

EDITORIAL

SPECIAL VOLUME ON MEMORY ASSEMBLAGES

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The papers in this volume of *Cosmos & History* present the proceedings of two book symposia on *Memory Assemblages: Spectral Realism and the Logic of Addition* (London: Bloomsbury, 2024) by Hilan Bensusan. The symposia took place in April 2025, in Brasília and London. The twenty essays collected here are drawn from the thirty-five discussed on those occasions. The volume also includes a précis of the book and Bensusan's responses to each of the twenty contributions. Since publication, Bensusan has changed her first name to Shajara (see the opening of the response text, "In the beginning there was a past", for details).

Memory Assemblages maintains that the world is populated by archives insistently reassembled in light of ever-arriving addends. This entanglement of memory and addition yields assemblages that articulate a spectral ultrametaphysics, displacing metaphysics of presence. The diachrony harbored in these assemblages replaces the usual focus on a supposedly synchronous present. Drawing on deconstruction, process philosophy, spectral studies, and the philosophy of memory, the book advances a picture of a world where the diachronic blending of archives and addends is ubiquitous. It also extends *Indexicalism: Realism and the Metaphysics of Paradox* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021), where Bensusan argues that deictic descriptions are preferable to substantive ones. In the later book, the past - understood as an indexical - assumes a central role, as diachrony takes center stage. The past, more than raw material for memory, is not a repository of what once took place, kept independently of retrieval; it is itself a collection of already diachronic assemblages. There is no starting point at which these assemblages yield full presences—a past that was once present. The book thus advances a pan-mnemist

thesis according to which the ingredients of memory are pervasive. The essays collected here explore some of the implications and consequences of what *Memory Assemblages* proposes.

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