaning of utterances and speech genres change, we can observe similar shifts in the social environments they are used in. To quote Volosinov, “it stands to reason then, that the word is the most sensitive index of social changes [;] the word has the capacity to register all the transitory,
delicate, momentary phases of social change” (Volosinov in Collins, 1999: 75). Furthermore, when these shifts are conflictual to dominant ideologies (which the Bakhtin Circle would argue they always are), the distinction between “meaning” and “theme” becomes all the more central. Whereas “meaning” is essentially analogous to the dictionary definition of a word, “theme” relates to how the word is used in a given social context, and if it is considered to be of importance, it must undergo a process of assessment, by which it eventually receives an “evaluative accent.” For Volosinov and Bakhtin, all utterances are appraisals: “no utterance can be put together without value judgement. Every utterance is above all an evaluative orientation” (Bakhtin in Collins, 1999: 76).

Finally, this evaluative and “re-evaluative” mode of understanding utterances and words underlines a crucial element - that as utterances shift, they also affect different types of social groups in different ways. A particular insight of Volosinovian Dialogism is that disparate social groups with different aims and ideological positions will use essentially the same language, but will attempt to define the utterances in specific ways. For the Bakhtin Circle, this is another way in which power is articulated: authority is granted through how groups attempt to define a certain set of ideas in a way that masks difference, and in turn there is an embodiment of a “clash of live social accents” that is played out with each given utterance. As such, the way language is used is understood as “being both a site of and a stake in the social conflicts” they represent (Collins 1999, 77).

To briefly summarize the aims and intentions of Volosinovian Dialogism without its theoretical language, I have adapted and paraphrased the following sketch from from Baker (2008). The foundational principle of Volosinovian Dialogism is that individuals adapt language to create groupings, mostly related to social struggles. The primary linguistic dimensions that this theory explores are the strife between forming a coherent language, and conceptualising it as a fixed entity. Collectives and individuals orient themselves toward the language that they feel represents their interests best, and critical thought is provoked by how this language use is observed. “Power” is in essence persuasion and tactical dominance, and ultimately Volosinovian Dialogism can reveal change as it is articulated through how groups, in their simplest forms, associate and communicated with each other using a shared language.

Two scholars, Collins (1999) and Steinberg (1999), both use Volosinovian Dialogism when discussing the contested processes of community-building in 20th century Glasgow and 19th century English mill towns, and I am indebted to their approach. By emphasizing daily speech practices, both provide a useful example of how this theory is used in practice, and the following sections that use this discourse method are inspired by them.

4.2 Explaining Social Media as a Qualitative Tool and Object of Study: By the Numbers

Using social media as a method for analysing urban phenomena is still relatively recent, but its ubiquity and daily use is significant enough to warrant attention. Instagram, the photo-sharing platform, has 95 million images uploaded each day from 700 million active monthly users and 200
million daily story users as of April of 2017 (Instagram 2017). In 2016, it was estimated that 32% of adult internet users in the United States were regular Instagrammers, and 49% of them also used Twitter (Pew 2016). Twitter, a microblogging, news, and messaging platform, has 328 million active monthly users as of early 2017 (Statistica 2017). Approximately 500 million tweets are are posted and retweeted every day (Internetlivestats 2017). Though lower in numbers than Facebook, both these social media networks are significant in their reach, daily interaction, and use as a means of establishing and articulating social practice.

Furthermore, the increase in adoption and use of social networks has been exponential. Between 2005 and 2015, the share of internet-using adults in the United States who regularly use at least one social networking site rose from 10% to 76%, and the share of those classified as urban increased from 9% to 64% (Pew 2015). In 2013, 30% of adult social media users either enabled their posts to be automatically geotagged or actively located them themselves (Pew 2013). Given the data trends outlined above, this estimated location-based practice will have also increased by 2017.

As such, social media presents an interesting opportunity for analysis, given its sheer scale and adoption over the past 12 years, particularly by urban users. The fact that users actively locate themselves, of note in its informed and self-aware application, provides a noteworthy geographic dimension. It can potentially frame and contextualize any data collection on specific spaces and sites.

4.3 “Reassembling the City”: Framing Social Media Data in an Urban Dimension

Using social media as an observable and qualifiable method for analysis is current in a number of disciplines and research areas. Two examples included the Pew Research Center’s Internet and Technology division (which most of the data above comes from) who uses surveys and statistical trend modeling, and the Social Media Research Foundation, who developed an open-source software called NodeXL to track and collect large volumes of social media data to analyse using network theory. The former approaches social media from a policy perspective, and the latter from a mass communications and sociological standpoint. Neither localises their analysis in the urban, instead observing larger phenomena of social organization.

However, there have been important advances in using social media as a contextual tool for urban studies. Boy and Uitermark (2015: 2017) developed an interface that interacted with the Instagram API to track over 442,246 posts and metadata from Amsterdam and 507,445 posts from Copenhagen to ultimately map and built a cohesive understanding of how social media segments

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2 These numbers are hard to conclusively verify, as most of the data comes from Instagram itself, which as a profit-driven corporation, is selective with the information it shares. "Story users" refers to the "Instagram Stories" feature, in which users can upload short videos and photos that can be viewed for 24 hours, usually accompanied by a location tag, relevant hashtags, and superimposed comments germane to the event shared. As such, these stories act as a complementary dialogue to the photostream and personal profile of the user.

3 As with Instagram, these numbers are also hard to verify, as Twitter is also a private, profit-driven corporation. These estimates are based on information provided by the company, reported by internetlivestats.com based on statements made by Twitter executives and tracking tools.
and stratifies social-spatial difference in the city. Using network theory, they ranked in importance a number of posts based on relational factors, and contrasted their work with the Chicago school’s early 20th century sociological inquiry into how cities are organized. They conclude that “one way is to view the interface between the city and social media as a membrane that filters images and impressions,” and these impressions are in turn selective and performative in quality (Boy and Uitermark 2017, 2). By incorporating both micro and macro scales to their work, Boy and Uitermark build on earlier work by scholars such as Silva et al. (2013) who used Foursquare check-ins and Instagram to track urban consumption patterns.

Though still in its infancy, this field is rich in theoretical and methodological tools, albeit with certain constraints. Firstly, there is a skills component: the sophisticated systems that Boy, Uitermark and other researchers have developed require a fairly high level of computer programming knowledge and comfort with enormous data sets - on average, Boy and Uitermark’s study logged 1.2 million pieces of information per day. Secondly, there is an issue of access: Instagram and Twitter have greatly tightened their API access, limiting it to registered developers and in some cases academics, depending on their research work. Neither of these is easy to obtain, given the re-orientation of both these social networks towards monetization. Thirdly, there is the issue of time: though millions of posts are shared daily across the primary social media sites in question, it is almost impossible to analyse data historically. Mining the Twitter or Instagram archive is extremely difficult and costly, and as such, keeping with the larger orientation of social media as being either “in the moment” or forward-looking, data analysis must have a starting point, and cannot be retroactive in its application. This poses issues when building an adequate timeline, as is the case with the two thesis case studies in question. However, Boy and Uitermark’s general methodology can be applied, using different data sets and parameters, which will be described in further detail in Analysis II.

The general saturation with social media has also spilled over into the corporate communications realm, and as such, there is a large market for social media analysis. For the purposes of the data collection component of this thesis, a number of free data analysis tools were tested, with varying degrees of compatibility and suitability. A major issue with all social media tracking tools was their temporality as none offer historical data. After evaluating tracking systems In relation to the SOSCaraabanchel Twitter feed, Quintly was the most effective in supplying enough information. Unfortunately, Instagram posed a larger problem: given the API’s closed nature, access to tracking posts that are geolocated rather than hashtagged is not possible. As such, to build an effective data set to analyse and comment I had to produce it manually. The mechanics of this data collection will be explained in Analysis II.

4.3 Comparative Structure(s)

Given the important differences in spatiality and historical structures surrounding the two case studies I have chosen and the inherent difficulties in analysing their digital manifestations as a the primary object of study, I would like to outline a few elements of importance as related to how I will attempt to compare them. I will employ an approach that relates to multiple-case study work, which posits that a researcher is less attentive to the specific context of each case, but rather to the ways in which they can be complemented and contrasted (Dyer and Wilkins 1991). Though the
debate as to whether or not a rigorous and explicit outlook in this instance is required from the beginning, I err on the side of the critics, who claim that it may be preferable to adopt “a more open ended-approach,” which allows space for unexpected insights and new potential syntheses to arise from the research work at hand (Bryman 2012, 75).

Furthermore, comparative design is by its nature a way to reflect on difference, and on how that difference might yield a new understanding of a given phenomena, it “acts as a springboard for theoretical reflections about contrasting findings” (ibid). I have developed a research design that is in many ways a hybrid of discourse analysis, data collection, and observation of trends, and as such it can seem almost a “quasi-experiment,” which is attentive to the demands of social science research, all while keeping a focus that is open to new potential outcomes.

4.4 Notes on Limitations

In reflecting on both urban memory and methods/methodologies, I would like to turn to a few issues of limitations, by use of a contextual quote:

“memory allows us to centralise everyday temporality as it speaks to the vernacular untidiness of lived practices of remembering that conventional historiography aims to smooth away [...] it is also about the marginalised present. It concerns the power structures that impact on the ways in which we are able to draw on our own pasts in the interests of our present and futures” (Keightley 2008, 179).

In building a comparative, multiple-case study research design, I have attempted to keep the focus on what we might consider the “vernacular untidiness” of online social interactions and expressions, and in what ways individuals might form new relationships to the urban spaces they remember, have visited, or are in the process of documenting, all while contributing to a larger sense of community and place. Space and memory as concepts have the pernicious tendency to balloon out of a manageable sphere, and as such I cannot address everything using these tools. Issues related to the physical spaces of the FCPS and of the MMJE will be discussed where relevant, but I want to note that neither of these case studies takes the sites themselves as the primary focus, rather it is how they are perceived in online manifestations that interests me. It is the same for politics - though it looms over the history of Berlin and Madrid, the complicated institutional structures that Margalit (2000) notes play an important role in the ethics of memory are another thesis altogether. However, I will gesture to each when necessary. Furthermore, each case study has its own particular elements of interest, and I will attempt to balance them, but there will be at times more to say about the MMJE and Instagram, or the FCPS and Twitter, given the topic at hand. Finally, I make no claims to absolute truth, in thinking of process as Deacon (2008) does, I am attempting to craft some small conclusions from a much larger set of data.

5. Theories | Investigations into The Digital

The theories I have selected come from a number of different disciplines, and are not immediately recognizable as being urban, through I will demonstrate that when used in combination with the objects of study (how the MMJE is perceived on Instagram and how the
SOSCarbanchel Twitter feed functions) they may expand current notions of space. They are summarized below, in the following graphic:

These theories that I will elaborate on below can be seen to complement each other, as they build a new matrix of meaning, which will ground the urban at the centre. Furthermore, in combination, they are somewhat new in their approach to the object of urban memory and how it exists online, and as such, I would like to attempt a new reading of digital practice using elements of each. These theories will be primarily applied in Analysis II, and will be informed by the two discourse analyses, the first from Analysis I, and the second from section 7.4.

