

Description for General Public

Many historical events played a key role in the future lives of their participants, to a large extent shaping their future choices and co-determining their biographical identities. One of the most significant formative experiences in post-war Poland – except, perhaps, for the Solidarity movement and the fall of communism – is March '68, which still strongly resonates in the stories of its participants. Much has already been written about March events, particularly in historical and memoir literature, however, it is worth making an attempt to analyse this phenomenon more deeply, using sociological reflection, which might offer additional opportunities for interpretation.

The aim of the project is to reflect more deeply on possible ways of using some elements of sociological analysis within historical studies. In analysing the research material, my goal is to verify whether, and to what extent, it is possible to combine different biographical experiences related to participation in the events of March '68 to form one coherent field of interpretation.

The research project will focus on, among other things, enriching analysis patterns in the area of oral history through the wider use of theoretical tools of the so-called biographical method and the possible ways of using the category of generation, mostly known from sociological studies, within the area of historical reflection. All these activities are purely cognitive and novel. Moreover, the interpretive framework used in the project makes it possible to enter into discussion concerning significant threads of the world's academic research, such as the issue of the "centre" and the "periphery," and the use of the category of generation in order to construct and analyse different types of narratives of the past.

The reason for addressing the project topic is a belief, based on previous works dealing with the generation of March '68, that more in-depth and more varied reflection in this area might be useful for further research in the field of knowledge of the past.