

Open Seminar

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONAL HISTORY TEXTBOOKS



Prof. James H. Williams

Associate Professor

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Date & Time: 12:30-13:30, July 24 (Thursday), 2014

Venue: Meeting Room #1 (GSID8F)

Language: English

Brief description of the lecture

Professor Williams will talk about his recent book, *(Re) Constructing Memory: School Textbooks and the Imagination of the Nation* (2014, Sense Publishers).

Official school textbooks provide a rich source of material for those seeking to understand the greater social effects of schooling and the larger social and political contexts of education. Textbooks provide official knowledge a society wants its children to acquire—facts, figures, dates, seminal events. Textbooks also frame the facts, figures, dates, and events in a larger, though generally implicit, narrative that describes how things were, what happened, and how they came to be the way they are now. A group's representation of its past is often intimately connected with its identity—who “we” are (and who we are not) as well as who “they” are. Analysis of textbooks provides a lens through which to examine what might be called a nation's deeper or hidden social and political curriculum. The presentation will provide an overview of the book, the implications for global citizenship, and five cases of national history or civics textbooks, with ample time for discussion.