

Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences

# **O*****nomia***

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## Foreword

*Onoma* 55 is derived from some of the papers presented at the conference *Personal Names and Cultural Reconstructions* which took place at the University of Helsinki on 21–23 August 2019. The editors of the volume, Lasse Hämäläinen, Jaakko Raunamaa and Johanna Virkkula, have brought together a range of articles covering many aspects of European, Afro-American, South African and Israeli anthroponymy. Some are historical, and emphasize the continuing value of anthroponyms as data for historical linguistics and anthropology. Others deal with naming systems in historical and present-day contexts, emphasizing the role of names as social and cultural identifiers. This puts personal naming at the heart of modern sociopolitical debate, since names can operate both as solidary identifiers for in-group membership and as discriminatory identifiers of minority and marginalized out-groups. No-one, and especially no scholar, should be in any doubt about the centrality of personal naming in matters of identity and culture, and this volume represents a strong contribution to an area of vital interest, as the editors themselves emphasize, not only to linguistics but also to archaeology, digital humanities, folkloristics, geography and history, and to their mutual relationships.

*Onoma* 55 concludes with an article on onomastic terminology, a review of a “must read” book on naming in Nazi-period Germany relevant to the concerns of the Helsinki conference, and an appreciation of the life and work of the late Professor Nicolae Felecan.

The Editorial Board and the General Editorial team thank the volume editors for their timely production of a stimulating *Onoma*, and also the anonymous peer reviewers who have expedited the process.

RICHARD COATES  
Chair, Editorial Board, *Onoma*