

# Everything Speaks: People, Places, Objects as Sites of Memory, History and Biography

Talks and Documentary Screening

Tuesday, 16 June 2009, 4-6 pm  
Arts D 640, University of Sussex,  
Brighton, BN1 9RH  
Free Admission

Co-hosted by University of Sussex Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research and University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies

This event explores how biographical narratives can be extracted not just from oral testimony, but also from the spaces people inhabit and the objects with which they surround themselves.

Guest speakers:  
Shivaun Wolfson and Marlene Creates



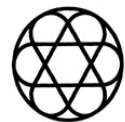
Presented by

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## Program details

- 4.00pm Prof. Christian Wiese – Director, Centre for German-Jewish Studies
- 4.10pm Shivaun Woolfson – A Research Journey into the Heart of Jewish Lithuania
- 4.30pm Surviving History – Documentary Screening
- 5.00pm Marlene Creates - Places of Presence: Newfoundland Kin and Ancestral Land
- 5.30pm Q&A

## Speaker Profiles

### Shivaun Woolfson

#### A Research Journey into the Heart of Jewish Lithuania



In September 2008, Shivaun traveled to Vilnius to conduct a series of life history interviews with elderly Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. Her trip emerged as part of her doctoral research which seeks to uncover the traces of the city's once thriving Jewish presence. Before the war, Lithuania was home to 240,000 Jews, over ninety percent of whom were annihilated by the Nazis and their local collaborators. As Vilnius, previously referred to as the 'Jerusalem of the North,' takes on the role of European Capitol of Culture for 2009, and against a backdrop of a recent surge in anti-Semitic activity, Shivaun enters the heart of Jewish Lithuanian life and attempts to understand how ten individuals, many of whom lost entire families, have managed to make peace with the past, and to remain in a city, alive and teeming with memory. The resulting documentary follows her research journey. She will discuss the personal significance of this particular research project and the multiple ways of gathering story; through people and their

memories, the places that matter to them, and the objects with which they surround themselves.

Shivaun is a DPhil student in History at the University of Sussex. She is the co-founder of Living Imprint, an organization dedicated to harnessing the transformational power of story to educate and enlighten. Upcoming projects include a multidisciplinary exhibition based on interviews with Holocaust survivors in Lithuania, a multi-media installation on parenting a disabled child, and a photo-narrative exhibition based on interviews with Palestinians and Israelis. For more information, please visit: [www.livingimprint.org](http://www.livingimprint.org)

## **Marlene Creates**

### **Places of Presence: Newfoundland kin and ancestral land**



For over thirty years the work of artist Marlene Creates has been an exploration of the relationship between human experience, memory, language and the land, and the impact they have on each other. In this talk she will present work based on a set of hand-drawn 'memory maps' and spoken texts in which the artist's relatives in

Newfoundland express memories about themselves and the land on which they were born. The maps and stories are accompanied by photographs and found natural objects from the sites. In juxtaposing maps of the same place drawn by different people, Marlene reflects on the natural environment, spatial relations, land use, and geographical imagination. As Marlene has said, "The land is not an abstract physical location but a place, charged with personal significance, shaping the images we have of ourselves."

Marlene Creates is a visual artist and poet who lives and works in Newfoundland, Canada. Her theoretical and studio research interests include photography, relational aesthetics, ecology, poetry, and place. For more information, please visit: [www.marlenecreates.ca](http://www.marlenecreates.ca)

## Registration Details

Spaces are limited, so please register ahead of time:

Online registration

[www.livingimprint.org/sussex-16-june.html](http://www.livingimprint.org/sussex-16-june.html)

Via snail mail

Please fill in your details below and send it to

Living Imprint Ltd

63 Underhill Road

East Dulwich

London SE22 0QR

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### Registration Form

Name: .....

Organisation: .....

Country: .....

Email address:.....

Number of places:  1  2  3