



**CALL FOR PAPERS TO A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *ETNOGRAFIA POLSKA*
JOURNAL IN 2023**

**UKRAINE:
LIVED EXPERIENCES OF PAST AND PRESENT**

Guest Editors: Julia Buyskykh, Tetiana Kalenychenko

Since the outbreak of the full-scale Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, Ukraine has experienced unprecedented attention from academic and intellectual circles worldwide. That attention was focused not only on the Russian-Ukrainian war per se, but also on the Ukrainian state, its history, culture, economics, and society. A number of scholars, professional associations, and research institutions issued supportive statements condemning Russian aggression and violence towards Ukraine. Many followed Polish intellectualist Adam Michnik's empathic statement "*We are all Ukrainians now*", written on the first day of the war (Michnik, A. 2022). Simultaneously, a new line of thought known as "westplaining" has become visible in academic discourse about Ukraine. This term is used in reaction to patronizing, superficial, and colonial commentary on Ukraine that is delivered by established Western intellectuals with biased perspective (Smoleński, J., Dutkiewicz, J. 2022).

With these challenges in mind and considering the vulnerability of the current socio-political context, in our call for a special issue of the *Etnografia Polska* (*Polish Ethnography*) journal, we aim to give voice to the scholars who are usually perceived as "local" and therefore "lacking distance" to the region, field, events, and people. We believe it's time to question the epistemic authority of research knowledge production when it deliberately keeps a "safe", "appropriate", non-emotional distance from fluctuations of the history in the making. Therefore, we want to bring local voices and experiences of Ukrainian scholars as well as scholars in Ukrainian studies to the surface, to give them an opportunity to speak about multi-sited and diverse Ukraine from their point of view, and their experiences from the ground. Also, we are striving to reflect on such issues of Ukrainian ethnography and history that have been silenced or haven't been voiced enough to get academic recognition.

Therefore, we plan not only to stretch the boundaries of traditional ethnography but to go beyond it into a multidisciplinary space, engaging researchers who use qualitative methods of study in anthropology, sociology, history, conflict studies, and religious studies to reflect

upon the contested spaces of past, and present lived experiences. We invite you to think about the history of diverse Ukrainian regions, local communities and personalities connected to the regional history; about the rivalry of colonial ambitions and perceptions, and establishing one's own, unique identity; about the possibility of reconciliation having as a background difficult contradictory memories; about physical, phantom, and imagined borders. Past and present lived experiences can help us understand, at least partially, the changes that are happening right now and focus on where we would like to go in the future, as human beings, and as researchers. We hope that this issue will be an opportunity for joint reflection on complicated topics that should not be silenced, but rather become explicitly vocal.

Focusing on Ukraine, the upcoming issue engages but is not limited to such topics as:

- Shared history(ies), memories, and identities on the borderlands of Ukraine;
- Physical, phantom, and imagined borders in Ukraine;
- Historical diversity of Ukrainian regions and local ethnic and religious groups;
- (Post)colonial legacies and their impact on language, religion, society, and academia;
- Representations of the Other in cultural, religious, social, and academic discourses;
- Uses and misuses of history in politics, propaganda, and peacebuilding;
- Research ethics in times of war;
- The potential of empathy in qualitative research on violence, war, and reconciliation.

Proposals: Please submit a 250-word abstract and a short bio in English by the 1st of December 2022 to Tetiana Kalenychenko soc.injener@gmail.com and Julia Buyskykh julia.buj@gmail.com.

The languages of the issue will be English and Polish.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **15 December 2022**. The deadline for submission of full articles (**6000-7000 words**) is **1 March 2023**. The issue will be published at the end of 2023.