

Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences

ONOMA

Vol. 60 (2025)



International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
Box 135 – SE-75104 Uppsala (Sweden)

Foreword

Onoma 60 (guest-editors Přemysl Mácha and Žaneta Dvořáková, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic) consists of eight articles within the theme “The politics of toponymy in Europe”.

That place names reflect society is undisputable, its culture, religion, manners and customs etc. But place names are also in many ways conditioned by society. The theme of *Onoma* 60 is a special aspect of this fact, namely how officially given place names, often street names, reflect shifting political ideologies and how they are used as an important means of state building and identity construction. This is a noticeable fact in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkan Peninsula due to the political changes since the 1990s, after the fall of the communist regimes. The articles deal with ideologically motivated name changes during the last decades in Ukraine, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Greece. Such name changes have of course also occurred in other parts of the world throughout history, in Asia and South America, having been exposed to radical political changes.

One article deals with place names in Val Canale in north-eastern Italy, before 1919 a part of Austria, where four languages are spoken, Italian, Friulian, German and Slovene. It raises the question whether the use of place names in all four languages, e.g., on road signs and other signs, as a way of trying to build a multicultural identity in the province, is supported by all inhabitants or is rather a project of the elites – it has encountered resistance.

The volume also consists of seven non-themed articles. One of them deals with Balochi personal names in Pakistan and how they are influenced by ethnic conflicts. Another article highlights the importance of the first International Congress of Onomastics, the *Premier Congrès International de Toponymie et d'Anthroponymie*, held in Paris in 1938. Readers will also find in volume 60 eight book reviews, two obituaries and a note on US place-name changes.

The Editorial Board thanks all responsible for *Onoma* 60, the guest editors, the editor-in-chief, the editorial secretary, the web officer, the peer reviewers and the translators of the abstracts.

MATS WAHLBERG
Chair, Editorial Board, *Onoma*