

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
Sumy State University (Ukraine)
The College of New Jersey (USA)
Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (Philippines)
European Danube Academy (Germany)
University of Kragujevac (Serbia)



Proceedings

STRATEGIC INNOVATIONS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND FOREIGN PHILOLOGY IN CRISIS TIMES

I International Scientific and Practical Conference

1 June 2024

Sumy State University, Ukraine



Sumy 2024

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The collection includes scientific materials devoted to current problems in the field of distance teaching and learning in the era of digital technologies, in particular in language pedagogy, media innovations, modern translation, ethnolinguistics, stylistics, methods and methodologies of modern linguistic and literary disciplines. The composition of the collection is scientific research on the preservation of national identity and cultural heritage, intercultural communications, psychological theory and practice, sociological research.

For teachers of higher education institutions, graduate students, students, teachers of secondary schools, gymnasiums, lyceums and colleges, all those interested in socio-humanitarian issues.

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and shared experiences among geographically dispersed communities affected by wars, genocides, and mass atrocities. Moreover, advancements in digital technologies have expanded the reach of physical exhibits, allowing for immersive experiences that transcend physical limitations and bring historical contexts to life.

Overall, digitizing memorialization processes connects the past with the present locally and globally, offering new opportunities for remembrance, reflection, and historical understanding. It signifies a profound evolution in how societies remember and commemorate their past while posing essential questions about the ethics and implications of digital memorialization in shaping collective memory.

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CULTURAL HERITAGE AND NATIONAL UKRAINIAN NARRATIVES

Historical and cultural monuments are unique witnesses of our past. Among many problems our modern Ukrainian society tries to solve, there is one connected

with overcoming our post-colonial experience that still exists in objects of public memorialization. Unfortunately, during the years of Ukrainian independence, we still have not formed full-fledged national narratives. However, the war with Russia should accelerate this process, including cleaning the public space from the so-called imperial markers and Russian narratives.

In 2023, a team of researchers from Sumy State University won the competition «Science for the Reconstruction of Ukraine in the War and Post-War Periods», having received a collective grant support from the National Research Fund of Ukraine for the implementation of the scientific research project «Digital Archiving of Monuments as Objects of Public Memorialization for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Ukraine».

The work aims to develop a methodology for collecting attributive information, description, systematization, analysis, and interdisciplinary interpretation of data regarding the physical condition and socio-political indicators of monuments through their digital archiving on a bilingual website to ensure the sustainable development of Ukrainian society. The scientific contribution involves analysis, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the preservation of individual objects and attention to the historical, political, national, social, and gender narratives of the Ukrainian community.

The collected visual (photo) and historiographic (textual) information will provide Ukrainian and international institutions with the possibility of quick access to the database for the purpose of protection, conservation, and restoration of objects. It will also provide a statistical analysis that reflects the development of Ukrainian statehood represented in objects of public memorialization over the centuries.

During the project's first stage in 2023, the team performed extensive research on many issues. In addition to selecting monuments from the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine of national and local significance, their meaningful, in-depth analysis had to be conducted. We explored the monuments (except those located at cemeteries), collected photos and data about their physical condition, and analyzed their historical, political, social, and gender narratives. During the first stage, we studied the monuments and memorials of Sumy, Poltava, Kyiv, and Chernihiv

regions. In the outlined study, we selected the following types of monuments: a sculptural group, a triumphal arch, a column, a statue, a bust, and a memorial sign. Data on these regions were systematized through their digital archiving on an easy-to-use bilingual website.

In the process of research, we developed an electronic record card, which is a working hypothesis of the effectiveness of monument description in public space of Ukraine (location, monument name, year of creation, creator (s), physical classification of the object, presence of the text (and text language), content classification of the object (narrative), statistical information, the state of monument conservation at the time of the research, and the researcher's textual comment on the features of the object). The record card template was developed considering the requirements for digital archiving files and compiled according to the rules of information availability, information transparency, high-quality visual support, and digital file storage format. Monument cards are represented in Ukrainian and English. The new digital record cards have been developed with the function of automatic data analysis, namely, the automatic summary of the number of monuments for each of the researched categories and the ability to search for monuments by main indicators.

More than two thousand cards have already been created and put on the site (<http://uamonuments.sumdu.edu.ua/ua/index.html>).

Analyzing Sumy region, we studied 839 monuments of cultural heritage included in the State Register of Immovable Monuments of Ukraine, of which 7 were of national register and 832 – of local register. The analyzed objects belong to the following types, in particular: architectural monuments – 4 (1%), historical monuments – 759 (90%), monumental art – 75 (8%), and scientific and technical monuments – 1 (1%).

Most monuments (94%) were erected during the Soviet period (1922-1991). A significantly lower result of the installation of monuments – 6% – is observed in other periods: the ancient period – until the end of the 17th century – 1%; the imperial period from the 18th century till 1918 – 2%; the period of the Ukrainian revolution and the struggle for the preservation of Ukrainian statehood (1917-1921) – 1%; independent

Ukraine since 1991 – 1%; the period of Russian aggression since 2014 – 1%. Of the total number of objects, 96% are monuments to real people. Most of the monuments are represented by a mixed group of gender – 80%, which mainly include mass graves from the period of the Second World War. Of the total number, 5% is devoted to objects to which gender does not apply: windmills, cars, tractors, etc. Therefore, Sumy region is mainly represented by monuments of the mixed gender group, which were erected in the Soviet period in honor of real people and events of the war period and commemorate the culture of war and the memory of the dead.

In Poltava region, we can also see the domination of memorial objects in honor of fellow soldiers. There are also 179 objects of cultural heritage that have Russian and imperial symbols, including monuments, memorial plaques and inscriptions dedicated to Russian and imperial military leaders, scientists, and writers. In general, in the Soviet period (1922-1991), 94% of monuments were established in Sumy region, in Poltava region – 97%, in Chernihiv region – 43%, in Kyiv region – 51%. On the one hand, this proves the fact about the immutability of existing registers over the past decades. On the other hand, it tells us about society's lack of interest in addressing its history and memorialization.

Therefore, we recommend removing imperial symbols from the list of cultural heritage and registers. And although we have examples of dismantling monuments to Soviet figures and events, the analysis shows that this is not enough. Despite the war, society should do the difficult task of removing the notion of the «Soviet monolith» from our consciousness. The existing registers are old, they should be reviewed, and Ukrainian monuments reflecting patriotic concepts should be entered into the new registers. It is essential to rethink narratives for the sake of reviving our national identity, which is what this project is about.

References:

Діджитальна архівація пам'ятників як об'єктів публічної меморіалізації
зادля збереження культурної спадщини України.

<http://uamonuments.sumdu.edu.ua/ua/index.html>