



28-29  
OCTOBER  
2026

## ENGAGING WITH NOSTALGIA: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER THINKING ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE PAST

### WORKSHOP

#### Scientific Committee

Juliette Schwak, Université libre de Bruxelles (REPI)

David Berliner, Université libre de Bruxelles (LAMC)



REPI  
RECHERCHE ET ÉTUDES EN  
POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE



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Université libre de Bruxelles | 44 avenue Jeanne, 1050 Bruxelles

## Programme

# ENGAGING WITH NOSTALGIA: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER THINKING ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE PAST

### DAY 1

Wednesday, October 28 | 9:30pm-7:00pm

- 9:30-10:00 Welcome coffee
- 10:00-11:30 **Guest lecture**  
Tim Strangleman (SSPSSR, University of Kent)  
*Open lecture, registration required*
- Discussion**  
David Berliner (LAMC, ULB)  
Q&A
- 11:30-1:00 Lunch break *(by invitation)*
- 1:00-2:30 **Presentation of PENEIA project & South Korean case** *(by invitation only)*  
Juliette Schwak (REPI, ULB)
- Discussion**  
Tim Strangleman (SSPSSR, University of Kent) & invited colleagues
- 2:30-3:00 Coffee break
- 3:00-5:00 **Presentation of PhD projects**  
Tony Kim Yeat (ULB) & Valentin Bouttiau (ULB)  
*By invitation only*
- Discussion**  
Tim Strangleman and invited participants
- 7:00 **Dinner**  
*(by invitation only)*



- 9:00-10:30 **Writing workshop**  
With Tim Strangleman (SSPSSR, University of Kent) & PENE team only.
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break (*T. Strangleman & PENE team only*)
- 11:00-12:00 **Writing out of a long project or Curiosity did not kill this cat!**  
Writing workshop with Tim Strangleman (SSPSSR, University of Kent)  
(*Open to PhiSoc students, registration required*)
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch break (*open to PhiSoc students, registration required*)
- 1:00-2:30 **Writing workshop**  
Tim Strangleman (SSPSSR, University of Kent)  
(PhD students must bring current writing projects for feedback)  
(*For REPI and LAMC PhD candidates, registration required*)



## Tim Strangleman - Bio

Tim Strangleman is Emeritus Professor of Sociology, in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, SSPSSR, University of Kent, Canterbury. He has researched and written widely on nostalgia through discussions of work identity, culture and meaning; traditional industries in decline and deindustrialisation. Tim is an historical sociologist who uses oral history and visual methods and approaches in his research. He has published articles in a range of journals including Sociology, IJRR, Sociological Review and ILWCH. He is the author of three books: (2008) *Work and Society: Sociological Approaches, Themes and Methods*, with Tracey Warren, Routledge; and (2004) *Work Identity at the End of the Line? Privatisation and Culture Change in the UK Rail Industry*, Palgrave. His latest monograph, *Voices of Guinness: An Oral History of the Park Royal Brewery*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2019. In 2021 he completed *The Routledge International Handbook of Working-Class Studies* with his co-editors Christie Launius and Michele Fazio. He co-edited *The Routledge International Handbook of Deindustrialisation Studies* which will be published in 2025.

## Abstract

Engaging with nostalgia: Personal reflections on a career thinking about the past, present and future of the past. Nostalgia has played a large part in my career, thinking and writing. In this paper I want to reflect on how I got interested in the idea of nostalgia through the various projects I have been involved in. My career was mostly spent examining work and industries in decline. When I first began writing about nostalgia it seemed quite niche, with the little known (at the time) book by Fred Davis, *Yearning for Yesterday*, offering a fantastic resource for critical engagement with the field. Gradually attention to nostalgia has increased and with it the range and theoretical ideas have become more sophisticated and inter/ multi-disciplinary. I have studied nostalgia in relation to railways, mining communities, paper making, engineering and construction and brewing. I will draw on this research for this paper and develop an overarching account of how we might think with and use nostalgia.

Event organised by REPI (Recherche et Etudes en Politique Internationale)  
& LAMC (Laboratory of Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds)



## Practical information

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LOCATION | REPI - Université libre de Bruxelles<br>Institut de Sociologie<br>44 avenue Jeanne, 1050 Bruxelles                                               |
| ROOM     | Henri Janne S.15.331                                                                                                                             |
| CONTACT  | Juliette Schwak, Université libre de Bruxelles (juliette.schwak@ulb.be)<br>David Berliner, Université libre de Bruxelles (david.berliner@ulb.be) |
| WIFI     | Eduroam                                                                                                                                          |

You can get temporary access by filling out the form available here: <https://www.guestroam.be>.  
Once you have received the login information (username and password), you can connect to the Eduroam wifi network.

How to connect to the eduroam wifi:

- Select the eduroam network
- Enter the username composed of its ULBID followed by @ulb.ac.be (ex: tdupont@ulb.ac.be)
- Enter the password associated to your ULBID

### DIRECTIONS

*From Brussels airport to South Station (Bruxelles Midi)*

The airport station is located in the basement on level -1. A train leaves every 12 minutes for Brussels South station.

*From South station (Bruxelles Midi) to ULB*

Take the underground line 6 (towards Elisabeth). Get off at Louise. Then take tram 8 (towards Roodebeek). Get off at Cambre-Etoile. [Google Maps](#)

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|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PUBLIC TRANSPORT | <a href="http://www.stib-mivb.be/tripplanner/?l=fr">http://www.stib-mivb.be/tripplanner/?l=fr</a> |
| TAXIS VERTS      | +32 (0)2 349 49 49                                                                                |