Postnaya E.

**Uniqueness of volunteering in museums of conscience**

Museums dedicated to tragic past events (museums of conscience) rely more and more on volunteers’ work: volunteers work with archival documents, participate in various activities provided by museums, help people who were affected by war, genocide, repressions etc. Volunteering was very popular subject of research, but less attention was paid to the specificity of volunteering in museums of conscience. Our aim is to show that volunteering in such museums has deeper basis under altruistic motives: its main goal is to cultivate people’s “sensitivity”, ability to feel, take and appreciate others’ pain, emotions, memory. All these things help to keep culture alive – as we still can feel other’s pain, we survive. Presentation will contain three main parts: first I will observe how volunteering in museums of conscience is organized in Russia and other countries, then I will touch on how speech of those who survived (“first memory”) is transformed by the museum and its technologies and how it is translated further into society (especially by volunteers), finally I try to explain my key thesis about vital functions and key role of volunteering in such museums for the society and culture.