# Anthroponomastic research in Poland – Development, achievements, perspectives

## Halszka Górny[*]

Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland

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    **Abstract:** The article presents the development, current state, and perspectives of anthroponomastic research in Poland. The research methods used in the works of Polish onomasticians are depicted from a historical perspective, alongside the description of the fundamental publications referring to personal names. The interdisciplinary and innovative dimension of research on anthroponymy is emphasized, including combining different methodologies used in linguistics (sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, pragmalinguistics, cultural linguistics, textology, axiolinguistics) and in history, sociology, psychology, anthropology, etc. Tools and sources for anthroponomastic research are presented, like dictionaries of personal names (e.g. *Dictionary of Old Polish personal names*, *The etymological-motivational dictionary of Old Polish personal names*, the lexicon *Polish anthroponymy of the 16th to the end of the 18th centuries*), as well as the most important anthroponomastic studies (including selected regional monographs containing anthroponyms from various areas of old and contemporary Poland, often

[*]    Contact: Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences, al. Mickiewicza 31, 31-120 Kraków, Poland, halszka.gorny@ijp.pan.pl

along linguistic, cultural and ethnic boundaries) and the most recent research projects, e.g. *The internet dictionary of Polish surnames* (http://nazwiska.ijp.pan.pl).

**Keywords:** Anthroponomastics, history, accomplishments, research prospects.

## Recherches anthroponomastiques en Pologne : développement, réalisations, perspectives

**Résumé :** L'article présente le développement, l'état actuel et les perspectives des recherches anthroponomastiques en Pologne. Les méthodes de recherche utilisées dans les travaux des onomasticiens polonais sont décrites dans une perspective historique, parallèlement à la description des publications fondamentales faisant référence aux noms de personnes. La dimension interdisciplinaire et innovante des recherches sur l'anthroponymie y est soulignée, notamment la combinaison de différentes méthodologies utilisées en linguistique (sociolinguistique, linguistique cognitive, pragmalinguistique, linguistique culturelle, textologie, axiolinguistique) et en histoire, sociologie, psychologie, anthropologie, etc. Divers outils et sources des recherches anthroponomastiques y sont présentées aussi, comme des dictionnaires de noms de personnes (p.ex. *Le dictionnaire des anciens noms de personnes polonais, Le dictionnaire étymologique-motivationnel des anciens noms de personnes polonais, L'anthroponymie polonaise du XVI<sup>e</sup> à la fin du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles*), ainsi que les études anthroponomastiques les plus importantes (y compris des monographies régionales sélectionnées contenant des anthroponymes de diverses régions de la Pologne ancienne et contemporaine, souvent le long de frontières linguistiques, culturelles et ethniques) et les projets de recherche les plus récents, p.ex. *Le dictionnaire internet des noms de famille polonais* (http://nazwiska.ijp.pan.pl).

**Mots-clés :** anthroponomastique, histoire, acquis, perspectives de recherche.

## Anthroponomastische Forschung in Polen – Entwicklung, Erfolge, Perspektiven

**Zusammenfassung:** Der Artikel schildert die Entwicklung, den aktuellen Stand und die Perspektiven der anthroponomastischen Forschung in Polen. Neben der Beschreibung der grundlegenden Veröffentlichungen zu Personennamen werden auch die in den Arbeiten der polnischen Onomasten angewandten Forschungsmethoden aus historischer Perspektive dargestellt. Betont wird dabei die interdisziplinäre und innovative Dimension der Personennamenforschung, einschließlich der Kombination verschiedener Methoden, die in der Linguistik (Soziolinguistik, kognitive Linguistik, Pragmalinguistik, Kulturlinguistik, Textologie, Axiolinguistik) und in Geschichte, Soziologie, Psychologie, Anthropologie usw. verwendet werden. Werkzeuge und Quellen für anthroponomastische Forschungen werden ebenso vorgestellt wie Personennamenwörterbücher (z. B. *Wörterbuch der altpolnischen Personennamen*, *Etymologisch-motivationales Wörterbuch der altpolnischen Personennamen*, *Lexikon der polnischen Anthroponymie vom 16. bis zum Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts*), aber auch die wichtigsten anthroponomastischen Studien (einschließlich ausgewählter regionaler Monographien mit Anthroponymen aus verschiedenen Gebieten des alten und heutigen Polens, oft entlang sprachlicher, kultureller und ethnischer Grenzen) und die neusten Forschungsprojekte, z. B. *Das Internet-Wörterbuch der polnischen Familiennamen* (http://nazwiska.ijp.pan.pl).

