
EDITORIAL

MEMORY, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY

The 45th volume of the yearbook *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slavica* delves into the theme of *Memory, Culture, and Society*, exploring how memory operates within socio-cultural contexts. Since Maurice Halbwachs introduced the concept of socially constructed memory in 1925, the study of memory has expanded beyond individual memory and recollection. Scholars have increasingly recognized memory not as a static archive but as a dynamic, socially mediated process that shapes and is shaped by a variety of factors. This issue brings together contributions that explore the role of memory in preserving cultural heritage, addressing collective trauma, and understanding the fluid boundaries between personal and collective identities.

In the *Articles* section, Juliane Brandt offers a detailed investigation into cohabitation in ethnically and denominationally mixed settlements in Hungary during the transition from a society of orders to modernity. She examines how economic and social factors, rather than religious differences, shaped community divisions, using examples from Mezőberény and Szekszárd to highlight this complex interplay. Dominika Lešková explores the role of heritage books of the forcibly displaced Carpathian Germans from Lower Spiš region in the formation of collective memory and identity of the local community in one of their former villages. Preliminary results of her research indicate that these books have inspired residents to document and explore their German cultural heritage, while helping to preserve the community's group identity and historical awareness. Lastly, Danilo Trbojević examines the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, focusing on the nostalgic recollections of individuals who were teenagers or young adults at the time. He explores how these traumatic events are paradoxically remembered as formative, even positive, moments in their lives, shaped by the complex interplay between individual experiences, collective memory, and state dynamics.

The *Essays* section includes a contribution by Janusz Barański, which explores the relationship between memory, tradition, and heritage in regional practices. He discusses how these elements are preserved, transformed, and transmitted, offering a meta-cultural perspective on their role in shaping contemporary regional identities. His analysis highlights the dynamic nature of

heritage as a living cultural element that inspires new forms of art and social expression.

In the following section you will find reviews of these books: *Theoretical Development in Socio-Cultural Anthropology up to the Middle of the 20th Century* by Tatiana Bužeková and Michal Uhrin (2023), *'If I Could Write It All in Detail...'* *The Early 20th Century as Remembered by the Czech inhabitants of Brno* edited by Jana Nosková (2023), *Disenchantment, Re-enchantment and Folklore Genres* edited by Nemanja Radulović and Smiljana Đorđević Belić (2022), and *Children Baptized by the Danube. Czech Memories of Interwar Vienna* by Vojtěch Kessler and David Smrček (2021).

The volume also includes news from the academic community, with Michal Uhrin reporting on the conference *The Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals* which focused on the conceptualization of death in contemporary societies. The volume concludes with contributions honoring the memory of two esteemed colleagues and recently deceased prominent ethnographers, Dr. László Lukács and Prof. PhDr. Mikuláš Mušinka, DrSc.

We believe that this issue will give readers a sense of colourful mosaic consisting of ethnographic research on collective memory in different countries and different socio-political contexts. We also hope that the presented volume will contribute to the empirical study of collective memory in Central Europe and the globalized world.

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