

Peer Review

Review of: "Who Owns the Past? Symbolic Authority and Heritage Revitalization in Czech Borderlands"

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The paper discusses a very timely topic: adapting trans-disciplinary methods and perspectives to highlight its complexity.

It might have been useful to clarify the terms used (memory identity, collective memory, regional identity, as well as abandoned sites, -objects, monuments, etc.) and maybe decrease their diversity to help readers easily follow the author's chain of thought.

While some of the author's statements can be expanded (e.g., "rural space as a multi-functional area" - urban spaces can also be understood in that way), others seem to be over-generalized compared to the size of the very valuable micro-research. Providing more details about the conducted investigation (e.g., exploring these revitalized monuments (objects, sites, etc.) or providing quotations from the interviews) would have made the text more thought-provoking by letting the reader formulate more general conclusions based on the precise findings. Along the same line, the text contains quite a lot of repetitive ideas that might be useful to eliminate (such as the definition of memory nodes, which are understood once as the monuments and at other times as the actors taking care of the monuments).

It would have been useful to further emphasize that the conducted research focused exclusively on the bottom-up approach of these "heritage restoration" projects. In that way, the reader would not have missed information about the legal status, official owners of these objects or sites, or even an interview with the representatives of these (top-down actors) units.

Last but not least, it would be good to harmonize the adapted style of citation (end notes or in-text citation) throughout the text.

All in all, the author provided evidence of his broad theoretical knowledge and awareness of the interconnections of time-place-actor in both memory studies and heritage studies. Some clarification and crystallization steps would further increase the value of his contribution. Looking forward to the end result.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.