**Schlüsselbegriffe:** Anthroponomastik, Geschichte, Leistungen, Forschungsperspektiven.

# Anthroponomastic research in Poland – Development, achievements, perspectives

HALSZKA GÓRNY

## 1. Introduction

Systematic anthroponomastic research in Poland boasts a history of almost one hundred years. It began in the first decades of the 20th century and was initially aimed at exploring the origins and etymology of personal names within the historical-etymological trend. The first study devoted entirely to personal names was published in the 1920s. The author of the book *Najdawniejsze polskie imiona osobowe* [The oldest Polish personal names], published in Kraków in 1925, was Witold Taszycki, later the initiator and editor of *Słownik staropolskich nazw osobowych* (SSNO) [Dictionary of Old Polish personal names], considered to be one of the most important lexicographical studies of the Polish anthroponomasticon. The development of research on personal naming was marked by changing paradigms, methodologies and research approaches in linguistic thought, from structuralism and formal thinking through sociolinguistic and pragmalinguistic ideas, cognitive linguistics, cultural linguistics, textology and axiolinguistics. The description of anthroponyms (and onyms in general) would be much poorer without the constant pursuit and exploitation of research tools and methods by onomasticians which have not only been developed in linguistics, but also in other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including: history, geography, anthropology, sociology, and recently also sociobiology, as well as evolutionary psychology, social and cognitive psychology. Such wide-ranging interdisciplinary research in anthroponomastics (carried out in various ways by researchers) is certainly conditioned by the interdisciplinary nature of onomastics as a branch of knowledge.

The aim of this paper is to present the development and perspectives of research on the personal naming system in Poland, a far from easy task given the wealth of the topics undertaken, the methodologies applied, and the number of existing regional anthroponymic monographs, dictionary studies and contributory texts. Therefore, I will devote my attention to selected issues, emphasizing the interdisciplinary and innovative dimension of research on anthroponymy (based mainly on monographs), as well as presenting anthroponomastic lexicons and the fundamental works of Polish onomasticians.

## 2. The development of anthroponomastic research in Poland – Continuation and innovation (outline)

The beginning of anthroponomastic research in Poland was marked by the historical-linguistic analyses of proper names, aiming to explain the etymology and motivation of personal names, to show the evolution of surnames and the formation of the given name system in Poland. Researchers' interest in the origin of anthroponyms was a direct impulse behind the drive to develop a classification of surnames. The proposed classification approaches (Taszycki 1968 [1924], Rospond 1965, Borek 1978a, etc.) are different in terms of the criteria adopted (semantic, structural-grammatical, creation and function of names, respectively) in close connection with the changing research paradigms in onomastic (linguistic) reflection (e.g. etymological-historical, structural) were repeatedly reproduced in regional monographs and adapted to specific source material. Thus, there is no single model or universal classification of names. In many works, however, the structural classification of S. Rospond (1965) was widely used (later the division into primary and secondary surnames though considered incorrect was nevertheless applied).

The structural paradigm, dominant for many years in onomastic studies (1960s–1980s), also influenced the creation of many works focused on the morphological structure of personal names (e.g. the structure of Old Polish compound names or shortened forms of compound names – Malec 1971, 1982), as well as those inclined towards a synchronic analysis of word-formation, showed the "historical relations between motivations and genetic meanings, which the names had at the moment of their creation" (Kaleta 1998a: 57).