5.1 Globital Memory & the Digital Bricolage

There has been a relative lack in critical analysis related to how digital technologies are interrupting, re-orienting, or negotiating social memory in urban space. A good starting point is what Reading (2014) terms the globital memory, a calque of “global” and “bit” which denotes the unevenly distributed digital memories as gendered assemblages mobilized by agents of memory mobilized by agents of memory such as museum curators, journalists, state and interstate actors, corporations and protest groups working to secure them within an uneven field of struggle (Reading 2014, 750). She infers that the materiality of memory is not so much the object that is being memorialized, but rather the political and economic processes that allow for it to happen: namely in this case access to new technologies, and the unseen nature of the ways in which that information is stored. A globalising venture, access to information takes on new forms as is it transformed and mediated through the technologies that we use everyday, like social media. Though Reading applies her theory critically to the political economy of materials produced through processes that span the globe (for example, rare earth metals mined in Africa to produce mobile devices), the basic tenant of globital memory is still relevant to other contexts - though even these connected systems are nothing new, “memory is produced under the interconnected conditions of globalization and digitization” (758). To complement this context, I would turn to the rhetoric of the online world and James' (2013) theory of digital bricolage, which she relates as a concept to “the subtle indication of social discord circulating at the margins of society in civil spaces” (James 2006, 981). This expands Till’s “topographies of memory” far beyond the embedded urban object in echoing Jenkins (2006) and the idea that “old and new media converge with

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4I am reminded here of a professor who once mentioned that because you drink a glass of water in a city doesn’t make it urban, which I would disagree with - most generalised theories and social phenomena have a clear urban dimension, it is just a question of contextualizing it adequately.
real-world culture on the Internet, and the resulting participatory culture forms a collective intelligence” (Jenkins in James 2006, 981).

Both these theories rest on the ideas of “bricolage” and “assemblage,” which I will clarify here. Hartley (2002) refers to Lévi-Strauss, and defines it as “the creation of objects with materials to hand, re-using existing artefacts and incorporating bits and pieces” (Hartley 2002, 22). As such, bricolage reconstructs a variety of materials, be they speech, text, image, or a combination of all in order to create a new insight or meaning structure. For Deuze (2006), “the bricoleur’s strategies are constrained not only by pragmatic considerations such as suitability-to-purpose and readiness-to-hand but by the experience and competence of the individual in selecting and using ‘appropriate’ materials” (Deuze 2006, 17). In contrast and complementary to this, the assemblage in this context is an activity involving “the fitting together of parts and pieces [:] assemblage as a model of engagement with the world rather than as a formal category. The fact that the bricoleur [assembleur] speaks through things, as well as with them (italics mine)” (Deuze 2008, 31).

We can thus consider a number of online artefacts and collections of information as bricolages, defined and constrained by their creators, either an artist like Shahak Shapira, or by the technological limitations of the applications we use to observe them, like Instagram or Twitter. Furthermore we can consider these digital bricolages as also being constrained by processes of globital memory, that is to say that they are stratified and exist in an “uneven field of struggle,” given that certain users or posts will be prioritised. Open to the world in the sense that these digital bricolages are still are accessible to anyone with a computer or a mobile device, to refer back to Boy and Uitermark (2017), they nevertheless define “a membrane that filters images and impressions,” and are dependent on who produces them.

5.2 The Rhetoric Of Memory Sites

Scholars have argued that memorial structures have their own particular rhetorical quality, usually contained through their material form (Blair, 1999; Hess, 2007). The shift of focus into the digital realm has not changed that, but the mode of analysis takes into account different factors. Hess (2007) elaborates on this by discussing five commemorative websites related to the September 11, 2001 attacks. Because the space of memory in question did not have an anchor, he argues “that vernacular web memorials both utilize the material functions of physical or off-line memorials, but are also unique to the expressions of vernacular” (816). In thinking through vernacular as analogous with “collective,” we can also apply these ideas to a variety of digital responses to memory structures.

It is important to note that Blair’s context is almost pre-digital, and Hess’ is in a digital age quite different from ours, and that the permanence of a website can seem almost quaint in relation to the speed and fury of online communication in 2017, notable in the ways that social media, including photo-sharing platforms like Instagram covet the “now” as foundational to their effectiveness. Nevertheless, Blair’s framework is still useful when approaching the layered and complex nature of digital responses to urban memory that occur in contemporary discourse. The aforementioned framework is contextualized as five questions, which are as follows:

1. What is the significance of the text’s material existence?
2. What are the apparatuses and degrees of durability displayed by the text?
3. What are the text’s modes or possibilities of reproduction or preservation?
4. What does the text do to (or with or against) other texts?
5. How does the text act on person(s)?

Blair’s strategy includes an attempt to underscore the performative aspects of memory cultures, by framing them in the context of a “text,” which can be understood in the broader sense, similar to theories in Cultural Studies that associate everyday objects as texts, meant to be “read” as strategic holders of symbolic meaning. which relates back to Nas (1998) and the notion of urban space as “polyvocal,” with a variety of voices “enforcing, neutralizing and even counteracting the original intentions.” Questions four and five of Blair’s framework are especially salient here, given that they rest on the intertextual dimensions of a given object of study, and that the relational structures of a text are necessary for understanding how and why they are significant. I will concentrate on those two final questions as a means to help explain observations in section 7.4.

6. Analysis I | Starting Points

In the second phase of each of the case study sites I have chosen, I will apply the discourse analysis method I outlined above the *Yolocaust* and the *Salvemos Caranachel* to get a better understanding of how these memory sites work from the perspective of one viewer, or collective of viewers. I will test these conclusions in Analysis II to see if the positioning each makes is observable in the data I have collected.

6.1 Discourse Analysis of Yolocaust

The discourse analysis of Shahak Shapira’s work will proceed in two steps: firstly, I will analyze the two versions of the *Yolocaust* site itself (during the project’s initial phase, and the site Shapira set up after the unexpected critical and popular response), and the media reaction *Yolocaust* engendered. Ultimately, this analysis will position Shapira’s work in the larger context of the MMJE and in relation to one social media platform in particular: Instagram and its geolocated posts of the site. In the concluding part of this section, I will place the two speech genres determined through Volosinovian Dialogism, with their inherent utterances in relation to each other, and will synthesize how they complement and perhaps contradict each other.
6.1.1 The Websites

![YOLOCAUST](image)

Figure 5: Yolocaust (source: archived yolocaust.de)

Shapira initially presented Yolocaust on January 18, 2017 with a tweet: “I have combined Selfies from the Holocaust Memorial with images from extermination camps: http://yolocaust.de/#YOLOCAUST” (Shapira). The original site, now only available in archived form as it was removed by Shapira to be replaced with an “Aftermath” postscript, was simple in its form. It featured 12 different images of seemingly oblivious individuals mugging for the camera, in various poses, with images of the extermination camps appearing behind them as the user moved their cursor over the image. The accompanying text was divided into two sections, an explanatory text, written in the third person, and an “FAQ,” both presented in English and German. Given its brevity, the text is reproduced here in its entirety, with utterances of note bolded:

“Yolocaust is a project by Israeli satirist and author Shahak Shapira that explores our commemorative culture by combining selfies from the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin with footage from Nazi extermination camps. The selfies were found on Facebook, Instagram, Tinder and Grinder. Comments, hashtags and “Likes” that were posted with the selfies are also included. About 10,000 people visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe every day. Many of them take goofy pictures, jump, skate or bike on the 2,711 concrete slabs of the 19,000 m² large structure. The exact meaning and role of the Holocaust Memorial are controversial. To many, the grey stelae symbolize gravestones for the 6 Million Jews that were murdered and buried in mass graves, or the grey ash to which they were burned to in the death camps” (“Yolocaust,” archived version).

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5 The original tweet was in German, translation is author’s own. As of August 25, 2017 it has received 2,502 retweets and 3,612 likes.
Shapira builds a specific speech genre, localising the both the memorial and its visitors within a set of utterances that gesture towards the form and function of the site. He chooses to call the MMJE not by its official name, but by its popular alternative, “the Holocaust Memorial.” He presents the users’ approach to the site as one of “selfies” and “goofy pictures,” omitting any other methods by which a visitor might interact with the memorial. With the authority of a nameless “many,” he frames “the exact meaning and role” of the site as “controversial,” all while making a clear statement on the intended symbolic value of the stelae - “gravestones” and “grey ash” - as metonyms for the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, not the abstract structures that Peter Eisenman envisioned them to be.

To complement this text, he includes the following “FAQ,” also reproduced in its entirety, with specific utterances bolded:

"So what am I allowed to do at the Holocaust Memorial, and what not?" No historical event compares to the Holocaust. It's up to you how to behave at a memorial site that marks the death of 6 million people.

"Isn't this disrespectful towards the victims of the Holocaust?" Yes, some people's behaviour at the memorial site is indeed disrespectful. But the victims are dead, so they're probably busy doing dead people's stuff rather than caring about that.

"I'm on one of the pictures and suddenly regret having uploaded it to the internet. Can you remove it?" Yes. Just send an email to undouche.me@ylocaust.de" ("Ylocaust," archived version).

Presented as a mock “question and answer,” the first person is used for those asking the questions, with the authority of the answers resting in the nameless third person, again inferred to be Shapira himself. In a similar way that the “about” section positions the reader and viewer of the images Shapira has constructed, the utterances in this space receive their appropriate “evaluative accent,” that is to say they frame the hypothetical actions of the visitor to the site within the rubric of rules and potential regret for actions deemed “disrespectful.” The “some people” Shapira conjures are a set of individuals worthy of a certain amount of condemnation, all while asserting, ironically, that “it's up to them.” Addressing those who might have found their image in his work, he notes that an email has been set up (undouche.me@ylocaust.de). The significance of this utterance refers to the colloquial use of “douche” or “douchebag” as a way to describe an obnoxious or detestable person, so to “undouche” them would be to render them acceptable again.

The temporal negotiations are clear. As utterances that echo and reverberate with the past in the current words of Shapira, they function as building a clear bridge between the Holocaust as a historical trauma and the locative nature of the memorial as a space of remembrance, one that has clear behavioural cues. In Contrasting the vivid and commonplace language of the Holocaust (“extermination camps,” “6 Million Jews,” “mass graves”) with the variably flippant language of popular culture (“selfies,” “goofy pictures,” “undouche”) and of condemnation (“disrespectful,” “behave,” “regret”), Shapira establishes a speech genre and pattern that links the horror of the Shoah to the presence of representations of the MMJE on social media as insufficient in their expression of atonement or awareness. The images he uses are the clearest embodiment of this. With the simple movement of the cursor, the heterochronic, that is to say rapid temporal shift, of grey concrete becoming grey bodies summarizes Shapira’s attempt to link a specific contemporary urban site with a vast set of strong visual representations of the Holocaust. [ADD HERE]
On January 27th, 2017 Shapira removed the original Yolocaust site and replaced it with what he referred to as the “Aftermath.” Using a similar two-column approach in English and German as the original site, he begins by addressing the “internet,” explaining the outcomes of the project: that the site was visited by “over 2.5 million people,” and that the “project actually reached all 12 people who’s [sic] selfies were presented” (“Yolocaust,” updated version). Furthermore, he outlines the “tons of great feedback” he received from a variety of individuals, from Holocaust researchers to “folks who lost their family” during the Holocaust. Some of the responses are included on the site, and they reflect a certain selectiveness: they are anonymous and largely laudatory. Framed as “reactions,” they add to what the Bakhtin Circle would refer to as the “interanimated” dimension of Shapira’s speech genre, reinforcing the utterances and system of evaluative accents that he established with the original Yolocaust website. Some of the reactions are reproduced here, with utterances bolded:

“I am a son of a survivor but your background is even more poignant.

