

## **'Architectures of Memory: Cathedrals in the Multi-cultural, Multi-temporal City'**

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My presentation draws on a current project that draws together the work of historians and social scientists in the study of four English cathedrals: Canterbury, York, Durham, and Westminster. These buildings represent iconic locations of Anglican or Roman Catholic worship, but they are also both heritage sites and—more ambiguously--civic spaces of unpredictable (and often unknown) encounter among shifting publics. In my analysis, I draw on Crang and Travlou's (2001) account of Athens and topologies of memory to consider the role of cathedrals as urban contexts for the production of multiple temporalities and fragmented spatialities. In one sense, cathedrals reinvolve the classical 'arts of memory' in architectural form, aiding recall by anchoring narrative in space; but in urban contexts of contested religious identity—or none—they both represent and produce memory in much more dynamic ways, where 'spatial simultaneity need not mean temporal homogeneity' (Crang and Travlou 2001: 175).