

A proposed research project aims at investigating how in two local communities – Powiśle (pomeranian voievodeiship) and Lower Lusitz (lubuskie voievodeiship) relations between memory narratives are being formed. Memory narratives are related to groups of settlers who arrived to Polish Western and Northern Territories or were forced to leave their former place of living. Regarding that there was a number of this groups, there exist a certan number of memory narratives. The research refers to public and private discourse shaping images of thw past.

On theoretical level, the project bases on the concept of memory field. The memory field is a concept of Pierre Bourdieu's field adapted for research on memory by Anna Sawisz - this relatively independent piece of social life, in which there is a ceaseless competition for raising the position and its maintenance. At stake in the field memory is the possibility of the widest possible dissemination of its vision of the past. This is what one can gain by legitimizing its position is a significant influence on the shaping of collective identity. This concept as a theoretical background, allows examining a competition between actors in the field, who represent various narratives of memory of settled and local groups, which can include individuals, organizations, and also institutions both social and political in order to study the post migration communities in the Polish Western and Northern Territories.

The issue that was raised involves a number of key areas. Firstly, it is a generational transmission between family members, or private discourse. This transmission includes family stories, which are learned by family members of the displaced persons during various private occasions. However, there is a change of narrative in every generation in accordance with the current cultural standards. This applies to the used concepts, attitude towards historical events, as well as the existing stereotypes. Based on the data obtained during the interviews directly from the settlers, the study of generational communication allows for identification of those elements that shape local field of memory on the basis of private discourse. Secondly, political changes are a very important dimension of the development of the field of memory. The processes of democratization of memory have their special dimension in the Polish Western Territories, where groups that were previously excluded from the discourse of memory were put into the spotlight. An important aspect is the changes primarily in Polish-German and Polish-Ukrainian relations, which really reflected on the attitude towards cultural heritage. The third element of the field of memory in post migration communities is an institutional discourse. It concerns both with the organizations of settlers and pre-war residents as well as the local cultural institutions.

Assuming that social memory is susceptible to the changes in a political system, the analysis of these changes will be necessary in order to determine the elements that are needed to be reevaluated in a field of memory. The changes that took place after 1989 are of particular interest. The expected outcome of the proposed research is to contribute into the wider study of the Polish Western Lands by describing the relationships and dependencies in the field of memory in post migrant communities, which has a different character compared to other communities in Poland. Furthermore, it will also be a possibility to use the methodology of biographical research in the study of collective memory.