[I] think people are not always aware of the importance of a monument.

I am a Pole, the history of my family is related to the place of execution of many nationalities [.]

I think it is a fantastic project and expresses a very thought-provoking message on the topic.

As a gay jew living in Berlin I avoid that place. Your project brings to light a very serious problem with visitors to that site.

I have been to the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin and was moved by the installation - I also found people visiting sometime [sic] don't get the idea and act foolishly.

I remember the atmosphere was grim and I had lost my appetite. I hope some people actually become aware of the meaning of their selfies as 'tourists'.

Thank you for channeling your outrage into something so impactful and for using your creativity to send a clear message rather than resorting to less effective and/or aggressive means.

Two days ago I went to auchwitz [sic] and I was completely appalled at the behaviour that was happening around me.

I really think it is a good way to make people aware of the importance of respect for the past.

Thank you for bringing this behavior to the world's attention.

They are called selfishes. Selfishes.” (“Yolocaust,” updated version).

Firstly, the responses affirm and echo Shapira’s original intentions. A number of reactions underscore Shapira's work: it is “a fantastic project,” one that is productive in “channeling your outrage” in a “poignant” manner. Yolocaust addresses a “serious problem,” mainly those visitors to the site that “don’t get the idea and act foolishly,” and ultimately “become aware of the meaning” of their “selfies/selfishes” as related to the “importance of respect.” What the Bakhtin Circle would
refer to as the “genre/generic” conventions of the utterances undergoes the process of re-evaluation as related to the social group Shapira has formed with his project, and it sediments its aim: to directly associate the memory of the Holocaust with the location of the MMJE. In turn, this is used as a moral imperative to police behaviours, or the making of amends for “wrong” approaches to the MMJE.

Secondly, the reactions also expand the speech genres beyond the MMJE itself by specifically including personal narratives. One commenter is the “son of a survivor,” another is “a Pole” born in Auschwitz, and yet another is a “gay jew living in Berlin.” The associative utterances of these reactions ground their reactions to the selfie-takers and Yolocaust in their own personal experiences, relating their nationalities, sexual orientation, and family histories to how they feel, centralising their reactions by individualising them. Finally, the reactions also relate to the geographic and historical positioning of the MMJE. One commenter relates Yolocaust to their visit to Auschwitz and “was completely appalled by the behaviour they witnessed. Others highlighted the “importance of a monument” and were themselves “moved by the installation,” again expanding the associative power of their experiences to the larger context of memorial sites in other countries, and of monuments in general.

Shapira concludes his text by highlighting the specific instance of a young man leaping around the slabs, captioned “Jumping on dead Jews @ Holocaust Memorial” (“Yolocaust,” updated version). The first image in the series, it was emblematic of the project, and is perhaps the most extreme example of the behaviour Shapira condemns. A combined misreading of the site (there are no victims buried at the MMJE) with a regrettable caption creates the ideal circumstances by which Shapira can prove his point, which becomes all the more salient when he includes the yolocauster’s email response:

“I am the guy that inspired you to make Yolocaust, so I’ve read at least. I am the "jumping on de..." I cant even write it, kind of sick of looking at it. I didn't mean to offend anyone. Now I just keep seeing my words in the headlines. I have seen what kind of impact those words have and it's crazy and it's not what I wanted (…) The photo was meant for my friends as a joke. I am known to make out of line jokes, stupid jokes, sarcastic jokes. And they get it. If you knew me you would too. But when it gets shared, and comes to strangers who have no idea who I am, they just see someone disrespecting something important to someone else or them. That was not my intention. And I am sorry. I truly am. With that in mind, I would like to be undouched. P.S. Oh, and if you could explain to BBC, Haaretz and aaaaallll the other blogs, news stations etc. etc. that I fucked up, that’d be great. 😅” (“Yolocaust,” updated version).

The public and real consequences of Shapira’s project are thus brought to the individual again, who has been ritually and roundly condemned for his actions, and made to understand what he has done wrong. The speech genre that relates to MMJE clearly to the Holocaust as a unitary symbolic space of mourning, and not of pleasure or aesthetics, is embodied in the way the utterances that Shapira and the social set of commentators that he has selected is echoed by the yolocauster in question. In being “truly sorry” and not initially recognizing that “offense” might have been caused by his actions, the “impact of his words” is relayed as a fundamental “[disrespect] to something truly important.” The social aspect of this performance is clear - though the yolocauster in question saw himself as sharing the image amongst his “friends as a joke,” the implications of circulating images on social media becomes all the more stark when they are reappropriated and commented on by others.
6.1.2 The Media Responses

Shahak Shapira's Yolocaust, though short-lived on the internet, was met with a number of articles that responded to both his images and his claims. For the purposes of this section of the discourse analysis six newspaper articles were considered, from a range of including both larger media outlets and less recognized ones. I decided to concentrate on international publications to assess the larger framework of how the localised nature of the MMJE might be interpreted from a variety of perspectives. However, Shapira gave a number or interviews, one of note to the Frankfurter Allgemeine. It will be considered in a separate section, following the discourse analysis of the first set of articles.

The international media reaction was divided amongst editorial/opinion pieces and more conventional journalistic reporting. In discussing these articles, I will bold the utterance I consider important. To simplify the discussion, I will refer to the texts by their associated numbers from now on, all while providing the appropriate citations for the passages in question⁴:

I. James Kirchick, Tablet: “‘Yolocaust’: New Web Site Satirizes the Misuse of One of the Most Iconic Holocaust Memorials”

II. Owen Hatherley, Dezen: “However Brutal, the Yolocaust Website Gave Meaning to Berlin's Holocaust Memorial”

III. India Bourke, the New Statesman: “The “Yolocaust” Project Conflates Hate With Foolish but Innocent Acts of Joy”

IV. Joel Gunter, BBC News: “‘Yolocaust’: How Should You Behave at a Holocaust Memorial?”

V. Phillip Olterman, the Guardian: “‘Yolocaust’ Artist Provokes Debate Over Commemorating Germany's Past”

VI. Lara Sanchez, El País: “The Creator of Yolocaust Withdraws Part of the ‘Selfies’ of Tourists at the Berlin Holocaust Memorial” (trans. author’s own)⁷

To summarize, the thematic register in the articles was wider-reaching than Shapira’s two Yolocaust websites, incorporating other discursive elements that he originally elided, and in doing so provides a wider context for his work. Articles I through III were editorial or opinion-based in tone, and the writers form a set of utterances that range from agreement with his work to seeing it as a provocation. The “disgusting phenomenon” at one of the the most “iconic Holocaust Memorials” is a cause for a reactionary loss of faith on the part of the viewer (Kirchick, 2017). Shapira is “frighteningly successful in doing what it set out to do – shame” (Hatherley, 2017). Contrary to this, “Yolocaust may have intended to provide a space for reflection on our commemorative behaviour but the result feels worryingly sensationalist, if not censorious” (Bourke, 2017). Furthermore, all the articles cite the current political climate in Germany, referencing Björn Höcke, a politician from the hard-right AfD (Alternative for Germany), and his comments about Germans being “the only people in the world who plant a monument of shame in the heart of the capital” (Kirchick, 2017), linking the date of his posting Yolocaust with Höcke making his statement. Both articles I and II

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⁴ Full bibliographical information for these titles is available in the References Section.

⁷ German and Spanish are not my native languages, nor am I more than basically conversant in either. When I add “author’s own” to any translation, I mean to imply that I have used either translation software or picked a colleague’s brain - most often both.
mention other projects that have employed images of the MMJE to varying effect, they include: *Stelen*, a 2012 piece by Marc Alderman that comprised 150 images from Gay Romeo and was presented at the Jewish Museum of New York, *Grindr Remembers*, a site that collected images from Grindr profiles that featured the MMJE, and *Tindercaust*, a similar site that did the same, only for Tinder, the popular dating app. Article II mentions Peter Eisenman explicitly, and commends Shapira for performing “a service – it imposed the meaning that Eisenman wouldn’t” (Hatherley, 2017). While that meaning is unclear, it does point towards the oppositional position that Shapira’s work takes on in relation to the established speech genres that are present around the memorial.

Articles IV through VI are more neutral in tone, establishing different circumstances for *Yolocaust’s* creation. Each give voice to Shapira himself, who provides further details about his work, including its creation: “it’s a phenomenon I had begun to notice in Berlin and then I started seeing those pictures everywhere. I felt like people needed to know what they were actually doing, or how others might interpret what they were doing” (Shapira in Gunter, 2017). Furthermore, he expands on his conception of the MMJE: “Berlin’s Holocaust memorial isn’t there for the Jews, or even the victims – it’s a moral compass for future generations, to warn them precisely about people such as Björn Höcke” (Shapira in Olterman, 2017). Article VI notes elements of Shapira’s own history: he is the descendant of Holocaust survivors, and his grandfather, Amitzur Shapira, was one of the Israeli victims of the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics (Sanchez, 2017). The articles also bring disruptive elements to Shapira’s established speech genre (“acceptable” behaviours at the MMJE and the very public consequences of that “failure”) by featuring Eisenman himself, who is clear in his rebuttal about “his” memorial: “There will be fashion models modelling there and films will be shot there. I can easily imagine some spy shoot ’em ups ending in the field. What can I say? It’s not a sacred place” (Eisenmann in Olterman, 2017). Article VI includes a social media expert who explains that “the portrayed are young people who tend to avoid negative emotions” (Sanchez, 2017). Article IV mentions an educator, who notes that “the generation of today is one that experiences a great deal through the lens of a phone, and it’s not about chastising, exposing, or humiliating them. We try to have challenging conversations about what they want from a picture in that setting” (Gunter, 2017).

As such, the utterance and genre interactions that Shapira had established in *Yolocaust* are tested through these different reporting strategies. Though the notions of “shame” and “disgust” are returned to, receiving their “re-evaluative” accent from these commenters, the social implications or Shapira’s work is also explored, setting it against the established, historical (in the sense of the past 10 years) utterances of Peter Eisenman. The “sacred place” of memory is not to be found at the MMJE, nor should the selfie takers be treated with too much contempt, given that experiential patterns have shifted, and the “lens of a phone” is a means of filtering life that is quite common. The muted tenor of this shift in debate demonstrates a certain “clash of live social accents,” where Shapira’s work is put to the scrutiny of others.

