

Non-Technical Summary

Evaluation of controversial events and reaction to conflict in a multi-ethnic context

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After a presentation of the main theoretical and methodological aspects connected to the study of public outstanding events, from the perspective of the flashbulb memory (FM), we have proposed the methodology used in the study of FM for the study of the non-FM public events. Starting from these considerations we defined a design research, aims to analyze (a) how the social controversial events, symbol or climax of the interethnic conflict, are evaluated by the members of the ethnic groups in conflict and (b) what the relation between these evaluations is and the propensity of the subjects to react to similar conflicts. These analyses have used data collected from two relevant controversial events (symbol or sources of social conflicts), in two European countries (1003 Ss from Romania and Bulgaria) using the same methodology.

KEY TERMS: social memory, controversial events, interethnic conflicts, social attitudes