Naming the Community

May 16-17, 2024

Programme

Thursday 16th May

13:00–13:30   registration of participants

13:30–13:40   opening of the workshop

I. Block

13:40–14:00   **Liubov Ostash** (Ukraine): *New facts in the urbanonymy of Ukraine*

14:00–14:20   **Halyna Zymovets** (Ukraine): *Ideological Dimension of Proper Names (the case of Ukraine)*

14:20–14:40   **Žaneta Dvořáková** (Czechia): *Reflection of Russian-Ukrainian war in urbanonyms and in the linguistic landscape of other countries*

14:40–15:00   **Přemysl Mácha** (Czechia): *Russian Street and Moscow Street – Lessons from an Unsuccessful Renaming Attempt*

15:00–15:20   discussion

15:20–15:40   coffee break

II. On-line Block

15:40–16:00   **Vlad Cojocaru** (Romania): *Toponymy and identity*

16:00–16:20   **Daniela Butnaru** (Romania): *Current trends of official hodonymy in Romania*

16:20–16:40   discussion

III. Social events

16:40–19:00   guided tour "House signs in the Prague Old Town"

19:15   dinner at "The Pub", Veleslavínova 3, Praha 1

https://www.thepub.cz/praha-1

Friday 17th May

I. Block

9:00–9:20   **Tiina Laansalu – Marit Alas** (Estonia): *Estonian street names in the ideological turbulence through centuries*

9:20–9:40   **Maria Vrachionidou – Eleni Papadopoulou** (Greece): *Linguistic and political strategies of toponymic renaming in Greece during the 20th century*

9:40–10:00   **Tereza Klemensová – Michal Místecký** (Czechia): *National identity through the lens of Czech urbanonyms*

10:00–10:20   **Maya Vlahova-Angelova** (Bulgaria): *The struggle over the city-text of Sofia*

10:20–10:40   discussion

10:40–11:00   coffee break

II. Block

11:00–11:20   **Eric Iwanski** (Germany): *Place name changes during National Socialism between 1933 and 1939*

11:20–11:40   **Ivana Crljenko** (Croatia): *Commemoration of the Homeland War (1991-1995) in Croatian Street Names: Practices and Identities*

11:40–12:00   **Michal Místecký – Jaroslav David** (Czechia): *The Dative Empowered: Case Distributions of Toponyms in Anti-Establishment Media*

12:00–12:20   discussion

12:20–13:40   lunch break

III. Block

14:00–14:20   **Ágnes Erőss** (Hungary): *The ambiguity of heritagisation of minority place names in multiethnic cities*

14:20–14:40   **Peter Jordan** (Austria)**:** *Multicultural identity building supported by place names. The example of the Val Canale in the Northeast of Italy*

14:40–15:00   **Patrik Tátrai** (Hungary): *The effect of displaying minority place names on local identity: lessons from Romania*

15:00–15:20   **Kohei Watanabe** (Japan): *Past and Recent Discussions on Exonyms at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)*

15:20–15:40   discussion

15:40–16:00   coffee break

IV. Block

16:00–16:20   **Gábor Mikesy – Andrea Bölcskei** (Hungary): *An overview of the history of conceptual place-name changes in Hungary*

16:20–16:40   **Christian Zschieschang** (Germany): *Eastern Germany as part of the East Central European onymic landscape in the 20th century*

16:40–17:00   **Artur Żołądź** (Poland): *Decommunize a socialist city. Decommunization of urban space in Poland on the example of Jastrzębie-Zdrój*

17:00–17:20   **Soňa Wojnarová** (Czechia): *Identity and Place-names of the Finnish Evacuees from the Regions Ceded to the Soviet Union*

17:20–17:40   discussion

17:40   closing of the workshop

Venue: Na Florenci 3, Praha 1

https://mapy.cz/s/mavedobeve

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Naming the Community

Abstracts

Daniela Butnaru („Alexandru Philippide" Institute of Romanian Philology, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania): *Current trends of official hodonymy in Romania*

Personal observations made during toponymic surveys or information gathered from documents and research papers will be structured and presented to show the trends in street naming in 21st century Romania. We will show who can propose street names, who approves or rejects the proposals and which name patterns prevail. We will also show the impact of some names on local residents.