The two German interviews provide further details about Shapira’s conceptual process as well as contrasting his utterances and claims against the larger context of established collective memory in Germany. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* piece positions Shapira, in a series of questions, in opposition to another set of speech genres, one that highlights issues of consent, the public and private notions of photographs depicting victims of the Holocaust, and what might be considered an alternative form of memorial or memory in Berlin. Jarosch (2017) questions Shapira on the
“arbitrary” nature of the photographs and of the montage, highlighting its “tasteless” manner of showing detainees in a certain way. Jarosch makes a direct link through a drastic formulation, “that one could also say the tourists trample on the dead again” (Jarosch, 2017). For Shapira, “the dead don’t matter,” the real issue is how the memorial reflects behaviours of the present, and “how well the young people of today deals with it.” Jarosch then counters with the issue of “meaningful representation,” that is to say that when certain painful images are made public and reproduced on a mass scale, they do not do justice to the actual horror experienced. Shapira disagrees, claiming that “that is exactly what the Nazis wanted [...] the Nazis have always told the Jews that the world will never know what happened to them” (Shapira in Jarosch, 2017). For him, the use of Holocaust imagery has no negative moral implication, it is rather the “selfies much more tasteless,” and the use of images of the extermination camps is “legitimized” through the discussion Yolocaust has engendered. There is also a value judgement at play in this instance: Jarosch claims that the composite images themselves might be “grotesque” or “ugly,” to which Shapira counters with a revealing element of his biography, one that had not been mentioned previously: his “family was murdered in Treblinka, and that he does not share that opinion” and that for him “riding a BMX on the stele” might be considered an affront, and not the Holocaust image itself. When it comes to his own thoughts on the memorial itself, Shapira is less clear. Jarosch pushed him on whether or not Yolocaust is an “indirect critique of the memorial itself,” which Shapira refuses to answer concretely, and when he is questioned on what an “appropriate form of memory” would be at the memorial, Shapira is also circumspect, replying that “everyone has to find that for themselves” (Shapira in Jarosch 2017).

The interview is enlightening because it provides yet another set of speech genres to test Shapira’s utterances. Jarosch “re-evaluates” the genre interactions of Shapira’s original Yolocaust, by reframing the meaning of “tasteless” in relation to his own use of imagery that some might find offensive, ultimately underscoring the non-representational nature of the MMJE. Blocks of concrete cannot mean anything unless they are placed within the context of something, and what Shapira chooses to represent the communicative strategies (the selfies) that he finds distasteful with yet another “tasteless” appropriation - the loaded and symbolic images of the Holocaust survivors or victims themselves. The utterance of “tasteless” is tested in two ways, accentuating how the “meaning/theme” dichotomy of the Bakhtin Circle works: for Shapira, it relates to the social context in which the selfies are taken, for Jarosch it is the use of the horrific images of the Holocaust. In each instance, the “theme” of “tasteless” is different, and I think it reflects the “sensitive index of social changes,” that is to say that what Shapira wants to provoke in another set of speech genres around the Holocaust (representing the horror is beyond the pale) is a “re-evaluation” of what we might consider to actually be the most egregious images related to the Holocaust and remembrance (Volosinov in Collins 1999, 75). For Shapira, the “dead don’t care,” and though his utterances reverberate with specific instances of historical trauma (specifically his own), his rhetorical strategy is to concentrate on the current struggle for meaning in a contemporary period.

6.1.3 Conclusions

The first section of this discourse analysis dealt with Yolocaust as a discrete object, and the second attempted to move the frame beyond the Shapira’s work to consider the discursive strategies around the MMJE in the popular press. The first set of speech genres that Shapira
establishes rest on the notions of “moral transformation,” and “acceptable” behaviour, and if that proper shift does not occur, one might consider the space to be a “ritual failure,” and the perpetrators made to atone in the public sphere. Considering the framework of Yolocaust, and Shapira’s own self-selectivity from the onset when it came to the images he used and the comments he shared, the critical and complicated nature of remembrance is omitted to favour a set of utterances that position the memorial in a clear moral space: selfies are bad, but the alternatives are less clear. What are we supposed to do, what would be acceptable to Shapira? Furthermore he relates two important pieces of information, but only in the interviews. His family was murdered at Treblinka, and that “Berlin’s Holocaust memorial isn’t there for the Jews, or even the victims – it’s a moral compass for future generations” (Shapira in Olterman 2017). Thus, the narrative of Yolocaust is set within another discursive space, one that relates to identity and personal history, in which Shapira can be localised. His claims are not without value, but they do provoke - in Analysis II, I will evaluate if and how this established set of discursive patterns exists around the MMJE on Instagram.

6.2 Discourse Analysis of Salvemos Carabanchel

As discussed above, Salvemos Carabanchel, the community group that was formed to contest the Carabanchel Prison site’s reuse without necessarily acknowledging its past, first prioritizing protests in physical space and before moving to the online realm with their blog and Twitter account (@SOSCarabanchel). This discourse analysis will be less exhaustive than that of the Yolocaust, and will use text from their blog to explain their positioning and speech genres. I will include a brief conclusion before turning to a comparative of Yolocaust and Salvemos Carabanchel. It is already clear about what Salvemos Carabanchel wanted to achieve through its use of Twitter, as they indicate on the header of their blog that, “as you can see, we prioritize our publications on
Twitter, being a more direct means [...] to communicate and share news related to the purpose that, after more than nine years, continues to drive us (trans. author’s own) (“Salvemos Carabanchel”).

6.2.1 The Blog

One contributor to Salvemos Carabanchel set the speech genre that frames the blog succinctly when they ended a recent post with “Madrid continues to be a city without memory.” As a polemical statement, it clarifies the evaluative accents of the utterances that the rest of the site uses: in essence, their right to understand and process the historical memory they see as most essential. The blog itself is a combination of images, texts, and declarations, where the entire webpage is filled with references to the FCPS, its missing inmates, and the current efforts to make the site into a designated memory space. The header, under an image of the ruined Carabanchel Prison, reads as such, with utterances of note bolded:

“All the historical buildings of the old prison of Carabanchel have been reduced to dust. The flag of the former Penitentiary Hospital is still flying, currently housing the Internment Center for Foreigners (CIE), where innocent people who have committed no crime have been deprived of their liberty, such as undocumented migrants. Therefore, our Platform, consistent with its approach and after the disappearance of the rest of the buildings, demands that the Government allocate this space for the memorial which we requested (trans. author’s own)” (“Plataforma por un centro Para La Paz”)."

Furthermore, they list a series of demands, under an icon declaring their association with the Sites of Conscience, an international coalition of organizations that advocate for memory sites across the world, to clarify their mission. The utterances of importance are bolded:

“TO BE CLEAR:
The purpose of our platform is to ensure that, in the area occupied by the Carabanchel prison, a museum space is created or installed which, in addition to honoring the memory of all those who unjustly suffered and suffer repression there, includes a reflection on its history. However, this does not prevent us from sharing other social and neighborhood claims:

- **Immediate closure of the Carabanchel CIE** (officially masked with the name "de Aluche")
- Allocate **ALL the space of the site to social facilities**, including the promised hospital, given the insufficient attention given at Hospital Gómez Ulla (whose capacity is too low)
- Construction of a residence for retirees, not to be forgotten in in some districts with more than 55,000 people over 75
- **Cleaning and development** of the surroundings of the church of Nuestra Señora la Antigua (the oldest original construction in the area, today totally abandoned) and of the remains of the old estate owned by the Empress Eugenia de Montijo
• Completing the Eugenia de Montijo Park, with the **definitive abandonment of the fast-track project** and the valorization of the **important archaeological remains found in the subsoil**

• Opposition to the extension of the parish cemetery to the grounds of the Eugenia de Montijo Park

74 years of **almost uninterrupted operation** of the prison (including the more than 9 that the CIE has been active) have **meant a stigma for our neighborhoods** that must be compensated, at least with a **positive future for the area** (trans. author’s own) (“Plataforma por un centro Para La Paz”).

The blog posts themselves contain utterances that set the stated goals of **Salvemos Carabanchel** up against the various interactions the group has with political actions surrounding the FCPS. In reference to the PSOE’s (the Socialist Party) position on sites of memory they adopt a combative stance: “we are currently dealing with what we might call an **offensive** in defense of some **symbolic buildings** in the city of Madrid.” In commenting on the inauguration of a new memorial for the victims of the 1954 uprising in Hungary, they comment on the city’s land appropriation process: “the speed of the permitting process, the transfer of the public park where it is located and, above all, that notable and representative delegates attended the ceremony, contrasts with the indifference, if not the contempt, with which thousands of [Spanish] victims are treated.” In relating one of the failed proposals, they express a generalised sense of exasperation with how the national governing PSOE dealt with the site before it was destroyed:

> “opting for Carabanchel would be to recognize the enormous nonsense they committed in 2008 when they **dismantled the buildings that would have been the ideal container to house this museum. It would also contradict the miserable offer with which they tried to silence our voices: “... a simple plaque...” Carabanchel would remind them, at all times, what they did eight years ago” (trans. author’s own)” (“Plataforma por un centro Para La Paz”).”

All these instances build a speech genre whose utterances are anchored both in the past (“thousands of [Spanish] victims”, “unjustly suffered and suffer repression”, “**historical buildings**”) while anchoring them in the present life of the neighbourhood (“positive future for the area,” “cleaning and development,” “honoring the memory”). By “interanonymating” in the Bahktinian sense these utterances with each other, the evaluative accents of **Salvemos Carabanchel** take on a dimension that attempts to equate future prosperity with a procedural “memory way,” that is to say that “compensation” for the wrongs perpetrated in the neighbourhood necessarily depend on the state interceding and providing legitimacy to their claims. In this sense, the speech genres elaborated on by **Salvemos Carabanchel** are “both a site of and a stake in the social conflicts” (Collins 1999, 77). As they are modulated to answer to each political claim, their re-evaluation becomes more pertinent. Whether this strategic positioning exists on Twitter will be explored in Analysis II.

### 6.3 Comparing The Discourse Strategies of Yolocaust and Carabanchel

**Yolocaust** and **Salvemos Carabanchel** approach urban memory as related to conflict in different ways. In a discursive sense, **Yolocaust** emphasizes the “shame” and “disrespect” of not
adequately approaching the MMJE correctly, the speech genres that Shapira establishes rest on the notions of “moral transformation,” and “acceptable” behaviour, and if that proper shift does not occur, the “re-evaluative” nature of the utterances is played out in the public sphere. Salvemos Carabanchel is more organisational and socially-oriented in nature: they seek with their utterances and stable types to build a notion of “legitimacy” to their claims, that is to say that they link the historical nature of the FCPS to the community in the neighbourhood. While Shapira builds and contests his speech genre from a personal memory, Salvemos Carabanchel takes their starting point to be the collective struggle of a neighbourhood, composed of a number of voices and actors, working towards the same goal, despite the (perceived) indifference of the institutional structures that govern the planning and policy that would make their stated objective a reality.

Beyond the discourse, both Yolocaust and Salvemos Carabanchel exist within the matrix of the digital bricolage and globital memory. As constituent parts of globital memory, they operate within Reading’s (2014) “uneven field of struggle,” where the communicative strategies and dominant speech genre of Shapira’s work embodies was quick to get a reaction, and a response from the media. Within that same theme, the urban memory processes that Salvemos Carabanchel, though related to remembering conflict and articulating what a monument should also be, is not given the same attention, belying what kinds of memory spaces are favoured. They represent the “the margins of society” in James’ (2013) definition of the digital bricolage, communicating through a layered creation of space in the blog: “bits and pieces” that they incorporate are the images, thoughts, and statements of others, ultimately to “speak through things, as well as with them” Deuzeze 2008, 31). This speaking through and with is accomplished by the juxtaposition of histories (the missing inmates), of intentions (the manifestos), and the active commentary (the posts themselves), providing a nuanced form of memorialization that straddles time periods, all while keeping a focus on the FCPS. Shapira is also a bricoleur with Yolocaust, but his bricolage is a reconstruction of time localized differently: the historical space of the Holocaust as a generalized, horrific, and abstracted evil is made to fit together with the “artefact” of both the MMJE and the photographs of the visitors to the site. The new “insight” in this instance is how vast globital memory is, which allowed him to take and appropriate the images for his project, reinforcing how “uneven” the field in fact is - his position as the arbiter of meaning would not have existed so easily before the rise of digital technology.

