In recent years, the proliferation of new media technologies, accelerated migration and changing geopolitical power relations have reshaped the meaning of the past. Grand narratives are placed under erasure, the containment of history within settled national boundaries seems less credible than ever, and the time-space compression of postmodernity arguably divests the past of its authority by reducing everything to an ongoing present. At the same time, the future is being conceived in radically divergent ways across the world. If, under the double sign of economic downturn and the Anthropocene, Europe and North America turn away from the future, or imagine it in apocalyptic registers, the “young” or “new” economies of Asia, Africa and Latin America are commonly represented as reviving the jaded optimism of capitalism.

Drawing on the rich contemporary debates on temporality and futurity, as well as scholarly paradigms such as cultural memory studies, media studies and hermeneutics, this workshop will enable a dialogue between scholars based at WISER and at universities in Sweden around current transformations of historical consciousness. What is the current role of the historical disciplines? What are the new and emergent forms of memorialisation? Can history have a meaning without a faith in progress? What are the implications of thinking time in the plural? These and related questions will be discussed in seminar exchanges.

**Monday, 13th October 2014**

09h00  **Welcome and Introduction**  
Sarah Nuttall, Stefan Helgesson

09h15  **Is History History?**  
Achille Mbembe, Hans Ruin and Claudia Lindén

10h45  **BREAK**

11h00  **Eurafrica**  
Stefan Jonsson - **Respondent**: Sarah Duff

12h00  **LUNCH**
13h00  **Deep Time**  
Dilip Menon – **Respondent**: Patricia Lorenzoni

14h00  **The Hermeneutics of Tradition**  
Marcia Schuback – **Respondent**: Achille Mbembe

15h00  **Spending Time**  
Natasha Vally – WISH Seminar Series

19h00  *Dinner for all active participants*  
11 2nd Ave, Melville

**Tuesday, 14th October 2014**

09h00  **For the Record**  
Keith Breckenridge – **Respondent**: David Gaunt

10h00  **A Secular Utopia**  
Jayne Svenungsson– **Respondent**: Sharad Chari

11h00  *BREAK*

11h30  Open session  
WiSER Fellows – **Respondent** Victoria Fareld

12h30  **Ivan Vladislavić in conversation with Stefan Helgesson**  
Lunch

14h00  **History for Hire**  
Bodhisattva Kar – **Respondent**: Ulla Manns

15h00  **Cold War as Television**  
Staffan Ericsson– **Respondent**: Isabel Hofmeyr

16h00  **Wrap up**  
Stefan Helgesson, Hans Ruin, Sarah Nuttall and Achille Mbembe

17h00  **Book Launch : Pamila Gupta, The Relic State**  
**Speakers**: Isabel Hofmeyr, Achille Mbembe