Vlad Cojocaru (Institutul de Filologie Română A. Philippide - Academia Română Filiala Iaşi): *Toponymy and identity*

The toponyms are related with the issue of communitairy identity, given the fact that their purpose is to point to the geographical referance. Besides, it is compulsary to take into consideration also several aspects implying some factors if not modifying, at least disturbing this purpose of the definition of the ethnic identity. Firstly the toponyms are not represented only by simple names, consequently the compound names or the syntagmas come sometimes with particular problems. Thus the case of partial translation of such place names can cause the alteration of the toponymic reality, case which was revealed by Jean Becat (2007:17) for a region of France. The French linguist considers to be an error the treatment of Catalan toponyms from the South of France: the generic term of the compound names was translated in French, considering that the genuine toponym was only the second term. The author requests the recovery of the generic element in the case of Catalan compound toponyms in the South of France, because this element contributes to the individuality of a place name. The translation into French can cause the alteration of the genuine toponymic map of a certain geographic area.

Ivana Crljenko (The Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, Croatia): *Commemoration of the Homeland War (1991-1995) in Croatian Street Names: Practices and Identities*

The Homeland War was a defensive war for the independence and territorial integrity of Croatia against the aggression of the combined forces of Serbian rebels in Croatia, the Yugoslav People's Army, as well as Serbia and Montenegro. The consequences of the war are visible in the landscape even today, some 30 years after its ending, in the demographics and infrastructure of occupied settlements, some of which are nearly completely abandoned, while others have been rebuilt. This is also evident in the commemorative landscape throughout Croatia. Monuments and street names that commemorate national, regional, and local war heroes, volunteers, victims of the conflict, and war-related phenomena, bear witness to this. Remembering the Homeland War is an important premise in strengthening contemporary national identity, as evidenced by the desire of local

communities for (re)naming streets after persons, dates, military units and events related to the Homeland War. The first renamings occurred in the 1990s, but demands for such namings still exist today. Some examples of this practice will be shown in the presentation.

Žaneta Dvořáková (Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia): *Reflection of Russian-Ukrainian war in urbanonyms and in the linguistic landscape of other countries*

This presentation is focused on changes in linguistic landscape (especially in urbanonyms) due to the Russian attack on Ukraine in February 2022. It follows official and unofficial renaming of streets around the world in effort to show solidarity with Ukraine and its people. Official commemorative names have often the meaning 'Free Ukraine' (e.g. in Riga and Tirana), 'Ukrainian Heroes' (e.g. in Prague and Vilnius) etc. and are mostly located close to Russian embassies. Unofficial names given to streets by activists as a protest against the war are usually motivated by the name of the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Street names derived from the adjective Russian, or from Russian toponyms are changed as well, however only unofficially (e.g. the sign with the name of *Ruská* 'Russian Street' in Prague was replaced with the sign containing the famous answer of the Ukrainian soldiers from Snake Island to the Russian warship).

Ágnes Erőss (Geographical Institute, HUN-REN Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary): *The ambiguity of heritagisation of minority place names in multiethnic cities*

Drawing on a qualitative study, this paper explores the politics of place naming and multilingualism in the context of heritagisation in the multiethnic city of Oradea in the last two decades. I argue that the recent trends of heritagisation introduce a new element in the politics of place naming in this ethnically diverse city. As multiethnic heritage is an asset in the city marketing and tourism, multilingual signs has started to appear, displaying place names in minority languages as well. Nevertheless, heritage becomes inclusive when it loses its importance in the power struggle between minority and majority political representatives. Once the demographic weight of the minority decreases and the appearance of minority language in public space does not anymore pose a threat to the hegemony of the majority, heritagisation initiatives – including the display of multilingual signs – may develop. Nonetheless, while the simultaneous heritagisation and political commodification of historical toponyms offers better visibility for autochthonous minority communities, they equally risk eroding minority language rights under an ambiguous regime of political and economic calculation.

