

# Dr. Taylor Andrew McConnell

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## Education

09.2016 to  
11.2020

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

**School of Social and Political Science**

### PhD Sociology

Dissertation Title: "Još Hrvatska ni propala [Still Croatia Has Not Fallen]: Examining the Public Face of Memory in Croatia"

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

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

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

09.2014 to  
11.2015

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

**School of Social and Political Science**

**MSc International Development**, with Distinction

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

09.2010 to  
05.2014

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

**Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business**

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

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

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

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

## Work Experience

01.2017 to  
08.2018

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

Tutor in Sociology, Political Science and Public Policy

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

06.2014 to  
05.2016

**Post-Conflict Research Center**, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Communications Manager from 04.2015, previously Intern

- Established *Balkan Themes* periodical with regional focus on contemporary themes in and near Balkans, including missing persons, LGBT rights, Roma, and human trafficking
- Conducted research on themes related to post-conflict developments in BiH, including constitutional reform, preventing sexual violence, and youth journalism training

- 05.2013 to 08.2013 **United States Department of State**, Munich, Germany  
Intern, Political/Economic Section, United States Consulate General Munich
- Organised first point-of-contact for student and staff inquiries
  - Provided support for event planning, communications, marketing, expense reporting and data management
- 09.2012 to 05.2014 **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
Administrative Assistant, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
- Managed protocol in German and English, event database for Fourth of July celebration, Ambassador's Farewell and other summer programs
  - Provided research for Consul General on renewable energy, Afghanistan policy and Munich Security Conference
  - Drafted briefing materials for meetings with Bavarian political, business and religious leaders
- 01.2012 to 03.2012 **Metzler Asset Management GmbH**, Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Intern, Absolute Return and Capital Preservation
- Compiled data on 40+ European covered bonds into 28-page Excel worksheet and translated from English into German
  - Created sample client portfolios based on selected maturity and national credit rating profiles
  - Drafted comparative performance charts for Metzler and competitive benchmark funds

### **Publications**

- 01.2021 McConnell, T. (2021) Erasing Yugoslavia, Ignoring Europe: The Perils of the Europeanisation Process in Contemporary Croatian Memory Politics. In: *Europeanisation and Memory Politics in the Western Balkans*, edited by Ana Milosevic and Tamara Trost. London: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-3-030-54700-4.
- 09.2020 McConnell, T. (2020) Review of *Framing the Nation and Collective Identities: Political Rituals and Cultural Memory of the Twentieth-Century Traumas in Croatia*, edited by Vjerran Pavlakovic and Davor Paukovic. London: Routledge, 2019. Pp. 246. £120.00 (hbk). *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 26 (3). p. 336-338. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2020.1791024.
- 09.2019 McConnell, T. (2019) Memory abuse, violence and the dissolution of Yugoslavia: A theoretical framework for understanding memory in conflict. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*. 32 (3). p. 331-343. DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2018.1508334. (Published online 9 August 2018).
- 08.2018 McConnell, T. (2018) Nationalism, Violence and the State in the Balkans: A Comparative Review. *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 24 (3). p. 348-358. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2018.1489579.
- 10.2017 McConnell, T. (2017) Review of Jelena Subotic, *Hijacked Justice: Dealing with the Past in the Balkans*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016. Pp. xviii + 201. \$22.95 (pbk). *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 23 (4). p. 480-482. DOI: 10.1080/13537113.2017.1380466.

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

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

- 06.2019 "Erasing Yugoslavia, Ignoring Europe: The Perils of the Europeanisation Process in Contemporary Croatian Memory Politics"  
Third Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association  
Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- 06.2019 "Abusing the Memory of the 'Homeland': Mnemonic Battles on the Croatian War of Independence"  
Summer Convention, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia
- 02.2019 "Denying women's agency in the Croatian post-war cultural conscience"  
Complexifying Gendered Victimhood workshop  
Universität Bremen, Bremen, Germany
- 05.2018 "They are looking at the stars again, waiting to conquer them: Memory abuse, violence and power in Yugoslavia's demise"  
Words that Kill conference, George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention  
American University of Paris, Paris, France
- 04.2018 "KRVatska, Branitelji, Žrtve: (Re-)framing Croatia's politics of memory and identity"  
War and Identity in the Balkans and the Middle East workshop, Europe and the World Centre  
University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 12.2017 "Can memory be abused? The ongoing manipulation of cultural memory in post-independence Croatia"  
Second Annual Conference, Memory Studies Association  
Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 11.2017 "Vukovar a ne Вyкoвap: Civic Institutions, Stigma and Power-Sharing in Croatia's Serb-Majority Communities"  
Exclusion amid Inclusion?: How Power Sharing Engages Non-Dominant Communities workshop, Centre for the Study of Ethnic Conflict  
Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom
- 04.2017 "Memory abuse, violence and identity in the former Yugoslavia: Perpetuations of divided memory in Croatia and Serbia since 1995"  
New Directions conference, School of Social and Political Science  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

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

- 04.2019 to 03.2020 Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant, British Council, for International Fellowship at Frankfurt Memory Studies Platform, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
- 10.2018 to 01.2019 Ernst Mach Grant (worldwide), Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung der Republik Österreich, for Visiting Fellowship at Centre for Southeast European Studies, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
- 02.2015 Graduate School of Social and Political Science, Global Justice Academy and Global Development Academy grants, University of Edinburgh, for "Ordinary Heroes" Workshop of the Post-Conflict Research Center

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

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

09.2010 to 05.2014 Jesse R. Wike Memorial Scholarship und Matte Family Endowed Scholarship,  
University of Pennsylvania

**Languages** English (US/GB), native German, C2/fluent  
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, B1 French, A2

**Research Methods** Interview, content analysis, participant observation, documentary methods, coding,  
NVivo, JMP, SPSS

**Interests** Visual education, history of socialism in Central and Eastern Europe, urban studies

**Other** MS Office Suite, Apple iWork, Google Docs, Adobe InDesign, social media