

## EDITORIAL

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of *Studia Territorialia* for 2023, entitled “The Uses of Nostalgia: Longing for the Past, (Re-)Imagining the Future.”

Nostalgia is a common emotion, prompted by personal or collective memories of a lost and longed-for past. It can also be triggered by exposure to certain images and narratives about the past. Such images and narratives can induce feelings of warmth and well-being in the present, but also negative emotions at times. Political leaders often employ a nostalgic national narrative to exploit perceptions of a disconnect between their nation’s past greatness and its dire present predicament. Nostalgic memories of a “golden past” are frequently instrumentalized in discourses that glorify former empires and colonizers. What are the salient features of nostalgic discourses? What cultural mechanisms do they rely upon and what are the various ways in which they can be politicized? To what political ends have nostalgic discourses been employed? These are some of the questions that the contributions included in this issue of *Studia Territorialia* seek to answer.

This special issue contains three original articles that deal with the topic of longing for the past. Each study covers aspects of nostalgic discourses from nations that fall within the regional scope of our journal. The first contribution is a study of nostalgizing practices in the development of archaeological museums in interwar Turkey and Germany. In his well-documented study, Sebastian Willert examines the personal histories and professional activities of the directors of the museums, which at the time were pre-eminent institutions in the formation of the two countries’ respective national memories. He reveals continuities and disruptions in the museums’ paths through their nations’ transitions from imperial to post-imperial societies. He shows that after the establishment of the

post-World War I Turkish and German Republics, a specific discourse developed in each country that was highly influenced by recollections of their lost imperial grandeur.

The second article is a contribution to the study of memory production in the borderlands of Central Europe. The countries of the region have experienced numerous shifts in their borders in the recent past. Ondřej Elbel provides valuable cultural and geographic perspectives on the memory-scapes created when the borders of two Central European regions shifted: Cieszyn Silesia, located between today's Czechia and Poland, and Spisz and Orawa, located between Poland and Slovakia.

Finally, the third article, by Kapitolina Fedorova and Natalia Tšaikina, unveils the discursive elements that ethnic Russians use to strengthen their identity as a minority group in Estonia. The authors turn to the Facebook page “Sovetskaia Estoniia – Eesti NSV” as a case study to highlight the role of social media in shaping collective memory and challenging prevailing historical narratives.

We are tremendously pleased that we can now present you with this new issue of *Studia Territorialia*. We hope you will find the contributions published in it both thought-provoking and rewarding. We wish you a pleasant read.

On behalf of the editors,

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