

Memory has the Edge(s): geo-poetics and life writing in Stephanos Stephanides's *The Wind Under My Lips*

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This paper takes its cue from the anxieties apparent within post-Cold War liberal thought in Europe, and subsequent soundings of the state of twentieth-century liberal politics in the continent, to reflect on the affinity between memory writing, postcoloniality, and the distribution of political belief — precisely at those edges where Europe today may likely reconvene its political and poetic geographies. Reading through Cypriot poet and filmmaker Stephanos Stephanides's *The Wind Under my Lips* (Tò Rodakiò, 2019), the chapter examines it in light of memory writing, of its activity “at the edges” of received forms of memorial narration, and its performing of political memory from the contingent and vision-imbued edge of Europe's politics today. The article invokes a certain affinity between acts of memory, responsibility and the question of postcolonial agency on the fraught geo-political cusp of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. Within this relation, memory writing exploits its representational arc of manoeuvre to take upon itself the proportions and stature of a praxis and a labour: one that shifts the dynamics of moral idealism and a certain kind of ‘Platonic finalism’ (Chahid Akoury) towards a constellation of memorial worlds that unfold in subjective space — and ones that liberal politics in Europe today may ill-afford to be oblivious to.