

The Palgrave Handbook of Testimony and Culture

Sara Jones • Roger Woods
Editors

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For Alys and Rosa, and Tommy and Dougie

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This *Handbook* has a long history that begins with an interdisciplinary ‘sandpit’ event that brought together researchers from the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham in 2012. We were divided into teams based on common interests and asked to write a proposal bidding for up to £1000 to spend on a research collaboration. Our team, which included some of the contributors to this volume, won the pot and used it to co-organise a workshop in Nottingham in June 2013 under the title *The Uses of Testimony*. We would like to thank the University of Birmingham and University of Nottingham for this initial support for our project.

The collaboration begun at the Nottingham workshop grew into a cross-disciplinary and cross-sector research network, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and with the title *Culture and its Uses as Testimony*. The AHRC funding supported three workshops, a conference and the co-production of educational resources. It allowed us the time and space to discuss and share our ideas across disciplines and with partners from beyond academia on questions around the role, value, mediation, politics, ethics and use of testimony. Many of the contributors to this volume were participants in the network, and we would like to thank all network members for the vibrant discussions that shaped the development of the *Handbook*. The AHRC also supported the follow-on impact and engagement project *Testimony in Practice*, which included the co-production of the innovative documentary theatre play *A Land Full of Heroes*, discussed in the chapters by Banciu, Effe and Schuh, and Jones and Pine.

The writing of the chapters and the editing of the *Handbook* took place to a significant extent in 2020–2021, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when all our lives became more difficult in diverse ways. We would like to thank our contributors for sticking with the project in these challenging times. Thanks also to our ever-patient spouses, Sean and Diana, for their support and understanding as we brought the *Handbook* to completion.

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Habré, Sharon Weill, Kim Thuy Seelinger and Kerstin Bree Carlson, eds. (2020) and “Legitimacy, Procedural Justice, and Victim Participation in Uganda”, *The Legitimacy of International Criminal Tribunals*, Nobuo Hayashi and Cecilia Bailliet, eds. (2017).

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