

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a timely and conceptionally promising article on a specific form of hybrid influencing in a Polish-Russian border region by Russia, namely by the process of "monument warfare" as the author calls it. The article at the same time focuses on the not to be underestimated power of historical narratives and the current struggles on today's handling them. However, the paper faces several shortages stated below.

- **Structure:** The introduction is rather used here as the conceptual chapter with unfolding the theory. But this is not the function of an introduction – it is rather to introduce the general idea and the paper's structure to the author. The last paragraph of the part "Anthropological aggression" refers to Ukraine, although the article deals with Russia's influence in a Polish region. Could the author change or add some lines to the Russian construction of a semiosphere in Poland? He introduces a new concept in the conclusion, namely "monument warfare". Again, this is interesting and needs more elaboration, but not exactly in the conclusion where no new material should be included.
- **Methodology:** The author needs to include more information on methodology. How long exactly did his fieldwork take, and where exactly did he carry it out? Which methods did he use during the fieldwork? What about his positionality during research? Which obstacles did he encounter? How does the material resulting from the fieldwork look like?
- **Conceptual framework:** Interesting concepts are presented: anthropological aggression and defence, symbolic violence, cultural naturalization, monument warfare: Unfortunately, the author does not define most of them sufficiently and does not weave them convincingly in his arguments. What is missing is a summary of the state of the art and the localization of the paper's findings therein. Which research gap existed which is now closed thanks to this paper? Who else does what kind of research (apart from the author) on the topic? It is certainly not sufficient to build a theoretical framework on four sources, less so, when three of the sources are written by the author himself. There is very little citation regarding it is a research article. "According to a study...": here needs to be evidence which study is cited. "By building a false narrative that Ukrainian and German nationalism is resurgent in the region..." please give a source how this is done. A source covering Lotman's theory is also needed.
- **Minor point:** Why do you cite the Russian original of the film sequence when you do not get back to it in the text? In this case, the English version is sufficient.

In my view, this is a paper with potential worth going into more detail in terms of methodology and conceptual framings and improving the overall structure.

