

Between Anonymity and Attachment: Remembering Others in Lviv's Pidzamche District

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***Abstract:** This article uses oral testimony to examine how the present-day residents of the Pidzamche district in Lviv remember “others”—that is, how they remember the district’s former residents: representatives of other (non-Ukrainian and non-Russian) ethnic and religious groups, who were killed, deported, or otherwise forced to flee during and after World War II. After the war, Lviv underwent Sovietization, rapid industrialization, and massive in-migration. What do Lvivians living in Pidzamche today know about the district’s previous inhabitants, and what are their attitudes towards them? What (if any) role does the remembering of others play in shaping present-day relationships to place and to identity? In this study, based on 25 in-depth interviews collected in 2012, the author outlines a set of key narratives through which the remembering of others takes place in Pidzamche, from stories about empty houses previously occupied by nameless people, to very personal relations with specific individuals. The study is located at the intersection of the interdisciplinary fields of memory studies and neighborhood studies, and contributes to the growing body of scholarship on memory culture in post-Soviet cities.*

Introduction

Eastern European cities experienced turbulent times during the twentieth century. They were arenas for two world wars, the fierce competition of different national projects, and the radical transformation of social structures. The fate of the city of Lviv and