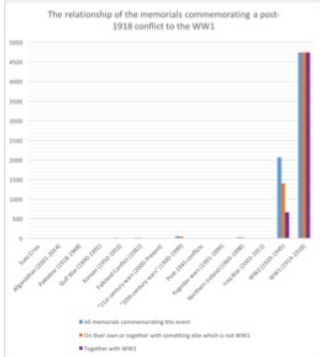


Questions: What can WW1 memorials tell us about memory? How are commemorations expressed in urban spaces?

WHY? The importance of WW1 memorials in London

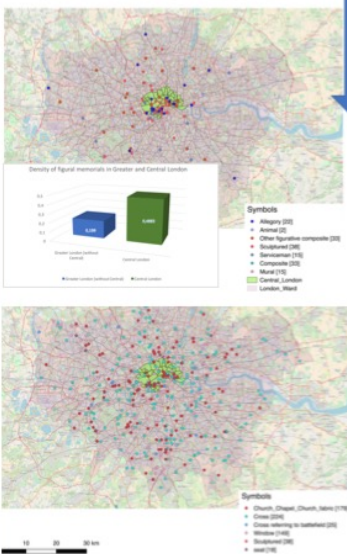


The memory of WW1 has served as the basis for commemoration in London of wars in both the 20th and 21st centuries. Although commemorative spectrum of other wars is seemingly wide, the actual space dedicated to all but WW1 is slight. Even the memorials of WW2, which is the second most commemorated war in London, accounts for only one third of the numbers of WW1 memorials. It can also be observed that 709 times the post-1918 wars are commemorated together with WW1.

HOW? Geometry of war memory



Vertical commemorations



The figurative memorials are the most appealing in the city landscape, since they can carry visual messages through their iconography.

They refer to vertical commemoration, because they are strongly connected to the politically and publicly significant areas of Central London. The figurative memorials set the visual framework in the Westminster area, which is the political centre of London

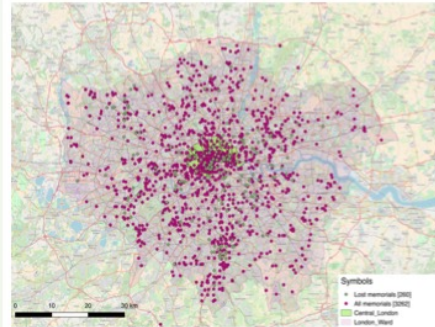
The density of commemorative boards in Central London is higher than in the Greater London, due to the workplaces and institutions. This forms a transition between the vertical and horizontal commemoration, since institutions can represent not only power, but also communities.

Churches have a double role in war commemorations:

1: Most of them belong to the Church of England, which means they are not only religious institutions, but they also represent the state.

2: They also play an important role at the level of community and individuals. Since most of the church related memorials can be found in Greater London, they can spread the vertical narrative in the outer areas.

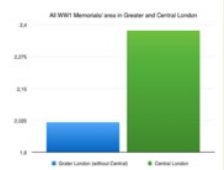
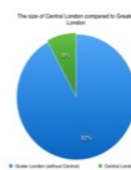
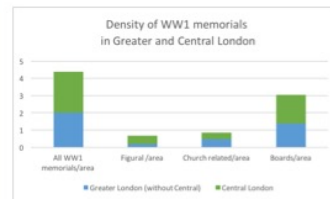
WHAT? Greater and Central London



The city centre is occupied by political intentions and any transformation of space reflects the dominant norms (Monnet 1994)

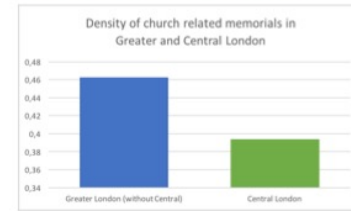
The centre more likely expresses vertical memory, while the outer districts refer to horizontal memory.

In London the density of memorials is the largest in the city centre.



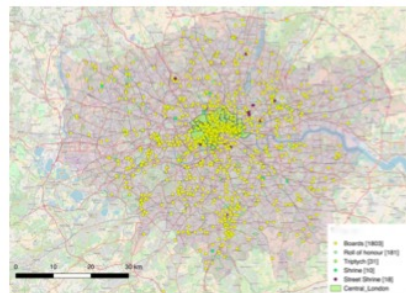
Although there are other main types of memorials, and they can be meaningful one by one, their small number means their general distribution does not tell a lot about the overall memorialscape of London. For this reason, only the distribution of Figurative and Board type memorials are analysed.

Horizontal commemorations



Churches, besides being state representations, are also religious institutions providing comfort to the bereaved:

- 1: They are a means of community remembrance, since churches play an important role in community-building.
- 2: They are connected to personal commemorations by offering solace for mourners.



The memorial boards belong to workplaces, communities and homes and therefore mark the civic space.

- 1: Although, many workplaces are regarded as formal institutions, they also form co-worker communities.
- 2: Homes belong not only to the personal life, but also to communities who live together in the same area.



Conclusions

The spatial narratives of WW1 memorials show a huge contrast between Central and Greater London. Central London is the place for politically important, vertical commemorations, therefore most of the expressive figurative memorials can be found there. The church related memorials form a bridge between Central and Greater London, since they are horizontal and vertical commemorative places at the same time. The memorials related to the Church of England mark the state power in the outer districts, while they also provide religious comfort for the bereaved. Finally, the memorial boards, which can be found in much higher numbers in Greater London, represent the horizontal commemoration of local communities.

A special type of local commemorations are the street shrines, which are signified by a dark red dot on the map. Street shrines are the clearest expressions of horizontal commemoration, since they are established by a street community living together, and no top-down power or institution is involved in it. All of them are outside the borders of Central London, which supports their horizontal and independent nature.