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Summary of the paper:

Between the public and the private. Crimes of the Suharto's regime in 1965 in the collective memory of the Indonesians

The subject of the study is the memory of the crimes committed in Indonesia by General Suharto's army as part of the coup between 1965 and 1966. During mass murders, about one million communists and alleged communists together with their families were killed, and thousands of people were held for many years without a trial in prisons and forced labour camps located throughout the archipelago. The object of the research analysis are processes of shaping "from above" the collective memory of mass murders and imprisonments of thousands of people in forced labour camps, as well as mechanisms of reception by the Indonesian society of regime-made constructs of collective memory of the past, both during the Suharto's regime (1965-1998) and after its fall in 1998, as well as reconstruction of excluded counternarratives, exposing the privileged position of the regime and showing the multitude of polyphonic voices of minority groups. The broad picture of actions conducted by the regime within the framework of the politics of memory, as presented in the study, explains why in Indonesia, the historic narrative as created by the regime still officially exists and the state continues to decide how the year 1965 should be remembered, thus committing a symbolic violence, and preventing reconciliation. Alongside the elite regime narrative, removing from the public discourse not only the history of the victims but also the history of common people, there is a multitude of not equal memories, adopting various strategies of endurance and development as local, individual, family memories, including intergenerational memories. This is evidenced by the analysed and described entangled social practices of remembering and forgetting, remaining silent and giving testimony.