

“Discourses on the Past and Its Relics in the Pomeranian Borderland after 1989: Selected Practices and Narratives as Media of Power/Knowledge” – summary

The thesis explores discourses on Polish and German heritage after 1989 in the Polish-German borderland within the Euroregion Pomerania. It discusses the past forms of historical consciousness as well as the related concepts, narratives and practices. The historical patterns are juxtaposed with those observed in contemporary Pomerania. The theoretical framework is based on the philosophy of M. Foucault. To characterize the “horizon” of the contemporary discourse, the author explores the “mythology” of the so-called Recovered Territories and discusses the Exhibition of the Recovered Territories (1948) as its example. The area of analysis is the Euroregion Pomerania as presented in the reports and strategies for 1995-2030. The characteristics of the Exhibition (1948) and the contemporary Euroregion serve as a starting point for the selection and analysis of cases. The author distinguishes five discourses: the official discourse, and discourses on the recreated past, ruins, troubled heritage, and the memory of everyday life before 1989. Each discourse is represented by two case studies: one on the Polish and one on the German side of the border. In conclusion, the author states that despite the surface resemblance, similar cases serve to create different narratives and understandings of heritage. On the Polish side, there is an attempt to fit into a broad transnational discourse that breaks both with pre-1989 narratives and with contemporary “national remembrance”. On the German side, however, what matters is locality. Pomerania is presented from a local perspective and not from the perspective of the state, the Federal Republic or the European Union (tłum. własne).