

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

We are happy to bring you a second volume of the *AUC Studia Territorialia* journal in 2018. This issue includes four original articles. The bulk consists of three contributions received in response to our call for papers entitled “Memory of Genocide in Interdisciplinary Perspectives,” which we issued in summer 2018. The fourth contribution was in response to one of our earlier calls for papers. All four texts, their varying methodology and perspective notwithstanding, have one thing in common: they all deal with the issues of memory, working through the traumatizing past and construction of collective identities in divided and post-conflict societies. These questions are at the heart of some of the most pressing contemporary political and social problems in Central and Southeastern Europe.

The volume opens with the paper by Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska which portrays the fate of German war memorials built in the aftermath of the First World War in the Czech borderlands. In effect, it is an anthropological survey of the Cheb and Mariánské Lázně regions. Having been inhabited predominantly by German speakers prior to 1945, this area lost its specific character due to the forced removal of the original German population, which was a part of the wider population transfers occurring in the aftermath of the Second World War. This, understandably, left its mark on the region’s cultural landscape. Drawing on a long-term field research in the area, Ćwiek-Rogalska characterizes three main types of German war memorials: heroes’ groves, stained glass windows, and weeping and sleeping soldiers figures. She interprets the re-use of and lack of care for these monuments in post-WWII communist Czechoslovakia as a way of managing a “dissonant heritage.”

The second paper brings us to the other side of the Czech-German border. In her text, Maria Palme illuminates the modalities of working through the

troublesome past in eastern Germany. Her work is an original contribution to the debate on the applicability of public apologies as vehicles of reconciliation in divided societies. She analyzes three cases of public apologies by the former representatives of the oppressive communist regime and investigates the impact these speeches have had on reconciliation between former oppressor groups and their victims. She argues that while often of limited success, apology speeches have brought about a discursive shift resulting in the pursuit of a unifying narrative about the conflicted past through inclusion and dialogue between hitherto antagonistic groups.

For her part, Jasmina Gavrankapetanović-Redžić revisits the traumatic experience of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first half of the 1990s. She focuses on the use of gender-directed violence as an instrument of war by the Serbian armed forces and their proxy paramilitaries. Relying on the theoretical assumptions in the works of Yugoslav feminist Žarana Papić and employing the examples of visuals from the films by filmmaker Jasmila Žbanić, she illustrates the workings of gender-directed violence and traces the consequences of this genocidal practice for the formation of the collective national memory among the affected community members. She finds that the memory of this traumatic experience has become an integral part of contemporary Bosnian Muslim female identity.

Last but not least, Giustina Selvelli presents the results of her anthropological research conducted among the Armenian Diaspora in the Bulgarian city of Plovdiv. She demonstrates and synthesizes different patterns of commemorative practices of remembering the Armenian Genocide on the occasion of its centennial in 2015.

With regard to the overall length of the individual papers in this volume, we have opted to omit the regular review and information sections. This will be more than compensated for in the upcoming volumes, which are already in preparation.

We hope you have a stimulating read.

On behalf of the editorial board,

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