The 1970s and 80s saw considerable innovation in the form of attempts to translate sociolinguistic, and later also pragmalinguistic ideas into onomastic thinking, which broadened the directions of the development of Polish anthroponomastics while preserving the previously elaborated research methods (philological and grammatical). Researchers such as H. Borek (1978b), J. Bubak (1978), L. Zabrocki (1968), and W. Lubaś (1974) began to pay attention to such issues as naming fashion, the reasons for name changes, the functioning of personal names in communicative situations, and the use of different naming forms (onymic variants) depending on the type of language contact and the linguistic-communication community.-

The expansion of the methodological instrumentarium of anthroponomastics in the spirit of interdisciplinary research slowly acquired the features of a permanent research field. Since the 1990s, an increasing number of attempts have been made to use various research trends and methodologies to describe personal names, among them the assumptions of cognitive linguistics, cultural linguistics, statistical linguistics and the concept of the linguistic image of the world. A personal name was seen not only as a "label" but as the result of various linguistic and cultural processes. The first attempts to use the assumptions of

the cognitive science paradigm for a comprehensive description of names were viewed with scepticism. Nevertheless, attempts were made to explore the conceptual structure (sensual experience) of names with an appellative basis, believing that the name has an embedded "crumb of history" and a "crumb of human experience" (Skowronek 1997: 150), and that cognitive methods allow researchers to define it as a linguistic fact available for direct observation (Skowronek 2001: 61–62). The theory of the onymic metaphor, which was made a part of the description on anthroponyms (and the presentation of onymic processes) as early as in the 1990s (see Cieślikowa 1990), also began to gain importance.

An innovative look at contemporary Polish surnames using statistical methods and a cognitive method of interpreting statistical tendencies in this group of onyms is presented in the 2001 monograph by K. Skowronek, *Współczesne nazwisko polskie. Studium statystyczno-kognitywne* [The contemporary Polish surname. A statistical-cognitive study]. A result of the conducted research was the ascertainment that there exist quantitative dependencies and tendencies at the lexical and word-formation level in the sphere of names, and the choice of cognitive methodology allows us to "include […] research from the borderline of statistics […] and onomastics into the general complex of issues relating to human cognition and thought" (Skowronek 2001: 175).

The cognitive method was also helpful in interpreting the ambiguity of Polish names, defining name-forming homonymy/polysemy, indicating name-formation mechanisms (morphological and lexical tools) and determining the emergence of anthroponymic homonyms/polysemes. In her book published in Łódź in 2018, A. Raszewska-Klimas considers the surname as a symbolic unit possessing meaning but understood differently at the various levels of the functioning of an anthroponym.

The cultural trend in anthroponomastic studies includes many works that perceive personal names as an effect of culture in its broadest sense, and which stress the connections between "the meaning and function of a name and some conceptual categories universal in our culture" (Skowronek 2009: 89). The proprial sphere is seen here, among others, in the context of values and valuation (see the values reflected in the Old Polish names or the name as a vessel of moral values – Kaleta 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1997, 1998b; Malec 2001; Rzetelska-Feleszko 2006), and such a perspective reveals both the motivations for the emergence of personal names, as well as, in a general sense, the evolutionary processes of name-formation. One of the more recent works that addresses personal names in the aspect of cultural linguistics and ethnolinguistics is the book by B. Ziajka (2014), in which an attempt has been made to reconstruct the linguistic and cultural image of the world of a rural community embedded in nicknames and sobriquets (unofficial anthroponyms).

The relationship between appellative anthroponyms and the colloquial system of values that is the basis of all categorizations has been most fully

shown in the latest work by I. Matusiak-Kempa, *Nomen omen. Studium antroponimiczno-aksjologiczne* (2019) [Nomen omen. An anthroponymic-axiological study]. The book works within the sphere of cultural onomastics, axiolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, and its interdisciplinarity is marked by the integration of research tools from various fields of human knowledge: sociobiology, evolutionary psychology and anthropology. Treating a personal name as a linguistic sign with a special cognitive and ontological status, as a phenomenon of colloquial thinking, the author reveals a repertoire of values always present in human life and evoked by means of anthroponyms. In the process of the creation of the personal name, vital values (e.g. life – death, strength – weakness), moral values (good – bad, right – wrong), aesthetic values (beauty – ugliness), cognitive values (to know – not to know) play an important role. These anthroponyms prevail, which the author interprets as a form of adaptation – activation of defence mechanisms against perceived threat. This study is part of the current in linguistics that emphasizes common sense, colloquiality, and the natural order of things.

