

Project: *Milieux de mémoire in Central and Eastern Europe - a Polish case*, sponsored by the Polish National Science Centre, programme „Sonata”, no 2013/09/D/HS6/02630, duration: 2014-2017.

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Project description

The aim of this project is to analyze the religious aspect of memory, whose current animation constitutes the answer to the twentieth century experience of catastrophes (Second World War, Soviet repressions and communist regimes). This is why the project takes into account theoretical reflection which aims to elaborate the *milieu de mémoire* conception for the purpose of research on social reality in Central and Eastern Europe. Then the project assumes an empirical verification of the thesis on the basis of the empirical material collected in Poland and Russia. The project's main hypothesis claims that the historical situation in Central and Eastern Europe caused the 'true environments of memory' to endure. The Second World War as well as Soviet repression under the communist regime are perceived in Eastern Europe as situations similar to the suffering of the first Christians. They are, therefore, filling the *milieu de mémoire* with significant content, which is currently being expressed in the erection of memorial projects. The phenomenon shall undergo a reflection that adopt the perspective of social memory and a role of religion in supporting the socially adopted interpretations of the past events perceived as catastrophes.