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History in public space: Changes of institutions of memory

Abstract

The submitted dissertation project is based on a longer research interest in memory and remembering. Interdisciplinary memory studies is one of the most dynamically developing subdisciplines in the social sciences and humanities. The aim of this work is to contribute to the ongoing academic discussion and to explore some environments of making sense of the past, which so far stood rather on the periphery of research interests.

The research field of this project is defined by the questioning of transformations of memory institutions. I observe this change primarily on the trajectory of movement from grand institutions of memory to small ones. As the grand institutions of memory, I understand the traditional institutions of the interpretation of the past that were born in the modernization process. In this dissertation project, I focus mainly on institutions of heritage preservation and museums. With the partial disintegration of grand collective frameworks, these institutions are divided into small institutions. I study this movement in case studies on contemporary cultural practices of remembrance in new memory ecologies. I focus on digital platforms for travelers, remembering through visual communication or interest in places and objects on the edge of oblivion. Institutions of memory conceived in this way are movable, often changing the meaning of original memories and creating new frames of remembering, which I try to describe in this work and take a research perspective towards them.

Key words

Memory, Institution, Cultural Practice, Heritage Preservation, Museum, Anthropocene, Forgetting, Digital Media