Present-day personal names are also interpreted within text and discourse onomastics, whose main objective is to analyse proper names (not only anthroponyms) in different types of texts and discourses with a particular focus on the connotations of the names (most visibly revealed in secondary text usage) and their roles in metaphor and metonymy structures. The creators of this research trend are M. Rutkowski and K. Skowronek, the authors of the book *Onomastyczna analiza dyskursu* (2020) [Onomastic analysis of discourse], in which the names of politicians functioning in the public sphere and female anthroponyms in women's press are described, among others.

## 3. Lexicographical and anthroponomastic studies –
   Assumptions, aims, reception

The research on personal names has been carried out in various universities in Poland, but it was in Kraków that the Department of Onomastics (now within the Institute of Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences) was established. It is the only institution in Poland dealing exclusively with personal names, established in order to compile multi-volume collective works of a lexicographical character. Important lexicons (in terms of anthroponomastics) were developed in the Department, such as *Słownik staropolskich nazw osobowych* (SSNO 1965–1984) [Dictionary of Old Polish personal names], ed. by W. Taszycki, *Słownik etymologiczno-motywacyjny staropolskich nazw osobowych* (SEMot 1995–2002) [The etymological-motivational dictionary of Old Polish personal names], ed. by A. Cieślikowa et al., or the dictionary *Antroponimia Polski od XVI do końca XVIII wieku* (AntrP 2007–2016) [Polish anthroponymy of the 16th to the end of the 18th

century], ed. by A. Cieślikowa et al.

SSNO, whose development was launched in Kraków in the 1950s (and in Lviv in the 1930s), is undoubtedly the first such comprehensive collection of Slavic personal names used in Poland prior to 1500. The names have been compiled from the grammatical (inflectional forms) and textual aspects, taking into account the chronology of the records, geography of the sources, and information about the bearers of the names (family relationships, social status). The historical lexicon, successive volumes of which were published between 1965 and 1987 (together with the Supplement), does not contain etymological or motivational explanations.

This gap has been filled by SEMot, initiated by K. Rymut and edited by A. Cieślikowa & M. Malec. The lexicon, published in six authorial parts in the years 1995–2000, covered deappellative personal names (including Slavic compound names and their derivatives, ed. A. Cieślikowa, in cooperation with J. Szymowa and K. Rymut), names of Christian origin (ed. M. Malec), of toponymic origin (ed. Z. Kaleta, in cooperation with E. Supranowicz and J. Szymowa), of ethnic origin (ed. E. Supranowicz), of German origin (ed. Z. Klimek), and heraldic (ed. M. Bobowska-Kowalska), is a continuation and the Supplement of SSNO. In 2002, a Supplement of SEMot was published, which covered the personal names of Polish Jews, names of Lithuanian or Armenian origin, and those from Latin appellatives. Part VII of the dictionary also contains an extensive Index of references and additions (to SSNO and SEMot). In many parts of the SEMot, a nest system is used to show the etymology and motivation of personal names with the same base that are different in terms of word-formation. Within the headword entries, a division into several groups has been introduced (depending on the part of the dictionary), and so, for example, in SEMot 1 (Deappellative personal names), three groups have been distinguished: I. compound names and derivatives, II. homographic anthroponyms with motivating appellatives, III. morphological derivatives.

The authors of the concept of the next lexicographical-onomastic work, i.e. a six-volume dictionary AntrP, were guided by the idea not to treat personal names statically, but to perceive them in a broader cultural, social, and textual context. The dictionary covering name-formation in Middle Polish is a chronological continuation of the earlier anthroponomasticons but is also undoubtedly an innovative work. This is a historical dictionary, containing chronological and geographical, linguistic (phonetic, inflectional, morphological), but also contextual information (sociological, cultural, and religious). The multi-directional, textual, and contextual view of proper names (selected surnames, also proto-surnames or nicknames and names formally equal to surnames) is reflected in the content-rich structure of the headword entry. The personal name (with the date of the first entry) is placed on a timeline in relation to the names contained in lexicons concerning the Old Polish period (SSNO) and modern times (SNW). The next elements of the

