

Abstract

By the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the social, political and economic transformation had a major impact on Azerbaijani society that was part of the Soviet Union for nearly seventy years. How it is remembered is as important as what happened. This thesis examines the collective memory of Azerbaijani women of transition and de(re) construction of their collective identity. Biographical interviews were conducted with ten women living in four cities of Azerbaijan. The research results indicate that gendered collective memory of the Soviet past and transition encompasses both nostalgic sentiments and trauma. These results conclude that historical consciousness and political awareness of Azerbaijani women is insufficient. Nevertheless, their collective identity has been constructed by their collective memory of the quotidian life.

Keywords: collective memory, collective identity, Soviet Union, transition, Azerbaijani women, nostalgia, cultural trauma, oral history