National capital cities typically have a great many public memorials. Many of these are very large, prominently located, and highly political in their meanings and uses. In the capitals of democratic countries, public memorials are often not initiated, funded or designed by the government itself, but arise through negotiations among varied interest groups. Democratic capital cities thus often have complex policy, decision-making and design frameworks for planning, procuring and regulating new public memorial proposals, and managing how these developments relate to other urban planning needs. This presentation outlines an ongoing study which compares these regimes for shaping national memory across a range of democratic capital cities. The case studies embrace countries with quite varied political histories. Analysis of the cities’ policy frameworks explores their application to specific memorial cases.

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