headword entry deal with issues such as: – inflection (2) – here: records of the earliest inflectional forms of the name from particular centuries; – geography (3) – determined by chronological abbreviations of source texts located within the former districts; – function and exemplification (4) – selected records of anthroponyms together with context and author's commentary (showing heredity and kinship of the surname, stability (or instability) of the surname, co-functionality of onymic structures, customary, ethnic and religious background); – notes on the bearer of the surname, their ethnicity, origin, occupation, function (5); – the frequency of the anthroponym on the basis of the available source records (6); – morphological structure and etymology (7). The descriptive part of the dictionary is supplemented by a list of selected surnames, together with their chronology and geography, in which the dates of registration and abbreviations of names of regions in former Poland (e.g. Maz – Mazowsze, Młp – Małopolska) appear alongside the personal names.

Also noteworthy is the two-volume historical and etymological dictionary of Polish surnames, compiled by K. Rymut (1999–2001), in which the method of nest analysis was used to describe the (incomplete) collection of historical and contemporary names (within a single entry, surnames with different suffixes but with the same word-forming root).

K. Rymut also published a typically statistical, cognitive (in terms of language form and, unfortunately, outdated frequency of first and last names) dictionary based on the PESEL database[1] up untill the early 1990s. These are *Słownik imion współcześnie w Polsce używanych* (SIW 1995) [Dictionary of given names currently used in Poland] and the ten-volume *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych* (SNW 1992–1994) [Dictionary of surnames currently used in Poland], which contain, respectively, a list of male and female given names and surnames with their frequency, geography (with a division into former provinces) and time of namegiving. A chronological, updated continuation of this type of study (based on the PESEL records from the years 1995–2010) is a series of articles written by Kraków-based researchers on: given names in Poland during the years 1995–2010 and their temporal and geographical diversification (Swoboda 2013: 19–69), on the frequency and geography of names most rarely given in Poland in the years 1995–2010 (Czopek-Kopciuch 2013: 71–93), and the newest "big city" given names in the years 1995–2010 from the statistical-onomastic and socio-cultural perspective (Skowronek 2013: 95–127).

The most recent anthroponomasticon, covering the 30,000 contemporary surnames with the highest frequency (according to the 2014 PESEL register) out of more than 400,000 surnames, which constitutes about 7.5% of all surnames, is the publicly available *Internetowy słownik nazwisk w Polsce* (ISNP, https://nazwiska.ijp.pan.pl) [The internet dictionary of Polish

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[1]　PESEL – Universal Electronic System for Registration of the Population.

surnames], which contains both statistics, frequency, geographical distribution and linguistic-onomastic information, and fills in the time gap in the lexicographic description of personal names. No dictionary of contemporary anthroponyms that would be analogous to dictionaries dealing with Old and Middle Polish names had been published prior to the above one. The content-rich headword entries include such parts as: 1) title, 2) feminine forms of the surname with explanatory comments, 3) frequency data (number of users and rank in Poland), 4) geography of the surname, 5) historical records, 6) etymology and motivation of the surname, 7) word-formation structure of the surname, 8) variants of the surname, 9) explanatory commentary on the variants, 10) distribution of the surname in other countries, 10) websites (references to foreign online dictionaries of surnames and forenames), 11) literature. Such a structure of the headword entry contains a cognitive, scientific, and popularizing dimension, thanks to which the dictionary is intended not only for onomastic linguists, but also for all those interested in the origin of surnames (see Skowronek et al. 2018: 299–314).

