DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

ROLE OF EMOTIONS IN AN INFLUENCE OF REMEMBRANCE NARRATIVES. MULTI-LEVEL ANALYSIS

The role of remembrance narratives increases in the contemporary world. They have become a valuable political asset. They enable a government to control citizens, to shape their behaviors and to influence their decisions. The remembrance narratives have become a crucial source of collective identities and a vivid motivation to act. The 21st Century is the time of an obsession over the past and the remembrance, as well as the time of a fear of forgetting. The world remembers and it wants to be remembered. The experience of this unique state of humanity and the role of remembrance narratives motivates scholars to raise new questions.

What is the role of emotions is an influence of remembrance narratives on a citizen? Are different emotions causing different results of story-telling? How important are differences in an influence of various emotions? The submitted research project "Role of emotions in an influence of remembrance narratives. Multi-level analysis" will deliver answers to these questions. The project opens new perspective for Polish political science – the perspective of multi-level approach to studying politics, in which human biology and psychophysiology are as significant as social relationships or political processes. This perspectives makes research answers more complex, and they offer a picture of relations between emotions and remembrance narratives on five different levels:

- neuropsychological level,
- physiological response level,
- cognitive level,
- attitude level,
- behavioral level.

The comparative analysis of collected data will enable us to understand why emotions are recognized as a source of effectiveness of remembrance narrative's influence on recipients. However, the application of advanced research methodology makes our answer more precise and developed, and they consider various aspects of an impact of remembrance story-telling. The neuropsychological response to a narrative is observed thanks to the functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). The physiological response to a narrative is measured by an observation of involuntary facial muscle movement investigated with an application of the Facial Action Coding System (FACS). Moreover, the relationship of emotions and remembrance narratives on cognitive, attitude and behavioral levels is observed thanks to a series of experiments with 300 participants.

The project investigates three different types of a narrative. Firstly, a group of participants will be randomly assigned to watch a short movie presenting an emotionally neutral narrative. Secondly, another group will watch a short movie presenting a narrative with additional positive emotions – happiness. Thirdly, the last group will be randomly assigned to watch a short movie with additional negative emotions – sadness. On the neuropsychological and the physiological response levels we will observe results of a measurement to identify moments of arousal and then to link them with contents of a narrative. On the cognitive, the attitude and the behavioral levels we will apply a dedicated computer software that will enable us to collect all data on participants and their questionnaire answers. All results will be processed with an application of qualitative and quantitative analysis, what will enable us to solve the main research problem.