

Memories of the Forgotten

Migrants as *migrants* are forgotten soon. They are remembered as persons, as individuals. Perhaps one generation will remember them as migrants, relate to them as migrants; perhaps their neighbours, friends, and colleagues will share their stories, recall them through their migrant narratives, and then when they will die, or even before they die, they will have become “normal”. Their migrant personhood will slowly move into neglect and oblivion. Only among their relatives back home (if there still will be a home wherefrom they had emigrated), and if they are lucky, they will be recalled as emigrants. On exceptional occasions when reunions will take place the migrants will return in person or appear from the clouds of memory. This is strange because migrants retain the memories of their journeys a lot. They remember the details. They also revisit the objects of memory – not only as real life objects, such as persons or some artefacts as souvenirs, but memories of places and mobility too.