

# Review of: "Semiosphere and Anthropological Aggression on the Example of the "Memorial Conflict" — Polish-Russian borderland: Warmia"

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Russian aggression in Ukraine has been influencing discussions of national security in Central Europe and may raise many new research questions related to spatial memory and cultural heritage. The title and abstract suggest a combination of these very topical issues and seem to incorporate the accepted methodology of Lotman's work on spatial semantics. However, there is no connection between the theoretical approach and the analysis, which remains very descriptive and erratic. Considering that there is a considerable number of publications on memory politics and urban heritage in Central Europe after 1989 (e.g. Kołodziejczyk, Huigen 2022, Ira, Janáč 2018) and more precisely on Warmia and Masuria (e.g. Ruchniewicz 2018, Musiaka 2019, Ciechorska-Kulesza 2016), the short list of references is surprising: four positions, three of them by the author himself. Lotman's oeuvre, highlighted at the beginning, must be added to the list. The article raises many interesting questions about symbolic violence, but the comparison between Russian influence on Ukrainian 'memoryscape' and Warmia would need to be fundamentally revised, starting with the question of which period the author wants to focus on: In the current version of the article, statements about socialist memorial politics cannot be distinguished from current politics. It also remains unclear who the actors in this 'memory conflict' are. Statements such as "The Russian Federation treats demolishing monuments dedicated to the Red Army as an attack on historical facts." and "A contrary view is expressed by the indigenous inhabitants of Varmia" require reference: either through research literature or conclusions drawn from field research that the authors claim to have conducted in 2018-2021. For more transparency, a brief description of the character of the fieldwork is necessary.