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FROM SILENCE TO GLASNOST: RECONFIGURATION OF THE MEMORY OF ARMENIAN LOSS IN POST-SOCIALIST ARMENIA

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the transforming representations of the Armenian trauma in post-socialist Yerevan. One of the crucial points in creating a new national ideology in post-socialist Armenia is related to the establishment of proper memorialization and justice regarding the Armenian yeghern (grief and mourning) in terms of global morality. A shift from forgotten to voiced and visible representations of the Armenian loss began in the mid-1960s with a spontaneous movement from below during the Khrushchev political thaw. Drawing on ethnographic work in 2005 and 2006, the author analyzes the ways Armenians give voices to the forgotten loss by introducing new public events such as the youth torch march and involving "outside" forces in the national sacred repertoire. To illustrate this change, she focuses specifically on the area surrounding the Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan.

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