Most of the lexicographical-anthroponomastic works were developed at the Department of Onomastics of Institute of Polish Language of Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków, but there are also lexicons which were/are created outside of Kraków and were/are concerned with anthroponyms of the given region. Already in the 1960s, the first volume of Rospond's *Słownik nazwisk śląskich* (1967) [Dictionary of Silesian surnames] was published; the second volume was brought out in 1973 and included anthroponyms from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. A regional anthroponomasticon is also being developed in Poznań on the initiative of I. Sarnowska-Giefing. Two volumes of *Słownik nazwisk mieszkańców Poznania XVI–XVIII wieku* [Dictionary of the names of Poznań residents of the 16th–18th century] have been published so far (vol. I: 2011, vol. II: 2014). It contains information on the etymology and motivation of Polish and genetically foreign (mainly German) surnames of Poznań citizens in the Middle Polish period in the context of extra-linguistic information related, for example, to the status of the bearers of the surnames or their function in the urban community. Due to its time frame, this dictionary complements the lexicon AntrP. *Słownik nazwisk omówionych w Historii nazwisk polskich na tle społecznym i obyczajowym 1795–1914* (2017) [Dictionary of surnames discussed in the History of Polish surnames against a social and customary background 1795–1914] by Z. Kowalik-Kaleta, covering anthroponyms from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, can be treated as a chronological continuation of the latter.

The dictionary section also includes numerous regional monographs, the value of which lies not so much in their methodological approach (which is often, with exceptions, similar and dependent on the time of the text creation), but in the lexicographic listing and description of personal names occurring in various areas of old and contemporary Poland (often on linguistic, cultural and

ethnic boundaries). It is not possible or necessary here to list the titles of all the material works. I would only like to point out that this method was used in the 1970s and 1980s to compile the surnames of the inhabitants of the former starosty of Nowy Targ (Bubak 1970–1971), the surnames of the inhabitants of Łódź (15th–19th c.) (Mączyński 1970), the surnames of the inhabitants of Bytom up to the end of the 16th century (Borek & Szumska 1976), anthroponyms of Kielce in the 16th and 17th centuries (Kopertowska 1980). The last decade of the last century witnessed the publication of monographs on the surnames of the inhabitants of the Powiśle Gdańskie region (Górnowicz 1992), on the surnames of the inhabitants of Bydgoszcz from the second half of the fifteenth century to the first half of the eighteenth century (Czaplicka-Niedbalska 1996), and on the Lemko anthroponymy against the Polish and Slovak background from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century (Wolnicz-Pawłowska 1993). Among more recent works of this type published in the 21st century, I would like to mention the monographs on the surnames of the inhabitants of the former Sanok region from the 15th to the 19th century (Górny 2004), the anthroponymy of Kraków from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century (Rudnicka-Fira 2004), the surnames of the inhabitants of the Lidzbark district (1500–1772) (Naruszewicz-Duchlińska 2007) and the Jeziorany district (16th–18th c.) (Matusiak-Kempa 2009), the anthroponymy of the Hrubieszów starosty in the 17th and 18th centuries (Kojder 2014) and the Grabowiec starosty from the 16th to the 18th century (Olejnik 2019), and the surnames of Pomeranians (Breza 2000–2021). It is also worth mentioning the monograph on Polish pseudonym from the earliest times to the present (Zawodzińska-Bukowiec 2014).

   Dictionaries of personal names, especially those containing anthroponyms from the entire territory of Poland, provided the basis and inspiration for further research and contributed to the creation of synthesised studies presenting the dictionary material in various aspects. Undoubtedly, most works of this type are based on the name-formation systems contained in SSNO. This is the case with a work by A. Cieślikowa (1990) on the complex aspects of the creation of Old Polish suffixless anthroponyms with an appellative base, in which the author used an innovative research method, showing the processes of onymization, i.e. the transition of common words to the category of personal names. It was a methodological novelty to present an original theory of onymic metaphor (and metonymy), supported by empirical data, while noting the difficulty of reconstructing the meaning motivating a given proper name. The monograph is also valuable for its reconstruction of appellatives from Old Polish personal names, which brought "new data to the study of medieval lexis of the Polish language" (Malec 2016: 449). A. Cieślikowa's second monograph of a theoretical and empirical character addresses paradigmatic derivation in Old Polish anthroponymy (1991). This monograph should also be counted among the fundamental anthroponomastic studies in Poland. Its author touches upon difficult grammatical issues, proposes

methodological and terminological solutions, and argues that the explanation of the word-forming and motivational aspects of proper names requires that frequency, contextual, pragmatic and extralinguistic data be taken into account.

