



Apartheid Archive Project  
Conference  
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## **Memory and Apartheid: Disentangling Collective and Personal Narratives of Experiences under Apartheid**

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The paper's overarching concern will be to understand how people, especially black South Africans, remember apartheid. It argues that the construction of collective memories have largely, but not exclusively, been based on romanticised notions of community (for example, pre-forced removal residential areas or anti-apartheid formations). In this process individual narratives have tended to be subsumed in one or other collective narrative, resulting in only partial understandings of apartheid experiences. It will be argued that disentangling individual narratives from collective narratives could reveal much richer and more complex histories of apartheid. Finally, by drawing on recent literature on apartheid and memory, the paper will point to the complications of retrieving memories of apartheid.