

# Patterns of Collective Memory: Socio-Cultural Diversity in Wrocław Urban Memory

Barbara Pabjan

***Abstract:** This article analyzes socio-cultural differences in the interpretation of the past depending on approaches to time and space. Using empirical data on collective memory in the city of Wrocław, we show how socio-cultural factors differentiate perception of time and space and influence the interpretation of a difficult past. The data indicate that in respect to time, conservatism increases the importance of the past, while “modern” or “progressive” views decrease it; in respect to perception of space, conservatism increases sensitivity to historical symbolism, while a modern orientation and higher level of education increase sensitivity to aesthetic values. The importance of the past increases with age and social status, including educational level. In the analysis we use quantitative and qualitative data, on the basis of which we propose a model explaining the relationship between the approach to time and space and the persistence of past conflicts in collective memory. Depending on how people use time and space to connect the past with the present, they apply different cognitive strategies: continuation, partial continuation, and discontinuation of past conflicts.*

## **Introduction**

This article addresses the problem of socio-cultural diversity of interpretation of the past (collective memory), focusing on two dimensions of beliefs about the past: time and space. In order to investigate the spatial and temporal dimensions of collective memory, we examine how socio-cultural context determines the