

EUROPEAN CITIES IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING AND TRANSMITTING OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTER STUDENTS.



NR REF. 2018-1-PL01-KA203-050963

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

Project duration is 36 months: 01.09.2018 - 31.08.2021





Grzegorz Pożarlik

Institute of European Studies
Jagiellonian University in Kraków

**Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and
symbolic construction of identity in the city
landscapes. A Central European perspective.**

how are remembering and forgetting in
urban lieux de memoire socially constructed



Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Collective memory and forgetting as social constructs

Post-communist nostalgia in contemporary symbolic landscape of Central European urban spaces

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Metaphorical character of cultural memory: symbolisation of cultural objects and processes within the framework of lieu de mémoire and social identity construction (Pożarlik, 2015)

Lieu de mémoire according to Pierre Nora: the place as non-material construct

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Pierre Nora: lieu de memoire offers “in-depth analysis of ‘places’ – in each and every meaning of the word – where collective memory of the French nation would be condensed, mirrored or crystalized instead of being a subject of chronological and linear research”

P. Nora, Zwischen Geschichte und Gedächtnis, 1998.

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Memory and identity as social constructs: „We know who we are since we remember whom we were” (Pożarlik, 2015)

Drawing from patterns of tradition enables both, individual and collective identity construction (...). If these kind of bonds disappear ‘a society (...) – a kind of long-lasting reality (...) disappears as well’ (...). Consequently, we can include widely shared pictures and knowledge of social events from the past (subjectively perceived and valued) into category of collective memory (...). That is why when answering a question ‘whom we are’? we need to relate ourselves to the past (whom we were?)

(P. Rychlewska, 2009)

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Generational and cultural memory: According to Jan Assmann (2008)

Generational memory is an outcome of personal story-telling as well as particular kind of meaningful experience transmitted to next generations (in: Požarlik, 2015)

Cultural memory implies memory institutionalisation through ritualisation and symbolisation (ibid.)

Cultural memory frames generational memory as it constitutes the foundation of collective memory, which, in turn pre-conditions nation-building (ibid.)

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Post-communist nostalgia in contemporary symbolic landscape of Central European urban spaces:
a contested nature of post-communist nostalgia in Central European urban lieux de memoire

Barbara Törnquist-Plewa: *Cosmopolitan Memory, European Memory and Local Memories in East Central Europe*, 2016, p. 150:

“since the 1990s considerable changes have occurred in local politics of memory within the cities of [East Central Europe] due to the influence of liberalisation, globalisation and Europeanisation. The most visible feature of these changes is that the memories of the vanished populations underwent the process of commodification and political instrumentalisation. These memories became objects of nostalgia and commodities for sale, but also tools used by sections of the national and the local political elites to display that they were complying with the values promoted by the EU.”

Lieux de mémoire: Cultural heritage and symbolic construction of identity in the city landscapes. A Central European perspective

Post-communist nostalgia in Central Europe broadly understood: politics and culture

Irena Reifova, The pleasure of continuity: Re-reading post-socialist nostalgia, *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 21(11), November 2017:

“In contrast to [these] elitist discourses reducing the memory of socialism to its crimes, the pop-cultural post-socialist nostalgia (the lowbrow discourse less strictly policed for discontinuity) served as the venue through which continuity with socialism was redeemed. Reunion with one’s own past and reclaiming the right to remember the past fully is presented as a source of cultural pleasure, the backbone of both types of post-socialist nostalgia.”

REFERENCES

- B. Törnquist-Plewa: *Cosmopolitan Memory, European Memory and Local Memories in East Central Europe*, 2016, *Australian Humanities Review* (April/May 2016)
- I. Reifova, *The pleasure of continuity: Re-reading post-socialist nostalgia*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies* 21(11), November 2017
- J. Assmann, *Pamięć kulturowa. Pismo, zapamiętywanie i polityczna tożsamość w cywilizacjach starożytnych*, Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego 2008.
- P. Rychlewska, *Różnice w pamięci zbiorowej mieszkańców warszawskiego Młynowa i podwarszawskiego Pomiechówka*, "Kultura i Historia", no. 16/2009, p. 1
- G. Pożarlik: *Memory and identity as social constructs in: Kinga Anna Gajda, Monika Eriksen (eds.) , Positive places of European memory*, Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie, 2015