Eric Iwanski (Institut für Sächsische Geschichte und Volkskunde, Germany): *Place name changes during National Socialism between 1933 and 1939*

During National Socialism, countless settlements were given a new name in order to eradicate what was considered to be "foreign" names by the party. Place names as evidence of history disproved permanent Germanic-German settlements in large parts of Europe, as propagated by the National Socialists. Consequently, the place name landscape had to be adapted in line with National Socialist hegemonic claims. The resulting place name policy makes it possible to work out the ideological

momentum and reach of the "Third Reich": individuals from politics, administration, culture and the military can be identified, and their interactions, entanglements and competitions become apparent – not only on the national, but also on the municipal level. This brings to light the contradictions of National Socialism and sometimes conflicting interest groups. While some renamings were demanded by authorities such as the Reichsstatthalter, others were the result of the initiative of local citizens and community representatives. The place name policy also raised the question of what space could be given to communal interests and self-determination in a state with an all-pervasive claim. Place names were also used to negotiate categories as important to National Socialism as "Heimat", identity and belonging. The radical nature of the place name policy varies in the different regions of the Reich, which demands a regional and comparative view. In contrast to traditional onomastic studies, I research with a cultural perspective which focuses on the ideology behind the place name changes.

Peter Jordan (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Austria – Faculty of Humanities, University of the Free State, South Africa): *Multicultural identity building supported by place names. The example of the Val Canale in the Northeast of Italy*

The Val Canale in Italy's northeastern corner was up to World War I a part of Austrian Carinthia with a mixed German-Slovenian population. When it was awarded to Italy in 1919, it was settled also by Italians and Friulians, who became after World War II not only the politically dominant groups, but also the numerical majority - also due to the emigration of Germans to a larger and Slovenes to a smaller extent. Up to the present day, the visual cultural landscape reminds nevertheless of the pre-WWI situation. In an integrating Europe with open borders a typical former border region like this takes advantage of its multiple cultural layers and styles itself a multicultural region at the crossroads of various influences not the least with the aim of attracting tourists and customers. This is, a.o., done by many cultural events organized by or highlighting the current linguistic minorities as well as by promoting the parallel use of the four languages including place names. The paper focuses on this latter aspect also asking the question to which extent multicultural identity building is supported by all fractions of the local society or rather a project of the elites and meets perhaps also some resistance.

Tereza Klemensová – Michal Místecký (Department of Czech Language, Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava, Czechia): *National Identity through the Lens of Czech Urbanonyms*

The research focuses on the motivations behind commemorative street names in several selected Czech cities (the corpus comprises 101 settlements with a population of up to 200,000 inhabitants). Based on a representative sample of 17,039 street names, we will demonstrate, using qualitative and quantitative methods, the most common motivators of commemorative names. We aim to present national identity through the prism of personalities, events, or values that are glorified and honoured through commemorative names. For example, we will examine whether there are motifs typical for specific areas or regions (border regions vs. the inland one, Bohemia vs. Moravia and Silesia), and to what extent women are represented in Czech urbanonyms.

Tiina Laansalu – Marit Alas (Institute of the Estonian Language, Estonia): *Estonian street names in the ideological turbulence through centuries*

The oldest recorded Tallinn street names date back to the 14th century, the other street names known from the 16th century onwards. By the beginning of the 20th century, Estonia had developed a trilingual system for street names, with Tallinn standing out with its uniqueness. By the 1930s, the street name system had become exclusively Estonian, a change that even subsequent foreign powers couldn't reverse. Medieval city street names predominantly described their locations, while more elaborative naming practices began in the late 19th century. Ideology influenced street naming in the 20th century: initially reflecting the ideals of the Russian Empire, then those of the Republic of Estonia, and later those of the Soviet Union. By the late 1980s, most historical street names were restored, although some remnants of the Soviet era still require attention today. The renaming of streets falls under the jurisdiction of local governments, with guidance provided by the Estonian Place Names Board in more contentious cases. The war waged by the Russian Federation in Ukraine has once again brought attention to the traces of Soviet legacy. For instance, the name of Madise street in Narva was recently restored; between 1945 and 2023, the street bore the name of Soviet officer Igor Grafov. The basis for changing such names lies in the Place Names Act, which stipulates that "a personal name may not be designated as a commemorative name if the person acted against the creation of the Republic of Estonia, the preservation of constitutional order, or the restoration of Estonia's independence." However, there is also discussion about names that are not directly contradictory to the law but are clearly associated with the Soviet era and its ideology. For example, there have been discussions about renaming streets in Narva such as Partisani street and Proletariaadi street.

