

Biographical note: Greta Paskočiumaitė is a historian and ethnologist studying for a doctorate at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (Vilnius, Lithuania). The main areas of interest are guerrilla warfare, the memory and identity of people who have survived repression, oral history, and modern folklore. Since 2014, she has been actively participating in the activities of perpetuating the Lithuanian partisan war, researching partisan resistance in various aspects, organizing civic summer camps for young people, and giving public lectures to various age groups. Recently, it has focused on the memory of the families of the participants of the Lithuanian partisan war, the existence of this memory and its transmission in the family through different generations.

Lithuanian partisan war in the memory of the third generation

It is characteristic of the historiography of the Lithuanian partisan war (1944-1953) to look at the stories of the participants in the struggles as possible sources of supplementary written sources. Researchers studying the mental health of repressed individuals note that narratives are also an important part of the process of healing political traumas. The narratives partly pass on the traumatic experience gained to later generations, as well as the value relationship with the struggles for freedom. The memory of the repressed during the Soviet occupation was stifled, so it was only when the political situation changed dramatically that it was talked about in families and in public. Along with the resurgence of the idea of statehood in the late 1980s, a hitherto unbroken process of perpetuating post-war struggles began, with a strong focus on living memory. With the rapid decline in freedom-fighting contemporaries in recent years, the memory taken over by their children and grandchildren has become more frequent. Yet in each generation the relationship with the guerrilla war is unique, which varies the tendency of the generations to engage in the study or perpetuation of family history. The report seeks to update the almost least researched stories of the descendants of partisans born and matured in independent Lithuania. The third generation is seen as a mediator between the first and second generations and as a disseminator of family history in public. The aim is to assess whether the injuries experienced by the grandparents and the goals set have to do with what the grandchildren understand and want to know about the guerrilla war.