

Abstract

Skopje 2014: Governmental Role in the Spatial Politics of Collective Memory

In my research the key interest is to understand how the government uses public spaces in order to supply the continuity of the narratives and how it maintains collective memories. In the matter of the public interpretations of the past, I am especially interested in the effects it has upon the collective memories of the citizens, notably to the generations, who have experienced the city.

Above all, I examine the work of artists and architects who are using styles and symbols that affect the memories by ambivalent imitations and interpretations. Such content is seen within the framework of a multi-ethnic state presented by polarized public with polarized relations between the two major ethnicities of Macedonians and Albanians.

I will try to examine the level of manipulation while demonstrating history in public space, creating false correlations of the past. Such phenomenon has been perceived as a one of having negative influence at present. It is taken as a possible change within the process of identification of future generations.

I organized the research in two parts. In the first one I give a synchronic presentation of delivered criticism and comments on the project "Skopje 2014". In the second part, having a diachronic approach, interpreted past of the development of the city of Skopje is presented.