Přemysl Mácha (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia): *Russian Street and Moscow Street – Lessons from an Unsuccessful Renaming Attempt*

The paper analyzes the unsuccessful attempt at renaming two streets in a small town in northern Bohemia, Czechia. It is based on content and discursive analysis of an internet debate, results of a public opinion poll and interviews with the protagonists of the renaming effort. The paper argues that we need to pay as much attention to non-renaming as we do to renaming.

Gábor Mikesy (Lechner Tudásközpont Nonprofit Kft., Hungary) **– Andrea Bölcskei** (Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Hungary): *An overview of the history of conceptual place-name changes in Hungary*

In Hungary, the history of conceptual place-name changes (based on legal acts, political courses, patriotic movements, etc.) goes back nearly two centuries. Most of these changes have been effectuated in large waves, and these waves can be linked explicitly to political courses. Throughout the two centuries, the dominance of the political power in deciding about official names was evident; still, the alternative use of names (sometimes struggles for names) by local communities could also be observed. The first half of the period (from about 1830 to 1944) can roughly be described by the motto "fighting for names in the national language". The ambitions of the era can be considered dual-faced. On the one hand, the Hungarian language gained considerable ground

against the central (German) aspirations; on the other hand, the nationalist approach (i.e. prioritising Hungarian language use) of the Hungarian state – which extended also to the use of names – was also heavily present. The second period (from about 1900 to the present) was dominated by ideological views. For about half a century, trends could not be separated distinctively. Both the linguistic and the ideological aspects were rooted in nationalism (which included many positive and negative features as well). After the Second World War, the essentially communist state sought to exploit the symbolic value of names, then the reverse happened in the process of the change of the regime around 1990. In 2013, legislation reinforced that public spaces could not bear the names of members of authoritarian regimes and could not refer to the defining concepts of such regimes. The presentation discusses short case studies to illustrate the statements above.

Michal Místecký – Jaroslav David (Department of Czech Language, Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava, Czechia): *The Dative Empowered: Case Distributions of Toponyms in Anti-Establishment Media*

The contribution, drawing inspiration from the paper by Janda et al. (2022), focuses on the distributions of grammar cases of toponyms/chrematonyms "Belarus", "Estonia", "Latvia", "Lithuania", "Moldova", "Russia", and "Ukraine" in the anti-establishment press amassed in the respective part of the ONLINE2 corpus. We analyse the news published in the period of 2022–2023 and compare them with the mainstream media from the same corpus. We hypothesise that the case distributions of the selected proper names will be statistically significantly different in the two subcorpora, with the locative case of "Russia" being backgrounded in the anti-establishment media in favour of the dative, which enables the author to show what the attitude to/wards Russia is. In case of other states, which are in one way or another linked to the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, we suppose the locative perspective to be dominant in the anti-establishment press, whereas the mainstream newspaper will use them more in the role of agents (= in the nominative case).