7. Analysis II | (Alternative) Digital Embodiments of Urban Memory

In this section, I will explain how I collected the data from Instagram in the case of Yolocaust/MMJE and from Twitter in the case of FCPS. From there, I will build on the previous conclusions from the discourse analysis by commenting on how they relate to the social media sets in three sections: the MMJE Instagram, @SOSCarabanchel in relation to materiality and discourse, and the case of #Charlottesville, providing a reading of how alternatives might be present in how digital space can (re)presents the specific urban memory sites.

7.1 Building a Dataset for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Though the initial inspiration for the first research object is Shahak Shapira’s Yolocaust, the actual observable phenomena is the geo-tagged images of the MMJE on Instagram. In keeping with
the notions of posts as social texts, polyvocal in nature, and each containing elements of a synthesized bricolage of meaning, the strategy was two-fold, and followed Boy and Uitermark’s (2015, 2017) general methodology: observable elements on the micro and macroscopic levels. Though their analysis refers to strategies related to network theory, in this case it was the experiential and aesthetic qualities of the image-text that were to be highlighted, in relation to the aforementioned discourse analysis on the responses to Shapiro’s work - that of selfie-takers and general “disrespect” to the MMJE, and what it represents. Given that almost 7,000 posts were hashtagged as #monumenttothemurderedjewsforeurope or the German equivalent and an unspecified number geolocated to that specific site⁸, to keep the scale manageable and within the bounds of what is feasible in terms of a research sample, a total of 207 Instagram posts were logged and their characteristics noted, over a period of two weeks, from July 30, 2017 to August 16, 2017.

When a location is searched for on Instagram, the well-organized and ordered website interface is divided into a map, locating the geotagged posts, and two sections: “top posts” and “most recent” posts. How these sections are determined is unclear - for the former, Instagram’s help page explains that “top posts appear on trending hashtags and places to show you some of the popular posts tagged with that hashtag or place” (Instagram, 2017). For the latter, it is the most recent posts “of interest” to a particular user. Thus, it is important to note in both instances that the posts in question have been carefully calibrated based on Instagram’s algorithm, which takes into account your profile preferences in type of post that you view, the people you follow, and the hashtags that you have used in the past (www.socialstudioshop.com 2015). As such, Instagram is already selective in what is shared with each user, stratifying what posts it chooses to highlight and build a given digital bricolage with. The experience of using Instagram is subjective and cannot be controlled for these biases.

On the macro scale, a typology of characteristics of 198 posts were recorded from Instagram’s “most recent” section. The aesthetics of the images themselves were divided into 4 categories, which are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full body</td>
<td>In stele</td>
<td>Low Angle</td>
<td>Back to Camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half body</td>
<td>Jumping on Stele</td>
<td>Panoramic View</td>
<td>Balancing Between Stele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand</td>
<td>Sitting on Stele</td>
<td>Perspective View</td>
<td>City Visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only head</td>
<td>Standing on Stele</td>
<td>High Angle</td>
<td>Closeup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 bodies</td>
<td>Whole Memorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Looking at Camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selfie 2 bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Looking at Each Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁸ Instagram does not share this data.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>No City Visible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Body</td>
<td>No Head Visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture of a Picture</td>
<td>Not Looking at Camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Only Legs Visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trees Visible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These categories are useful as they allow for a systematic way to track what users consciously choose to prioritize in their shared image of the MMJE: whether they include themselves, others, or no one; whether they feature almost (if not all) of the memorial, or just part of the stele rows; whether they decide to be active or passive by staring into the camera or appear contemplative; and whether the surrounding urbanscape is included or not. In a few cases, the unique details that were of note to these users was also recorded, such as “flowers.” Furthermore, the colour composition of the posts was recorded - if they were black and white or in colour, as this function is also another significant element of the overall aesthetic of a post. A detailed visual glossary including examples of each of these characteristics is found in Appendix 2.

Another element of posts on Instagram is their captions, which can function as a means by which the user can contextualize, comment on, or locate their image with text and hashtags. These were also recorded, and divided into a set of discursive categories, which are as follows:

1. **Quotation**: the user is clear in their use of a quote from another author to frame their image.
2. **Hashtag**: the user makes use of a single or a number of hashtags, either alone or with an accompanying comment.
3. **Emoji**: the user includes an emoji, either as a unique symbolic element, or in combination with a comment and/or hashtags.
4. **Comment**: the user provides a textual element to their post, divided into the following sub-categories:
   a. **Architectural**: the user reflects on the architectural nature of the memorial.
   b. **Contemplative**: the user reflects on the symbolic nature of the memorial’s function as a site of memory of the Holocaust, or relates it another site of memory/personal experience.
   c. **Travel**: the user relates the monument to their touristic itinerary through Berlin, or simply comments on its nature as a site to visit in the city.
   d. **Other**: the user’s motives are not discernable and/or do not relate to the MMJE.

Either standalone or in combination, these various elements of an Instagram caption work to elucidate the meaning of the image-text in question, revealing a variety of complex structures that underpin the motivations for why a user might post an image. Though sometimes ironic, they can also help flesh out earnest reasons for why a user would add their own image to a digital bricolage of space. Furthermore, they provide a base for the discourse analysis that will follow, as this raw
material is contextualized as social text. The datasets for this macro data can be found in Appendix 3.

On the micro scale, another typology of characteristics of nine posts were recorded from Instagram’s “top posts” section for the geolocated MMJE. These posts are the ones that are the most commented on and liked at a higher rate for a period of time, usually six hours. They offer an opportunity to analyse certain attributes of their function as social texts in further detail. As such, they complement to and contrast with the macro scale data, and provide another opportunity to observe certain given attributes of social texts as they possibly interact with each other. Taking a slightly modified approach to these nine posts, the following aesthetic characteristics were noted, with the same considerations as above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portrait 3/4</th>
<th>Sitting on stele</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portrait full body</td>
<td>Middle distance stare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait Group</td>
<td>Turned away from camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portrait 3/4, arm on heart</td>
<td>Six women leaning against stele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No person featured</td>
<td>Perspective shot with city visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full body</td>
<td>Shot from above with stele in view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In stele row</td>
<td>Perspective shot with low angle and staring at camera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing on stele</td>
<td>Perspective shot with low angle and not looking at camera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with the macro data of the other 198 posts, the caption information was also noted, using the same evaluative categories. However, given that these posts are to be analysed in further detail, additional attributes were recorded for these posts. They are as follows:

1. **Likes**: refers to the number of likes from other users the post received at the time of its recording. Given Instagram’s algorithm, some of the top posts may have a relatively lesser number of likes, but that may include a higher proportion of interactions from their followers in a short period of time.

2. **Comments**: the number of comments from other users and interactive replies from the poster. Instagram’s commenting system is dialogic, where the poster must address the users in question using the “@username” function.

3. **Positive/Negative Comments**: the number of each was recorded, based on the poster’s original caption. This is a subjective evaluation, and does not necessarily relate to opinions of the MMJE in question, rather what the poster chose to foreground in their textual explanation of the image, or its interplay with the image.
4. **Highlight Comment:** if necessary, a significant comment was recorded, either in a negative or positive vein, ultimately to summarize how that particular post was perceived by other users.

5. **Country Of Origin:** this refers to the poster in question’s country of origin, if it could be determined, based on either the information they provided in their Instagram biography, or using a Google search with their name.

6. **Posts, Followers, Following:** this refers to the user’s general profile, not to the post about the MMJE. It was recorded to get a better sense of their Instagram habits. The number of posts can denote if they are a frequent user, and their network, determined by both followers and profiles they follow can indicate how much they engage on Instagram.

7. **URL:** the post’s URL was recorded if it needed to be referred to at a later date.

8. **Notes:** anything of significance that did not fit into the above categories.

For category 3 and 4 (Positive/Negative Comments and Highlight Comments), an extra step was included. If there was a positive or negative comment about the user’s representation of the MMJE that *specifically* referred to it, that user’s account was also analysed using the same categories, but only if they themselves had posted about the MMJE on their own Instagram profile. The goal of this data collection is to flesh out these users’ digital footprint and lives, expanding from the focus on the MMJE to reveal what other interactive elements could be uncovered. The datasets for this micro analysis can be found in Appendix 3.
Figure 7: Geolocated Instagram for MMJE
7.2 Using Quintly and Social Media Twitter Tracking for @SOSCarbachel

Contrary to Instagram, social media analytics and tracking is well-developed for Twitter, mostly due to a large percentage of businesses and organizations using it as a means to market their products, increase their audience, or inform a community of their work. As such, a typology of data characteristics did not need to be developed as in the case of the Instagram postings of the MMJE. Furthermore, given that the research object in the case of the CPS is a Twitter account, the focus point was clearer for data collection. By concentrating on the Twitter profile and how information is articulated and shared, we can observe how @SOSCarbachel functions in relation to its stated aim of keeping the memory of the FPSC alive, all while pushing for a memorial to be constructed there. The data was tracked and collected over a 2-week period, from July 30th to August 15th, 2017. With a total of 443 posts, the following information was logged, based on the tools offered by Quintly:

1. **Hashtags**: the total number of hashtags used in tweets that were either posted by @SOSCarbachel or retweeted by them, with their respective count. As hashtags can be considered the basic syntax and grammar of Twitter, they provide an interesting insight into how tweets are to be understood, who they are directed at, and in what context they should be read in. For each hashtag, Quintly’s system also logs the number of times it was included in a retweet or a favourited tweet.

2. **Mentions Table**: this refers to the number of times the @SOSCarbachel twitter profile was mentioned by other users, including the “Key influencers” described above. It also includes information on the number of times each tweet that included @SOSCarbachel was favorited or retweeted by other users.

3. **Own and Retweets Table**: provides the basic information about all the tweets on the @SOSCarbachel feed for the two week period, including:
   a. **Message**: a copy of the message text that was posted, including any hashtags or links
   b. **Retweets and Favourites**: similar to the hashtag metric, this tracks how many times the given tweet was favourited and/or retweeted, indicating the level of engagement in the post.
   c. **Replies**: refers to whether or not the tweet in question was part of a longer chain of communication, where the @SOSCarbachel profile replied to, or was replying to someone, using the ‘@username” in a similar manner to Instagram.
   d. **Retweet**: denotes as to whether or not this is a retweet from another user or an original tweet from @SOSCarbachel.

