

EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to present the first issue of the journal *Acta Universitatis Carolinae – Studia Territorialia* for 2021. Last year we launched a call for papers entitled “Troubled Pasts and Memory Politics: Contesting Hegemonic Narratives in North America, Europe, and Eurasia,” which produced a series of papers for our 2020 special issue. Here we continue to look into that theme in a new special issue that is a result of last year’s call.

Aside from our regular review column, this issue brings together three original research articles that approach troubled pasts and memory politics in different national contexts and from the perspective of different disciplines. The issue opens with a study of memory politics – and the power thereof – in Honduras. In a review of historical travel accounts by prominent U.S. archaeologists, who long ago set the research agenda, and the details of archaeological excavations in Copán, Kathryn M. Hudson and John S. Henderson trace the origins of the modern Honduran national identity. The Honduran national identity project is heavily influenced by the rediscovery in the nineteenth century of the monumental remains of the ancient Mayan civilization by the North American scholars. Hudson’s and Henderson’s contribution to this special issue shows how the appropriation of pre-Columbian heritage by the Honduran state invented a “Mayan” national narrative that disadvantaged other, non-privileged indigenous groups.

In the second article, Juho Korhonen gives detailed insight into the intricacies of the politics of memory in contemporary Finland. For that purpose, he explores the celebrations of the hundredth anniversary of Finnish independence organized by the Finnish state in 2017. Korhonen’s contribution scrutinizes the main communication and branding techniques used by the organizers, as well as narratives employed by the Finnish government for the promotion of its agenda. His analysis of the Finland 100 project concludes that the Finnish state is the

dominant mnemonic actor no matter its democratic rhetoric. It maintains strict control over the interpretation of what might otherwise be a contested national history and takes little account of recent historical research that contradicts the main tenets of its traditional history politics.

Finally, the third contribution to this special issue is a study of nostalgia for communist rule in Romania and the strategies that have been devised to dispel it. Through analysis of the images contained in *Ghidul ilustrat al comunismului românesc* (*The Illustrated Guide to Romanian Communism*), a local civic educational project from 2018 that targets Romanian youth, Manuela Marin transmits a highly critical reading of the country's communist past.

We hope that you will appreciate this special issue as much as we have taken pleasure in preparing it for you.

On behalf of the editorial board,

Jan Šír

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