Liubov Ostash (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine): *New facts in the urbanonymy of Ukraine*

The presentation analyzes modern official urbanonyms (509 names) that came into being in 2022 (February–August) in Ukraine as a result of renaming. The geography of urbanonymic material covers the city of Kyiv, regional centers and their territorial communities (Lviv, Rivne, Lutsk, Dnipro, Kropyvnytskyi, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Uzhhorod, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi). The study in the reasons and motives for the street renaming process are clarified, and the structural types of proper names that most often arise as a result of renaming are determined. The urbanonymic material includes the highest number of deonymic urbanonyms (306), among them there are 170 deanthroponymic urbanonyms, 134 detoponymic urbanonyms and 2 urbanonyms based on chrematonyms. There are 140 deappella- tive urbanonyms and 63 urbanonyms that were motivated by both appellatives and proper names. The study of urbanonymic material that appeared in the public space as a result of renaming in various territories of Ukraine has confirmed commemorative function as a defining feature of modern Ukrainian urbanonymy, and has also revealed the general trend in the development of modern Ukrainian urbanonymy –

total derussification, rejection of names associated with ideology, symbolism, imperial narratives of the aggressor state.

Patrik Tátrai (Geographical Institute, HUN-REN Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Hungary): *The effect of displaying minority place names on local identity: lessons from Romania*

In most countries in Central and Eastern Europe, minority place names are not official, thus their visual representation is limited even in multi-ethnic areas. Despite this, their oral and written use might be extensive depending on the local context and they are closely linked to symbolic struggle between representatives of the minority and the majority that is framed in terms of minority rights and strengthening local minority identity. In my paper, through case studies in Romania, I will seek to answer (1) how toponymic politics and the appearance of minority names in public space have changed in the last decades, and (2) how the the unofficial minority names evoke emotional and local attachments and affect identification process in the local (minority) population. Based on interviews, I argue that in the CEE context, rediscovering multiethnic heritage opened a new direction in politics of place names, resulting in a growing number of multilingual signs. Once heritage tourism became the focus of local development, the interests of minority and majority political actors began to converge. Furthermore, multilingual signs, which emerge as a result of changing toponymic policies, play a significant role in strengthening local identity and, in the longer term, might have an impact on the consolidation and harmonisation of majority-minority relations.

Maya Vlahova-Angelova (Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgaria): *The struggle over the city-text of Sofia*

The toponymy of Sofia as the capital city represents the official narrative of the Bulgarian past and the national pantheon. Historically, the symbolic capital of street names has been exploited in various ways by the dominant ideologies. Since "street names are a conventional mechanism for inserting the official version of the past into the semiosphere" (Azaryahu 1990: 33) they have been systematically used in order to legitimize the role of Russia as liberator of the Bulgarian people. Thus, through the commemoration of Russian historical figures, the city-text has communicated a strongly Russophile national Bulgarian ideology ever since the restoration of the Bulgarian state in the late 1870s. It was not until recently that a renegotiation of Russia's influence with respect to both the Bulgarian past and present has taken place. However, different political groupings in Bulgarian society evaluate the national past differently, and it seems at this point that a consensus will hardly be reached. In this respect, the city-text of Sofia has become a battlefield on which Russophile and Russophobe views clash in search of control over symbols. The present study aims to analyse how current contestations over the official historical narrative prompt conflicting attitudes towards street names commemorating Russian figures. It focuses on struggles between different social and political groups for re-writing the city-text and reconstructing the official

representation of the national past, eventually legitimizing oppositional interpretations of the Bulgarian historical narrative.

Maria Vrachionidou – Eleni Papadopoulou (Research Center for Modern Greek Dialects, Academy of Athens, Greece): *Linguistic and political strategies of toponymic renaming in Greece during the 20th century*

The greatest changes on the toponymic map of Greece, unlike the majority of other countries of South-Eastern Europe, took place during the interwar era, not after the WW II. These changes have been in line mainly with the massive ethnological and demographic changes in the composition of the population that occurred after the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1924, due to their previous war. However, the toponymic renamings served the ideology of 'purification' that, historically, goes back to the period around the creation of the newly established Greek national state in 1830 – a state with 'fluid' borders for about a century. In this context, given that Greek language, in contrast with other European ones, has no equivalent and, moreover, it has existed for four millennia, the use of place names as evidence of "Greekness" in various moments of historic tension, has been of great importance. Though, despite the official strategy of (re)naming, the resilience of older toponyms is remarkable -precisely because it reveals their importance for the construction of identity memory. In our presentation, we review both the linguistic strategies of the toponymic renamings in Greece, as well as their ideological context and we consider how the new place names affected the ideology of identity and to what extend they moderated or, instead, exacerbated thorny issues of national or ethnic identity. We also present typical examples where the use or the renaming of a toponym has led to sharp confrontations: i.e. the Greek place names as a means to refute Falmereier's theory in the 19th century; the opposition to the deletion of the term "new" from the place names of the settlements of populations deported from Asia Minor in Greek regions after 1924; last but not least, the recent great conflict that broke out surrounding a place name, that of Macedonia, in the so called Macedonian issue.

