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Editorial note

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach
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To record so as to revisit and revise, to encode and store so as to later retrieve are one of the basic psychological processes of any human being. This process of encoding and later retrieval, what psychologists have defined as memory forms the basis for building one's sense of self-identity. The importance of memory becomes particularly distinct when we experience the lack of this capacity for memory building, as in the case of families and friends of patients suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. Many sometime even painful misunderstandings arise when the initial symptoms are experienced for the first time, when loved ones witness the gradual loss of short term memory which often lead to social misunderstandings and disintegrated behavioural issues. In many ways, institutional memory, the topic of this issue's of *Kultura i Polityka* functions in a way analogous to human memory. Every institution, group or organization which has functioned in the course of time, consciously or unconsciously collects facts, data, know-how which is drawn from the common work or life experience of every organization. How this information is used, conserved by the group of people working within the organization is crucial in building and strengthening organizational identity. It transcends the personal level, for though collectively built on individual memories, it influences the identity of the group as a whole. On the one hand, should institutions be mindful of institutional memory and keep record of the personal decisions that have shaped the institution's identity as a whole, this distinct sense of institutional historicity, of keeping 'in touch' though mentally with those who have formed

part of an institution's past, provide the context of organization behavior and customs, and can set the perspective for future directions of progress. Though institutions may opt for change, this change is one that is conscious and informed. And yet institutions may also choose collectively forget, as in the case of institutions who struggle with an 'inherited difficult past,' this perceived need for 'social and political erasure' is consciously removed from the institution's history – written or orally transmitted, is taken in the hope better sense of control in shaping one's organizational identity.

This issue will be dealing with many aspects of institutional memory and collective forgetting. It also includes articles not directly related to the running theme of this issue, but form part of the interdisciplinary discussions, which our journal continues to engage in.

This volume presents explores the problems of institutional memory in a very interdisciplinary context. Three articles deal with the 'art of memory' in literature. In Jolanta Rzeżońska's *Czwarta mila, czyli Troki: Sarbiewskiego ziemsko-poetyckie pielgrzymowanie i praktyka pamięci* we learn of the celebration of the 'moment' which lead to the historical preservation of a particular, personal act. Marek Pawlicki explores memory as it is perceived in post-modernist theories, which stress the identity formation and fallible nature of memory building in *Memory and Manipulation in Irish Literature: A Study of Selected Works by Colm Tóibín and Anne Enright*. Whilst Ania Bugajska questions the veracity of memory building, and conscious falsification of memory in *The Poems of Ossian: Between Memory and Imagination*. The importance and need for a consistent institutional memory policy in education is discussed by Monika Jakubowska in *Pamięć instytucjonalna – magazyn i element kultury szkoły*. Coming to terms with a difficult past and reconciling that with the present is the challenge that Roksana Szczypta-Szczech undertakes in her analysis of the history of Police as an institution in Poland in, *Trudne dziedzictwo. Poszukiwanie i budowanie pamięci historycznej w Policji w latach 1990–2004*, in a similar vein Cecylia Kuta investigates the complicated history of the PAX Foundation in *Stowarzyszenie PAX jako instytucja pamięci zbiorowej*. The challenges in maintaining a consistent policy in institutional memory is dealt by Katarzyna Durkalec in *Nieprawidłowości w funkcjonowaniu pamięci instytucjonalnej na przykładzie instytucji administracji publicznej – przegląd wybranych typów, przyczyn i sposobów diagnozowania problemu* where by way of case study she also provides a prescription on how to improve the system of institutional memory. The systematic building of memory as crucial in institutional identity and credibility is discussed in two articles, one with respect to the building of personal legacy in Iwona Świątczak-Wasilewska's

The Evolving Legacy: The Institutionalization of Ex-Presidents and First Ladies. A Transatlantic Perspective. The other side of this issue is discussed by Agnieszka Giszterowicz taking on a more ontological level the importance of branding, in building memory and identity in *Czas – człowiek – wartości. Marka jako kierunek rozbudowy definicji pamięci instytucjonalnej*. Lastly, the conscious act of collective forgetting with respect to strengthening ‘social memory’ is analysed on the basis of the Tbilisi by Bartłomiej Krzyszta in *Instytucjonalne zapomnienie, społeczna pamięć. Studium przypadku tbiliskiego muzeum-drukarni*. Aside from this wide range of studies on the different aspects of institutional memory, this issue also offers other interdisciplinary articles in the which provide in-depth analysis on chosen social and political issues.

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