

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Shared Memories and National Movements in Modern Europe

Organized by the **Institute of National History, Skopje** and
NISE

(National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe)

25 – 27 June 2020

Congress Centre, Ohrid, Republic of N. Macedonia

While defining the identity of nation, nationalists and protagonists need to convey a narrative and the evocation of a shared memory which relates to the relevance of the formation of that nation. Reconstructing a collective memory is, as Maurice Halbwachs already stated, however a socially constructed notion. Elites and protagonists supporting the genesis of nations use shared memories as a vehicle for transmitting a ‘national history’ as it was perceived in different contexts and by succeeding generations. Adherents of national movements rely on shared memories and their recreation as a resource of their specific interests: for example to emphasize the uniqueness of the community, its culture, its unique history of strive for political autonomy or its specific territoriality. Shared memories refer therefore often to unique events from the past and are associated with traditions that are canonized as being particular to that specific community. In the recreation of collective memories the notion of a supposed shared past and the recollection of *a golden age* come to the fore, which even might bear characteristics of living myths. Shared memories find their expression in symbols (anthems, hymns, festivals, customs and linguistic codes), in the consciousness of a shared history, in the commemoration of events and protagonists, in the membership of nationalistic associations or in the creation of imagined communities (Anderson) that preceded the nation.

Bearing all this in mind, this conference aims to gather researchers from relevant fields within the humanities and social studies who are invited to elaborate on various aspects related to the issues mentioned above starting from the 19th century and continuing on to the 1940s. Papers and proposals might amongst others relate to

- Memory and its role in creation and re-creation of the past as a mobilizing factor, as well as for propaganda purposes;
- References to a unique and inspiring past in program documents of cultural and social associations, as well as of organizations striving for political autonomy and of national political parties;
- Memory reflected in folklore, literature and other cultural expressions
- Shared memories regarding protagonist and historical key events
- The nurturing of traditions and shared memories

Since it is important to differentiate between the universal traits and the characteristic particularities within distinctive national movements, comparative analyses on the role of shared memories are especially welcomed.

Paper submission

- **Extended Deadline** for submitting abstracts (max. 250 words) and CVs (max. 200 words): **30 January 2020**
- **Notification** of acceptance of the applicants: **15 February 2020**

Please send your application forms to dr. Liljana Gushevska and dr. Natasha Kotlar-Trajkova at:

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- Presentation of papers is limited to 15 minutes.
- Working language: English.
- The proceedings of the Conference will be published in the NISE online journal *Studies on National Movements*.

PARTICIPATION FEE:

- **60 euros** (including: accommodation for 2 nights in a single/double room, conference materials, a conference dinner)
- **20 euros** (including: conference materials, a conference dinner)

For further inquiries please contact dr. Garbiela Topuzovska and dr. Lidija Gjurkovska at:

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