Kohei Watanabe (Teikyo University, Japan): *Past and Recent Discussions on Exonyms at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)*

UNGEGN is a body that promotes the standardisation of place names in each language community. Standardisation here means the establishment by an appropriate authority of a specific set of standards or norms dealing with place names. The handling of exonyms has been a hot topic in UNGEGN since its foundation in 1967. In the earlier years, the general trend was to eliminate exonyms. However in recent years there is increasing awareness on the value of exonyms. This presentation gives an overview on UNGEGN's stance on exonyms, and reports the latest development based on the results of the UNGEGN exonyms working group meeting that is to take place in Prague 14-15 May 2024.

Soňa Wojnarová (Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia): *Identity and Place-names of the Finnish Evacuees from the Regions Ceded to the Soviet Union*

One of the regions that have undergone far reaching changes because of WWII and the influence of the Soviet Union, is Finland. These changes concerned ceding parts of borderland areas to the USSR (as e.g. Karelian Isthmus in the south, and Petsamo in the north). The loss of these areas meant that the inhabitants (Finns, Karelians, and also Skolt Sámi, altogether about 11% of the population) had to be moved and resettled in Finland. The changes of identity and renaming can be thus perceived from two main perspectives. First, the areas losing their inhabitants and potentially being resettled (and renamed) anew by the Soviet inhabitants. Second, the old names the evacuees brought with them and used in their new homes.

Christian Zschieschang (Serbski institut, Wótnožka za dolnoserbske slěženja, Germany): *Eastern Germany as part of the East Central European onymic landscape in the 20th century*

For many scholars in onomastics the world of the Cold War and the communist bloc meanwhile is almost ancient past, and younger generations don´t know much about the former German Democratic Republic. So, discussing the onymic specifics of the time span and region in question has to start with basic information about the development of naming in connection with politics and society. The presentation will outline the development from the Wilhelminian Era to the decade after German reunification in 1990. It includes prominent and less prominent examples and the main onomastic research activities and results.

Halyna Zymovets (O.O.Potebnya Institute of Linguistics of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Ukraine): *Ideological Dimension of Proper Names (the case of Ukraine)*

The project aims at eliciting significance of proper names as markers of prevailing ideology of society in a certain period. It encompasses two dynamic categories of proper names, i.e. names of streets. Choice of specific nominations for these objects reflects self-positioning and self-representation of different types of communities. The research will provide an objective tool to reveal underlying societal values and to trace their change in periods of drastic change caused by war.

Artur Żołądź (Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Poland): *Decommunize a socialist city. Decommunization of urban space in Poland on the example of Jastrzębie-Zdrój*

Jastrzębie-Zdrój, as an urban organism, has been established since the 1950s and has become a dynamically developing center of the coal industry. Created for working people in a region that was particularly important for the communist government (Upper Silesia), it was supposed to be a showcase of the rebuilding Polish People's Republic. The city space was quickly filled with mines and blocks of flats around which streets were marked out, and under the influence of newcomers from various parts of Poland, individual parts of the town lost their previous names and became a kind of onymic "tabula rasa". Over time, this space began to be filled with meaningful names

referring to the prevailing political system. After the political transformation in 1989 and during subsequent phases of decommunization, these nomina propria changed their nature. In my presentation on the urban names of Jastrzębie-Zdrój, I would like to focus primarily on the issues related to these changes.