With this information in hand, and in a similar way to the geolocated Instagram posts of MMJE, we can start to observe how the @SOSCarbachel Twitter feed anchors a set of discursive social texts. By contrasting the marco data, including the total hashtags and information about the qualities of the tweets with the micro data analysis of what information is prioritized how @SOSCarbachel operates as a dynamic and diffuse space can be expanded upon, perhaps anchored to the original site, but moving far beyond it. The datasets for this can be found in Appendix 4.
7.3 The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe: an Instagram Existence

I will begin by discussing the results of the social media analysis for the MMJE Instagram posts. Of the 198 independently assessed images and texts, I will proceed to organize and tabulate the posts using the established criteria that I explained above. I will being with the macro sets, and then a discussion of the micro sets, keeping in mind Shapira’s positioning vis-a-vis the visitors to the site. For the image typology section, I made the following observations:

- 40% of the images contained bodies
- 32% were of individuals alone
- 1% of the images were selfies, and they were in fact of two people, not alone
- 3% were engaged in the “disrespectful” behaviours of jumping, standing, or balancing between the stelae
- 47% chose to feature their image of the stele rows
- 39% chose to approach the “whole memorial” and 52% chose a panoramic view and 45% chose a perspectival one

When the Instagram users were featured in the photographs, they exhibited the following behaviours, and chose to highlight the following features of the MMJE:

- 5% had their back to the camera
- 13% chose to look at the camera
- 13% also chose to look away, either into the middle distance, or at the ground
- 86% of the images are in black and white
- 14% were in colour
- 28% included some sections of the city
- 16% prioritized the trees at the other end of the memorial
- 4% chose to feature either a closeup image of the stele, flowers that were left behind in commemoration, or animals

77% of the Instagram users employed captions, but to a varying degree, choosing either to use only one of the typology options, or more. The average user used two, most commonly hashtags in conjunction with some kind of text. In the rare instance, a few users employed 3 or more. The following elements were observed:

- 6 users had quotes (eg: "Those who kept silent yesterday, will remain silent tomorrow" -Ellie Wiesel)
- 39% used hashtags
- 22% used hashtags related to the memorial (#memorial, #murderedjews #BerlinMemorial)
- 13% used emojis (eg: 😢 😞 🌿 🌿 🌿 🌿)
- 37% included a comment (eg: “A thought provoking and very moving memorial to the slaughtered Jewish people from Nazi oppression. Sad and timely reminder of what can happen when people refuse to listen to or learn from history!”)
- 12 users’ comments were architectural in tone
- 26% were contemplative
• 35% were travel-oriented (they located themselves, or mentioned a travel-related item
   #Berlin, #travel, #Germany, #backpackers)
• 16 users were in the “other” category, where it was hard to discern their intentions

By and large, this analysis of the images does not compare with the speech genres that Shapira positions the MMJE in. Only a small number of individuals are behaving in the manner that he finds “disrespectful,” and most do not even feature themselves in the photos they take. Most belie an interest in the aesthetics of the site, preferring to adhere to a fairly homogenous set of types - perspective views, and wider panoramas of the stele. The seriality of the images presented is innocuous in tone and in most cases quite demure in timbre - if a caption was included, they ranged from short reflections (“we are human” and “So that we would not forget”) to longer, more ponderous pieces:

“The memorial has another meaning rather than reflection and self-absorption of the spectator, becomes a true artificial topography, is a public space, playful and appropriated by society. And it is valid to live the work, to sit, to walk, to climb, to enjoy it. Far from being a lack of respect as might at first sight be branded (original Spanish, trans. author’s own)”

For the most part, these image-texts did not engage with the site in an sustained way, preferring to include locative hashtags and small bites of text, save those who prepared a quote related to the site and included it, explaining their feelings by contextualising them in well-worn words of others (Those who kept silent yesterday, will remain silent tomorrow” - Ellie Wiesel [sic]). Shapira also makes the claim that the MMJE is “for the Germans” as do a number of scholars (Carrier 2005; Kashuba 2001), but the languages used in the posts are either English, Spanish, Swedish, French, or Portuguese, demonstrating for the most part that the visitors to the site are foreign. In a similar fashion to Dekel (2013) highlighting the normalization of the MMJE through sustained engagement and practice, these Instagram users relate as much as they feel they need to, with most remaining at arm’s length from commentary that might seem disrespectful or flippant.

For the micro analysis, I chose to focus on two posts, which I will describe in further detail. Using the method I established above, in the “top posts” section, I followed a negative posting to the other user’s profile, and also undertook the same analysis for that user. In the following section, I will describe the interactions between @Lorgeriner and @kaleyisiswolfe.
As one of the “top posts” for the period that the geolocated Instagram space of the MMJE was monitored, Loreginer’s image of the site received 3,196 likes. Captioned with “La clásica,” (i.e. the “necessary shot, the one that is required”) the image fits into Shapira’s general classificatory structure of “disrespectful” images of the MMJE, with the general obliviousness for the site’s history and a composition that focuses on the individuals present in the image rather than the contemplative nature of the stele field. The image received a number of approving comments, but two negative ones as well, reacting in disbelief at the poster’s attitude. I will focus on Kaleyiswolfe’s, reproduced here in full, with utterances bolded:

“This is **really disgusting** and you should take this down. This is a monument to Jewish lives lost in the holocaust, not a place to pose for Instagram. Those blocks represent literal murdered lives so maybe take your shoes off them”

In this comment, we see echoes of Shapira’s speech genres, berating and chastising the poster for their callousness. Though it is indeed a “monument to Jewish lives lost in the holocaust,” Kaleyiswolfe conflates Eisenman’s stele for “literal” representations of “murdered lives,” rather than recognising their essentially abstract nature. In enacting the Yolocaust’s stated aim in real-time, Kaleyiswolfe is re-evaluating the utterances that frame this particular position on the MMJE. Furthermore, she is motivated to post her own image, with the following caption, edited for brevity, with utterances bolded:

“I wasn’t planning on posting this photo because I hated the culture of taking pictures at this monument and almost regretted documenting it [...] This is the memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. I was very excited to see this place with my own eyes in the one day we had in Germany. What I saw when I got there was appalling and disheartening. People taking selfies, eating soft pretzels, and literally sitting on top of the concrete slabs that represent the lives of my murdered ancestors while making out or even tanning. Over half of the people walking through had a selfie stick
in their hands while doing so. Parents were letting their children CLIMB these blocks. The heaviness and uneasiness that the artist was trying to convey with this monument was completely lost to every single tourist I saw. I felt sick. I felt angry. I felt invisible in my state of disbelief as no one was batting an eye at this behaviour. So am I surprised that there are so many people ignoring, allowing and apologizing for nazis today? Sadly, not at all. Just look at how people treat a physical tangible monument meant to reflect the evils of nazism and the millions of lives lost in the holocaust and you really don’t need to know much else.

Figure 9: Kaleyisiswolfe’s Instagram Post

Kaleyisiswolfe presents a sober image of the MMJE, focusing on a reaction that is polemical, yet highly personalized. She locates herself as a Jew, shocked by the behaviour of the site’s visitors, finding it “appalling and disheartening,” feeling “invisible” and equating the behaviour she is witnessing to “nazi apologism.” Though perhaps an overreaction, it demonstrates the very visceral reactions that an individual might encounter at the MMJE. In this sense, we can consider how the text works in a performative sense as a rhetorical tool. Hess’ (2007) 4th and 5th questions are the most relevant here (What does the text do to (or with or against) other texts? / How does the text act on person(s)?) because they illustrate the means by which a “feedback” of memory occurs: Kaleyisiswolfe, motivated by the Instagram bricolage of the site she identifies so strongly with, posts her own image, utilizing the speech genres of Shapiro, the visual codes of “acceptable” MMJE images, and then re-evaluates his vision of urban space. Facilitated by the “unevenly distributed digital memories” of the digital bricolage she is a part of, Kaleyisiswolfe can participate in the “social discord circulating at the margins” by challenging Loreginer. Though I refrain from assigning a normative evaluation to this interaction, I believe that it nevertheless demonstrates how personal identities shape and influence online interactions.

7.4: @SOSCarabanchel: The Concrete and the Ruin, or Discourse and Materiality

The 442 tweets that I analysed demonstrate a different type of discursive pattern that the MMJE, and by sheer volume, the data proved challenging to tabulate. I will begin by some macro level observations on @SOSCarabanchel’s tweeting behaviours before entering into a discussion about the methods by which the information is organised. Of the 442 tweets that were recorded,
only 26 were original, all the rest were retweets from a variety of organizations, groups, and individuals. In terms of hashtags, the primary means by which information is organized and articulated on Twitter, 194 different ones were used by either @SOSCarabanchel’s own tweets or their retweets, of these the top 5 were as follows:

- #13Rosas (12 times)
- #StragediBologna (7 times)
- #Badajoz (6 times)
- #FloresParaLaMemoria (5 times)
- #MemoriaHistórica (5 times)

The bolded tweets refer to the 13 female victims of an early Francoist era massacre, and they bear heavily in Spanish popular consciousness. As a question of chronology, it was clear that the rhythm and cadence of the tweets went with the events that were commemorated, both in Spain and abroad, as they related to issues surrounding the FCPS. #Bajadoz refers to a bullring in Spain that was also the site of a Franco era massacre, and @SOSCarabanchel attempts to contextualize it in relation their own “lost” site. What all these interactions do is serve to reinforce and re-evaluate the most important utterances for the organization - that legitimacy as a site of memory is not bounded by space, though it is localised by it. The reflexive nature of online communications belies how these retweets start to build an accumulative archive of space, which through their careful selection, the @SOSCarabanchel bricoleurs are in fact making a sophisticated archive, “re-using existing artefacts” of small slices of time and place from around the world, bolstering their claim being part of a larger field of memory.

At a micro level, these tweets also contextualize the difficulties of not having a fixed site of memory, as is the stated goal of @SOSCarabanchel. The invocation that is often made on the @SOSCarabanchel feed is one of nostalgia, or recognition of the ruined nature of the FCPS. The traces of the site echo through the tweets they share, as “warnings” to others. In contrast to the clear aesthetic considerations of the MMJE, the ruins of Carabanchel, that are featured prominently on their Twitter header image recalls Hetherington’s “spectral poetics,” that focus on the ghostly and the haunted and so ‘seek to give voice to these traces by emphasizing their evocative - evoking - character’ (Hetherington 2013, 27). Ruins, according to Huyssen (2006), are where “history appears spatialized and built space temporalized.” Both these ideas seem to be at work in @SOSCarabanchel, as the consistent “evocation” of the past, of the “dust” of the lost prison, informs how they experience each new tweet. The digital bricolage in their case is also an instance of memory at the “the margins of society,” where through the uneven processes of “distributed digital memories” might not favour @SOSCarabanchel - they are not that popular a Twitter profile - their work in re-evaluating the spaces of memory throughout time still evokes the ghosts that others would want to suppress.

There is also a link to the MMJE in these sentiments. Ball (2008), equates Peter Eisenman’s “deconstructed minimalism’ as [marking] the power of the rhetoric of sublime unrepresentability” (Ball 2008, 12). It is a view that isn’t without its detractors, as Cocotas (2017) suggests:

“The most human thing about this memorial, the most genuinely rousing thing about it, is an occasional chip on one of the blocks. A pile of dirt, subtly shifted and altered by
millions of footsteps, would have been a more moving tribute. A suggested intervention: Blow up the memorial and leave the rubble."

The humanity of failure, of failed promises, of imperfect and rough things, and of rubble is what animates the @SOSCarabanchel Twitter feed, and in thinking of the aesthetic concerns of the MMJE and its obsessive representation on Instagram, it is interesting to consider how it would be articulated differently, if the assemblage had different parameters.

7.5 The Case of #Charlottesville

On the weekend of August 12, 2017, a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, North Carolina, protesting the planned removal of a statue and the renaming of a park, ignited a wave of controversy, panic and sadness across the United States when a protester was run over and killed by a white supremacist driving in a car. It foregrounded the dire nature of race relations in the country post Donald Trump’s election and localised it in the highly symbolic urban fabric of cities in the south United States, where statues honouring confederate soldiers and generals had long been installed. As globital memory crosses geographic barriers by its very nature, the incident found itself becoming a reactive moment on both the MMJE Instagram posts and the @SOSCarabanchel Twitter. I will attempt a reading of how that functioned, to demonstrate how the concepts and themes that I have been discussing relate to Till’s understanding of memory as a “process,” that is finely attuned to different spaces, and is dealt with in varying ways.

