

Postcolonial Nostalgias is an original and wide-ranging critique of the representation of memory and nostalgia—a condition commonly dismissed, yet which links people across personal, national and historical boundaries. Dennis Walder analyses the narratives of some of those entangled in the aftermath of empire, tracing the hidden connections within their yearnings for a common identity and a homeland, and their struggles to recover lost histories. He suggests that nostalgia is a vital means of admitting the past in the present: it enables a deeper understanding of the networks of power in which diasporic and former colonial subjects are caught, and beyond which they hope to move. Considering authors as varied as V.S. Naipaul, Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie and Antjie Krog, Doris Lessing, W.G. Sebald and J.G. Ballard, he explores the ambiguous paths of nostalgia in the modern world.