The most frequently cited anthroponomastic works which make use of material from the SSNO include the studies by M. Malec on the morphological structure of Old Polish compound names (1971), on abbreviated personal names from compound names (1982) and on Christian names in medieval Poland (1994), which were innovative at the time of their publication and are now considered to be classical standard analyses. The first book uses the nest system within the forms of the first and second segment of the name, comparative material from other Slavic languages and the frequency of name records. The second one highlights the word-forming structure of derivatives, the problems in establishing the origin of the name and the multi-motivational character of some abbreviations. The third work by the same author concerns the frequency, chronology of occurrence, geography of borrowed Christian names with etymological explanations, hagiographic motivation, linguistic and cultural sources of borrowing, word-forming structure of derivatives, their phonetic and inflectional adaptation. SSNO materials were also used to describe the motivation and structure of Slavic feminine names (Karpluk 1961), as well as Old Polish anthroponyms derived from place names (Kowalik-Kaleta 1981).

The Middle Polish anthroponymic material contained in AntrP inspired, among other things, a monographic study of selected word-formation types of surnames from the Middle Polish period from a historical and social perspective, and a presentation of the process of forming surnames with suffixes -*owicz*, -*ewicz*, -*k*- (Magda-Czekaj 2011).

## 4. Prospects for anthroponomastic research in Poland

Referring to the title of the article published in the 61st issue of *Onomastica – Antroponimia Polski od XVI do końca XVIII w. – czy „koniec historii"?* (2017) [The anthroponymy of Poland from the 16th to the end of the 18th century – or "the end of history"?], the question can be asked whether we are currently faced with the fact that we have exhausted innovative anthroponomastic (more broadly, onomastic) reflections or if there is rather a vision of the continuation of this type of research in Poland without constantly "repeating what is already known in onomastics" (Skowronek 2009). Recent works in the field of anthroponomastics (e.g. Matusiak-Kempa 2019) convince us that looking at anthroponymic material from various points of view, followed by a different way of categorizing names and thoughtful methodological eclecticism, supplies promising results and confirms the need for an interdisciplinary approach to onomastic topics. However, as K. Skowronek (2009: 93–94) argues, interdisciplinarity is the best strategy "[i]f

we prioritize a full, complete description of the proprial material in all its complexity and diversity as our most important objective […]" and agree to the "equal [not subordinate to linguistics – HG] status of many humanistic methodologies as onomastic research procedures".

The perspectives of anthroponomastic research can be seen in various dimensions, also in the aspect of continuation and supplementation of existing lexicographical works. What I mean here is first and foremost the possibility of compiling a dictionary of given names from the Middle Polish period, which would constitute an integral whole with the AntrP onomasticon (containing surnames from this period), in which forenames were omitted, and second, a complete lexicon of nineteenth-century personal names, which would chronologically complete the already compiled dictionaries of personal names. The existing lexicons of anthroponyms constitute an important and underutilised base for further detailed and synthesised research in both diachronic and contemporary onomastics, and research topics may be provided by the linguistically rich and extra-linguistic contexts of personal names (discussed in lexicons such as AntrP). The availability of updated PESEL databases, on the other hand, makes it possible to continue the statistical/ morphological as well as statistical/lexical research into contemporary personal name-formation that was initiated by K. Skowronek (2001).

There are also plans under way to organize Polish anthroponomastic terminology in a monographic or dictionary form in consultation with the ICOS terminology group and taking into account the methodological assumptions of the Slovak project "Theory and terminological system of Slovak onomastics (in the context of Slavic and international onomastic terminology)".


## 5. Conclusion

The paper outlines the directions of the development of anthroponomastic research in Poland, from traditional etymological, motivational, semantic-structural analyses to sociolinguistic, pragmalinguistic, cognitive, cultural, textological-discursive approaches. The monographic and lexicographical studies mentioned above (selected from among many) only outline the state of anthroponomastic research in Poland. In spite of the existence of numerous monographs (including regional ones) on personal names (given names, surnames, nicknames, pseudonyms, and religious names), as well as anthroponymic syntheses, contributory articles, and lexicons of personal names, new research perspectives continue to appear in Polish anthroponomastic thought.

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