

## **Transmission of the collective memory and the Jewish identity through the postwar Jewish generations in relations to war souvenirs. Comparative study – Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg (1945-89)**

Oral tradition and witnessing information in connection with objects

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My contribution will include a sample of video testimonies containing the life stories of Jews born in the aftermath of World War II in the different regions. At that time, Czechoslovak Jews were living through the era of de-Stalinization, and their narratives offer new insights into the segment of the Jewish postwar history that differ from those who lived in liberal democratic European states. Based on the personal documents, photos, letters and souvenirs the conducted interviews show an interesting way of maintaining the personal memory in Jewish families and its reflection through Jewish generations. In my contribution, I am planning to illustrate the importance of those little artefacts for the transmission of the Jewish memory.

In addition, my presentation displays people widely known as the “*second and third Jewish generation*”, and their attitude to the current perception of the Jewish memory and self-perception and their role in a major society. Some had to live under the totalitarian oppression, others had to face a wave of Jewish Sephardic immigrants coming from overseas, and witnesses admit that the arrival of those newcomers often caused difficulties in Jewish communities. Little objects from the war, often exposed in their households, keep them reminding their roots and the destiny, which should not be forgotten.

This paper is a part of my broader research project examines distinctions and similarities in identity formation through generations of Czech, Slovak, French and Luxembourgish Jews, who grew up either under communism or in liberal Western Europe. The aim is to create an international virtual library and cloud storage not only for professional educators, but also for the public,

**Jakub Bronec** is a PhD candidate at the University of Luxembourg. After his Bachelor degree, he studied Media Science and Journalism at Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) and completed his Master in 2016. His personal interest in social history, oral history and history of journalism gave him an inspiration for writing a comparative PhD thesis on the cultural and educational activities of the Jewish minority in Czechoslovakia and Francophone regions of Luxembourg, and Alsace-Lorraine after the Second World War. As a doctoral candidate specialized in making and maintaining interviews with members of Jewish population born in a post-war period. Now, he is working on the internal research project called “Luxembourg State Policy Towards Jews (1930s to 1950s)”. This project analyzes continuities and ruptures in the attitudes and policies of Luxembourg state authorities regarding the Jewish population of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg before, during and after World War II.