

What War Does to a Survivor's Sense of Time

The Spatiotemporal Self After Violence in Tajikistan

A Public Doctoral Dissertation Defense by
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War is so forceful it often seems recent to its survivors regardless of when it occurred. The violent past is alive and lies in front. To understand why I develop a new paradigm called the spatiotemporal self. My intention is that this paradigm will be of general interest to the social sciences.

The paradigm is a novel alliance of time and self, brought together by visual perspectives intrinsic to both. Time is conceived using spatial construals of time — deictic time, sequence time, and temporal span. The self is conceived of as having four levels that emerged in evolution, from oldest to newest: the protoself, core self, minimal self, and narrative self. Because the spatiotemporal self is an alliance of cognitive processes, at the cognitive level it is a human universal.

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