Figure 10: tinyatlasquarterly’s Instagram Post

For the MMJE posts, they reaction was observable in both the macro and micro sets. One of the "top posts," by @tinyatlasquarterly featured #Charlottesville. In a reflective caption that
accompanied the user’s image of themselves wandering through the stele, @tinyatlasquarterly addresses her followers as “friends” building a sense of community within the post, and relating how she has been reading “about white supremacists” while visiting Berlin, the “former center of Nazi power.” She then localises MMJE and frames it as a “reminder” of war and violence and posits that it makes for an ideal time to reflect on how to “extinguish” America’s worst impulses towards hate speech, etc. Her post received a 2,314 likes and 42 comments, commending her for her message. In total, another four Instagram posts referenced Charlottesville. All except one featured the contemplative images that did not include themselves in it. Their comments are reproduced below, with utterances of note bolded:

- “Never again, Mr. Trump”
- “It was surreal and frightening touring around Berlin today discussing Nazism in Germany given the horrifying news from back home these past few days (months, years, etc...) The threats of white supremacy and complacency are real and grave and unacceptable”
- “I felt the need to come here today”
- “Being here at the Holocaust memorial in Berlin felt particular relevant today. I never thought, in my lifetime, I would experience an American president taking anything but the absolute strongest of stands against bigotry and hatred. Pardon my French, but fuck this coward that’s in office. Never again”

These captions also comment on the locative significance and importance of being at the MMJE at this specific time, relating the “surreal” nature and “relevant” situation of their encounter with the memorial. Beyond calls to action of “never again,” all the users transpose their American identity and sense of belonging onto their experience, seeing through the memorial, and associating it with current events as they were occurring. In thinking of Hess’ 4th and 5th questions about the rhetoric of memory, we can see how the memorial offers a counterpoint to the situation in Charlottesville, an inflection of hope to some of the users that there are ways to combat and challenge the things they see in the world as a problem. As such, the text of the memorial and the text of the image perform a kind of transformation, where ideas about remembrance are articulated through the experience of the memorial. In the larger context of the globital, these opinions can be shared immediately, and in the space of the bricolage of the Instagram feed, it can contribute to expanding the variety of dialogues that occur between users. As a means of expression that rests in the interplay between the text and the image, this bricolage uses the “appropriate” materials of the memorial and the memory of the Holocaust to make a link to the present.

@SOSCarabanchel’s Twitter feed functions slightly differently. Over the span of three days, they tweeted ten times about Charlottesville, with only one being their own tweet, which was a simple “#Charlottesville [sic] https://t.co/yvXnBUxA1z,” which linked to a post from the Auschwitz Memorial: “Auschwitz stands today as a painful reminder of what racist [sic] & antisemitic ideology can lead to, of what may happen when people hate.” In keeping with the discursive value of Twitter and @SOSCarabanchel’s consistent re-evaluation of the past in light of the present, they retweeted a number of organisations, including the Sites Conscience, the Anne Frank Centre, and the mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau:

- RT @BBCWorld: Charlottesville death: Marianne Rubin, 89, joins protests https://t.co/8Y3W7bigTe
• RT @1916Abu: #Charlottesville #NeverAgain https://t.co/Ka6Phlualb
• RT @AdaColau: When hatred and racism planting, growing monsters. What you call it @realDonaldTrump, as of #Charlottesville ...
• @AnneFrankCenter RT: We tweeted the below three days before Charlottesville. Our only correction: The alarming parallels of history escal ...
• RT @AkishaRJones: Heather Heyer, the 32yo Who Died in #Charlottesville attack. Her last FB msg read, "If you're not outraged, you're not p ...
• @pnique RT: Why Trump does not condemn neo-Nazi murders of Charlottesville? Why the PP does not condemn the Franco regime? rhetorical questions ...
• RT @SitesConscience: Were These monuments erected in hate & amp; it still inspire today; We stand w / those working so bravely in #Charlottesville ...
• #Charlottesville https://t.co/yvXnBUxA1z
• @demigelch RT: What happened in #Charlottesville is further proof that fascism is still there, dormant. The more you know, the more prep ...
• RT @amauthausen: Fascism grows if no one does anything about it #Charlottesville #NoPasaran (trans. author’s own).

In their accumulated digital bricolage of retweets points to their consistent strategy, which foregrounds historical elements of discourse from other sites or individuals, continuously making an argument that rests in localising the struggle for legitimization as a site of memory within the site of the FCPS and Spain - by retweeting someone like @demigelch (“@pnique RT: Why Trump does not condemn neo-Nazi murders of Charlottesville? Why the PP does not condemn the Franco regime? rhetorical questions”) @SOSCaraBanchel is creating a clear throughline between the horrors of the Spanish past and the issues of today. By alloying themselves with Charlottesville, they are reacting, in a rhetorical manner, to their mission as an organization that blurs the quest for a proper memorial with the awareness that they exist for and by a larger community, be it their online followers or the neighbourhood they claim to also represent.

8. Conclusion | Towards The Urban Memory Heterotopia

As a means of concluding, I would like to turn to one last image and briefly to one last theory, because I feel it offers a good synthesis of what I have discussed. Late in his career, Foucault turned to the idea of heterotopias, loosely defined as the spaces of otherness, where non-hegemonic conditions of physical being and mental understanding could coexist, and in that sense, could offer the emancipatory potential for contesting and re-imaging history (Foucault 1986). As a reflection of ourselves, the heterotopia “is capable of juxtaposing in a single real place several spaces, several sites that are in themselves incompatible” (Foucault 1986, 8). It functions like the bricolage in that it assembles, but it acts more as a mirror of our own aspirations and thoughts: “it makes this place that [we] occupy at the moment when [we] look at [ourselves] in the glass at once absolutely real, connected with all the space that surrounds it, and absolutely unreal” (idem, 4). This real/unreal
juxtaposition of place slices through time, making them heterochronic, open to possible shifts in chronology - it is in many ways similar to the digital.

![Image](image.jpg)

*Figure 11: jaimevn99*

Jaimevn99 stands on the stele, looking into the distance. The wet blocks and contrasting sky make him pop out of the scenery as he stares into the middle distance. He’s Spanish, and as an accompanying caption, he quotes León Felipe: “Aqui se rompen las cuerdas de todos los violines del mundo/Here the strings of all the violins of the world are broken.” A Spanish anti-Fascist poet who was exiled to Mexico, Felipe was referring in this instance to Auschwitz, but the feeling is transferable to the grey stones, and comes off as appropriate for the monumentalism. Jaimevn99 links and locks histories in and through the digital membrane, juxtaposing places, bringing parts of himself to the image and mode of remembrance that he choses. For a second, despite its selective and staged nature, Jaimevn99’s Instagram image-text becomes a *heterotopia of illusion*, where I see the reaction I wish I had on that cold March in Berlin, rather than the disillusionment I felt with the space. What makes this unique and unlike any situation before is that I am able to open up these heterotopias whenever I chose and localise them wherever I want.

And that is why I chose to tackle this topic. The mundane as much as the special inhabit the digital realms we all participate in, and elucidating these small, but significant ways in how behaviours, presentations, and performances of interactions with conflict memory shape ourselves and those around us speaks towards how we build larger, cohesive urban communities. In elaborating on the research question of *How personal and collective social memories of conflict represented and contextualized in digital representations of urban memory space* I employed a methodology that rested on letting the research objects in question speak for themselves, by using a discourse analysis that let utterances and speech genres *empirically* determine positions of power and control. Furthermore, I used social media as a qualitative tool and object of study because it is so ubiquitous, and is often overlooked a serious venue for textual or discourse analysis.

In terms of results, the initial use of Volosinovian Dialogism on Yolocaust and *Salvemos Carabanchel* revealed clear positionings vis-a-vis their respective communities. *Salvemos*
Carabanchel and @SOSCarabanchel are fairly consistent in terms of their speech acts and bricolage tactics, building legitimacy through repetition, and by linking the history of the FCPS to a number of current events, all while echoing the “spectral poetics” of the ruins of their original site. Given Madrid’s current political climate, it is unclear if @SOSCarabanchel will get what they want - a sanctioned memorial - and perhaps the heterotopia of illusion that they continue building with every retweet will continue the “process of memory” in a way that becomes self-fulfilling. @SOSCarabanchel may have already become the memory site.

Shahak Shapira’s Yolocaust rests on shame and disrespect localized at the MMJE, creating a bricolage of meanings about the site that provide the evaluative accents he requires and leveraging the “uneven digital spaces” to get the reactions he wants. Though, for the most part, the Instagram posters are not the type to be that extreme or flippant in their images, as the data analysis of the geolocated posts demonstrated. Rather, save the micro analysis exception of @Kaleyisiswolfe and @Loreginer, the users at the site are more interested in the aesthetics or touristic potential of the site, gesturing somewhat broadly towards its status as a memorial. As such, these users are situated somewhere in between the extreme of Shapira’s stele monsters and Dekel’s delicate and emotionally transformed visitors - they mostly represent the mundane nature of a memorial that has become a fixture of Berlin. Both social media datasets contain a wealth of information that I did not have time to address, and a longer discourse-based analysis of large amounts of data could highlight even more the networked and dialogical quality to online communications as related to memorials.

It is when the topographies of memory are spiked for a brief moment that I feel this research is novel. In the case of #Charlottesville, an observable new set of meanings arose from the Instagram users and @SOSCarabanchel, as they related their lives and identities to the spaces they were visiting at that given time. #Charlottesville revealed how the recorded experience of space, working through the events surrounding them and the historical context of their making, offered transformative potential. As a future path of inquiry, I would expand this type of work to consider how other popular sites of memory are used to articulate experience around significant events. I would also suggest one last desire line for future research: Judt’s (2005) assertion that “Holocaust recognition is our contemporary European entry ticket” tests the ideas of what “Europeanness” is, and in combination with the mostly international guests to the MMJE, any new research that aims to study the scalar relationship of memory structures around Europe could prove worthwhile, if their focus remains on Eder’s (2005) narrative constructions of individuals from local, cosmopolitan, and national identities. How issues of re-territorialisation are affecting what gets memorialised where could be of great importance in the coming years.
9. References | Works Cited

9.1 Books and Articles


9.2 Online: Websites, Newspaper Articles, Blog Posts, and Tweets


"Y el primer Memorial ha sido dedicado a..." 2016. Plataforma por un centro para la paz y la memoria en la antigua cárcel de Carabanchel. 18 December http://salvemoscarabanchel.blogspot.com.es/2016/12/y-el-primer-memorial-ha-sido-dedicado-a.html

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Glossary of Social Media and Technology Terms

The following definitions were taken from TechTarget’s “WhatIs.com” dictionary of technology terms (http://whatis.techtarget.com/definitions).

Active Monthly Users: the amount of unique users (individuals using the same IP address) who have logged in or used a website or application over a 30 day period.

Algorithm: a procedure or formula for solving a problem, based on conducting a sequence of specified actions.

Analytics: refers to the approach of collecting data from social media sites and blogs and evaluating that data to make business decisions. This process goes beyond the usual monitoring or a basic analysis of retweets or "likes" to develop an in-depth idea of the social consumer.

