The subject of memory has witnessed a remarkable efflorescence in the past few years, both in scholarly work in the humanities and in popular efforts to address the collective forgetting of traumatic pasts. This *ELN* special issue takes as its focus memory and its cognates, amnesia and commemoration, to explore how catastrophes—colonization, slavery, war, genocide, natural disasters, and disease pandemics—impact memory and how traumatic events are remembered by victims, survivors, and descendants. Scholars from a variety of disciplines investigate the ways in which the temporalities and geographies of memory and amnesia shape the boundaries of specific fields, especially as they relate to studies of indigeneity; the role of the memoir in documenting historical atrocities; the project of mnemonic restitution undertaken by specific literary forms, such as autobiography and testimony; and the attempts by various disenfranchised groups to mobilize traumatic memory to speak of “the wounds of the past” in ongoing demands for recognition, reparations, and justice. Collectively, the special issue seeks to address the place of memory in what Didier Fassin and Richard Rechtman have termed “the moral economy of contemporary societies.”