

Call for Blog Posts and Reports from the Field

Next year (2021) marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. We should have stories we want to share about doing public history commemorations related to those events in the United States and abroad. But we are also in the midst of a number of other nationally significant, landmark commemorations ranging from the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the 30th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. To capture how and why public historians and their communities have been commemorating events with national and international profiles--as well as less widely-known people, places, or events--the Editors of *The Public Historian* and *History@Work* want to hear from you about your public history work about commemorations, broadly defined.

We invite reports from the field by public historians about the challenges of commemoration at museums and archives, online, or in your community at large. Submissions might address upcoming and recent national and international anniversaries (such as the American Revolution, 9/11, the Nineteenth Amendment, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Stonewall uprising, and World War I).

We also want to hear about local or regional, site-specific commemorations of less widely known people, places, or events. All submissions should engage with the historiography of commemoration and what or whom is being commemorated and should provide readers with portable lessons or best practices for doing public history. International perspectives are, as always, welcome and encouraged.

Successful submissions will address one or more of the following questions:

- What can we learn about the practice of public history from commemoration of people, places or events?
- What counts as commemoration, and is commemoration always public history?
- What are new ways are public historians remembering local or regional history?
- Who are the stakeholders and collaborators for this project?
- What forms does commemoration take, and what are public historians getting right and wrong?
- Who is included in commemoration, and who is left out?
- What role does material culture play in how we commemorate the past?
- What purpose does commemoration serve, and how does it change over time?

The Public Historian manuscripts and *History@Work* pitches will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be evaluated using the established practices for each publication. Please follow standard submission guidelines for each publication *History@Work*: <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/guidelines/> and *The Public Historian*: <https://tph.ucpress.edu/content/submit>, and indicate your special interest in our commemoration call when you submit. Submissions may take a variety of forms, but we are particularly interested in reports from the field (*The Public Historian*) and project showcases (*History@Work*).

Below are samples of past *The Public Historian* articles and *History@Work* posts about commemoration:

- *History@Work*
 - Browse *History@Work* blog posts about commemoration here: <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/tag/commemoration/>.

- *The Public Historian*
 - John Barnes, “The Struggle to Control the Past: Commemoration, Memory, and the Bear River Massacre of 1863,” *The Public Historian* 30, no. 1 (February 2008): 81-104.
 - Julia C. Wells, “In the Shadow of the Butcher: The Limits to Remembering in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” *The Public Historian* 36, no. 2 (May 2014): 51-74.
 - Rachel Duffett and Michael Roper, “Making Histories: The Meeting of German and British Descendants of First World War Veterans in ‘No Man’s Land,’ Bavaria, 2016,” *The Public Historian* 40, no. 1 (February 2018): 13-33.

Direct all pre-submission queries to [Nicole Belolan](#), Co-Editor of *The Public Historian* and Digital Media Editor for NCPH.