API: a code that allows two software programs to communicate with each other, and share certain sets of information.

Check-in: an act of "self reported positioning," where a user adds a geotag to their online posts to orient themselves in physical space.

Emoji: a small image, either static or animated, that represents a facial expression, an entity or a concept (among other possibilities) in digital communications.

Engagement: the number of interactions people have with content (i.e.: likes, comments, shares, retweets, etc.)

Favourite/Like: A way of signalling positive feelings towards a post on social media.

FourSquare: a local search-and-discovery service mobile app which provides search results for its users.

Geotag or geolocate: the addition of geographical information, usually in the form of latitude and longitude coordinates, to Web sites, images, videos, and social media posts.

Handle: Another term for a username. In combination with the "@" it addresses the user in question.

Hashtag: a tag ("#") used to categorize posts on social media according to topics.

Interaction(s): the number of people who either engage with content or form social nodes (i.e. retweet) over a given period of time.

Metadata: data that describes other data. Meta is a prefix that in most information technology usages means "an underlying definition or description."

Microblogging: a web service that allows the subscriber to broadcast short messages to other subscribers of the service.

Posting: to upload a photo or text to a given website, also defined as the entity itself.

Reach: the number of people who see your content.
Retweet(ed) or (RT): the repetition of another user’s update, or tweet, on Twitter. Like tweet, the term is used as a verb as well as a noun.

Twitter: a free social networking microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator): as the name suggests, it provides a way to locate a resource on the web, the hypertext system that operates over the internet.

Appendix 2: Visual Glossary of Instagram post Image Characteristics

The images below illustrate the typology of the Instagram posts that were analysed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full body</th>
<th>In stele</th>
<th>Low Angle</th>
<th>Back to Camera</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half body</td>
<td>Jumping on Stele</td>
<td>Panoramic View</td>
<td>Balancing Between Stele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image7.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand</td>
<td>Sitting on Stele</td>
<td>Perspective View</td>
<td>City Visible</td>
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<td><img src="image9.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image10.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image11.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image12.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only head</td>
<td>Standing on Stele</td>
<td>High Angle</td>
<td>Closeup</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 bodies</th>
<th>Whole Memorial</th>
<th>Looking at Camera</th>
<th>Flowers</th>
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<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image7.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Multiple Bodies</th>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Looking at Other</th>
<th>No Body</th>
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<td><img src="image9.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image10.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<th>Selfie 2 bodies</th>
<th>No Body</th>
<th>Not Looking at Camera</th>
<th>Picture of a Picture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image13.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image14.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image15.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image16.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal</td>
<td>No Head Visible</td>
<td>Only Legs Visible</td>
<td>No City Visible</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Animal Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="No Head Visible Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Only Legs Visible Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="No City Visible Image" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Looking at Camera</td>
<td>Trees Visible</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Not Looking at Camera Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Trees Visible Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I wasn't planning on posting this photo because I hated the culture of taking pictures at this monument and almost all of the people we saw were single tourists I saw. I felt sick. I felt angry. I felt invisible in my state of disbelief as no one was batting an eye. I was there like a week ago...
The Memorial of the Holocaust, in Berlin, is dedicated to the six million Jews murdered during the Nazi regime. It is possible to walk through rows and rows of concrete slabs as a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

It was surreal and frightening touring around Berlin today discussing Nazism in Germany given the horrifying news from the past few days (months, years, etc...) The threats of white supremacy and complacency are real and grave and unacceptable.

I felt the need to come here today. O NOT FORGET.

O Memorial do Holocausto, em Berlin, é dedicado aos seis milhões de judeus mortos durante o regime nazista. É possível caminhar por fileiras e fileiras de placas de concreto como um memorial às vítimas do holocausto.

Foi surreal e assustador percorrer o Berlin hoje discutindo o nazismo na Alemanha considerando as notícias assustadoras dos últimos dias (meses, anos, etc...) As ameaças de supremacia branca e complacência são reais e graves e desafiadoras.

Eu senti a necessidade de vir aqui hoje. O NUNCA ESQUEÇA.
Impressive memorial in Berlin. There’s a museum under this monument you can’t miss!
RT (@IveserVenezia): (#Bologna, (2 agosto 1980, (ore 10.25. (#nondimenticare (https://t.co/J027GwB05N

RT (@GregoryBaudouin): (El gran evento para septiembre 2017, es la presentación de la (...) (https://t.co/V57MmaQD27 (#guerred’espagne (#Mémoirede…


RT (@fibgar_: (“Mi familia pudo cerrar sus heridas. A vosotros se os acusa de querer abrirlas.” (@ctxt_es (https://t.co/DkS9kivSnC

RT (@Falbaluca): (OPINIÓN | (Arrebatar Berghof a los Hitler, por @demiguelch (https://t.co/SfiziLVcYp (vía @eldiarioes. (Es un gran relato.

RT (@ExtremaduraRoja): (AGOSTO ANTIFA. (MANIFESTACIÓN x los asesinados en la MATAÑZA DE (#BADAJOZ. (14 de AGOSTO a las 20:30h. ¡Asiste y difunde!

RT (@esgomor): (Otro motín en el CIE Aluche. Seguimos apostando por una ciudad sin instituciones opacas, seguimos exigiendo #CIEsNo (https://t.co/…

RT (@el_pais): (A estos dos chinos ya no se les va a olvidar que en Alemania no se puede hacer el ‘Heil Hitler’ ni de broma (https://t.co/4RpoV…

RT (@cntvigo): (Ada Grossi, socialista libertaria, combatiente en la Guerra de España, nos dijo adiós el 8 de agosto de 2015. La voz de “Radio…

RT (@CgtMemoria): (https://t.co/OxDXhRVJFG Hoy 14 de agosto volvemos a recordar la barbarie de la matanza de Badajoz. ¡¡¡¡¡Justicia!!!! (https://t.co/…

RT (@CervantesFAQs): (¡Este artículo de @demiguelch indispensable para entender las FARSAS que publican @hermanntertsch o @juanerpf! (https://t.co/…

RT (@CementerioLibro): (@ujcemadrid 13 Rosas Osarios llenos de rosas Tapia Necrópolis Este 5 de agosto 1939 (#MemoriaHistórica (#VíctimasFranquismo (@D…

RT (@Buscameblog): (Ley de Amnistía, no de impunidad; Los artículos que protegen el franquismo (https://t.co/zJwkYPNLcX (https://t.co/QfifENoz3N

RT (@Buscameblog): (Sobre la memoria de la oposición antifranquista (https://t.co/Ul8mFOM8wh (https://t.co/Qp2hYQJWxK

RT (@AzcoagaJimena): (Isla de San Simón fue un campo de concentración franquista entre 1936 y 1943. Se solicita que se declare esta isla como…”

RT (@AuschwitzMuseum): (Preservamos el lugar del antiguo campo nazi alemán para homenajear a víctimas y para que todos recuerden y aprendan. (h…

RT (@ARMH_Memoria): (Hay transiciones tan ejemplares que los ayuntamientos democráticos no pueden decidir el nombre de las calles que impuso F…”

RT (@GanemosMadrid): (New protest in the CIE of Aluche. The only alternative is closing. #CIEsNo (https://t.co/jhJKbOfxNF

RT (@EugenioRomeroB): ((@(Aecos_comsoc and @ARMHEXMemoria organized “Walking the memory Badajoz in August 1936...” Do not miss it. Because I privilege…

RT (@eldiarioes): (Two Dutch dunks in the struggle for historical memory become the new international brigade (https://t.co/PpV6rSsPzA

RT (@demiguelch): (obey, obey... (https://t.co/PpV6rSsPzA

RT (@demiguelch): (Abundio Andaluz will have to wait in a pit that justice is done. I count on @eldiarioes (https://t.co/8T...

RT (@CorunaMemoria): (La Franco Foundation gets paralyzed in renaming of 52 streets Franco. (https://t.co/BudfSEUnp9 (@SOSCarabanchel)

RT (@CorunaMemoria): (La Franco Foundation gets paralyzed in renaming of 52 streets Franco. (https://t.co/BudfSECMxB (@SOSCarabanchel)

RT (@cmsouthern): (3 Photo from the Auschwitz Album showing the arrival of a transport from Hungary (https://t.co/w8X3oM7HOZ

RT (@CasanovaHistory): (Decades of work, research, dissemination of history. Story that people want to read, with @Ed_Critica (https://t.co/…

RT (@BBCWorld): (Charlottesville death: Marianne Rubin, 89, joins protests (https://t.co/8Y3W7bigTe

RT (@awlky): (#lamemoriadelsoccorso (#2 agosto1980 (StrageDiBologna (https://t.co/vY2x7asVbN

RT (@AuschwitzMuseum): (#FF Memorials @MajdanekMuseum @GedenkstaetteNG @StutthofMuseum @GMSachsenhausen @Gusen_Memorial (&amp; @annefrankhouse
Mi opinión sobre la polémica sobre Antonio Machado en Sabadell: Magnificar, de forma interesada, lo anecdótico para ocultar lo importante. https://t.co/FZTG4gzxUm

Las ruinas del Campamento de los soldados son una muestra del dolor de los esclavos del franquismo en Mallorca. https://t.co…

Franco hat alle Gnadenegesuche für Salvador Antich abgelehnt, das kommt… https://t.co…

Entre 1938 i 1944 més de 840 militants de la CNT van ser afusellats a Catalunya. (Listat annex (Font: https://t.co/4DLLXb…

The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima. https://t.co/R3enLzIyiZ


Los concejales de Somos han propuesto a sus socios de gobierno en el Ayuntamiento de Oviedo realizar un... https://t.co/BGT2…

#(80GuerraCivil (Nazi CGN daily 08/04/1937: "Franco Recognized by vatican" (Fake News again: only in recognition Implemented June 1…

Were these monuments erected in hate? & it still inspire today; We stand w/ those working so bravely in... https://t.co…


On August 1, 1910 born Gerta Pohorylle. The first female photojournalist to cover a war, the war... https://t.co…

Letter to his wife and children of Miquel Castel, one of the 1717 executed by Franco in the Campo de la Bota, Barcelona... https://t.co…

Catalina Silva dies at 100 years. He could not find the remains of his sister Maria, (Libertarian), murdered in 1936 (https://t.co/…

The apology for Francoism is not a crime, but it is unacceptable that it is subsidized and declared of public interest. The… https://t.co…

La pequeña/gran historia de los niños de Rusia que no se adaptaron a España. Por @josecahuerta en #VeranoLibre https://t.co/…

You can review images of the launch → https://t.co/4z4isSVldi

To say that Franco's crimes are crimes against humanity but not applying international law is a incongruency. https://t.co…

https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/892272547538063360
https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/897057534867120129
https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/896296057889542145
https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/893546040741310464
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https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/892301124132380672
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Llevábamos (#FloresParaLaMemoria) para la tumba de Gerda Taro, pero, a su lado, una corona desgastada por el tiempo...

We had been (#FloresParaLaMemoria) for the grave of Gerda Taro, but his hand a crown worn by time...

https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/891615320942809089

We have been gone another who suffered Franco's repression. Like so many, also went through (#Carabanchel). Basilio Martín Patino (DEP).

https://twitter.com/SOSCarabanchel/status/896809242463744001

https://t.co/gTeXyMuLNo
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