

Memory and the *loslassen* concept in Kosovo

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Abstract

This paper aims to explore the concepts of memory and *loslassen* in the Kosovar context, almost a quarter of a century after the end of the war. It was the ongoing war that awakened this interest. The aim of this reflection is to examine whether there is an entrapment in the past fuelled by the memory of events or whether it has already been overcome through ‘*loslassen*’ and the ‘difficult forgiveness’ in Ricoeur’s terms. The importance of this step is crucial to be able to break out of the vicious circle of the ‘past becoming future’. On a practical and methodological level, however, the intention is to form a working group and through various qualitative-quantitative techniques – surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups, interviews with privileged witnesses, case studies – obtain data. The target population will consist of university students, young people from the three villages or towns most affected by the war, those where the war was least felt, elderly people from these contexts, and leaders of organisations still present in Kosovo. Data analysis will be supported by software such as SPSS, SAS, MAXQDA. The final objective is to publish (both in Albanian and in English) in the form of an article or articles the results of the research, with the aim of identifying difficulties and critical issues in order to then be able to intervene at the level of educational policies with appropriate programmes.

Key words: *memory, loslassen, Kosovo, generations, past-future.*