

Voices of Collective Remembering

Voices of Collective Remembering reviews various understandings of the term “collective memory” as it is used in the humanities and social sciences.

Drawing on this review, James V. Wertsch outlines a particular version of collective remembering grounded in the use of “textual resources,” especially narratives. This takes him into the special properties of narrative that shape this process and how these textual resources are produced and consumed.

Professor Wertsch brings these ideas to life by examining the rapid, massive transformation of collective memory during the transition from Soviet Russia to post-Soviet Russia. This natural laboratory has many unique features, but it also provides general insights into processes of collective memory formation, especially as carried out by modern states.

James V. Wertsch is the Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. His books include *Vygotsky and the Social Formation of Mind* (1985); *Culture, Communication, and Cognition: Vygotskian Perspectives* (1985); *Voices of the Mind* (1991); *Sociocultural Studies of Mind* (edited with P. del Rio and A. Alvarez, 1995); and *Mind as Action* (1998). Professor Wertsch has been awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Linköping and the University of Oslo and is an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Education.

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Contents

	Introduction and Acknowledgments	<i>page</i> 1
1	An Encounter with Collective Memory	4
2	Methodological Preliminaries to the Study of Collective Remembering	10
3	Collective Memory: A Term in Search of a Meaning	30
4	State Production of Official Historical Narratives	67
5	Narrative Dialogicality and Narrative Templates in the Production of Official Collective Memory	87
6	The Consumption of Historical Narratives	117
7	Generational Differences in Collective Remembering	149
	Conclusion	171
	<i>References</i>	179
	<i>Index</i>	191