

3rd Circular

**GeoNames Symposium 2026 “The heritage value of
microtoponyms”, 12-13 October 2026
and
meetings of the UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical
Names as Cultural Heritage and the Working Group on
Exonyms, 14-16 October 2026,
Hermagor, Austria**

Dear colleagues and friends,

This 3rd Circular contains not only an updated version of the symposium program and an abstract book (see attachment 2) but also, for the first time, the provisional agenda of the UNGEGN Working Group meetings on the following three days (see attachment 3). These meetings are open and accessible also for participants of the symposium and offer besides consultations on UNGEGN and WG matters also paper presentations on topics connected with place names as cultural heritage and exonyms. Manuscripts and abstracts of these papers will be disseminated in advance in the second half of September. The toponymic week will be concluded by a bus excursion to Val Canale, a multilingual valley at the Italian side of the border, just half an hour away from our venue, starting Saturday, 17 October, at 9 a.m., and returning at 4 p.m. Three seats on the bus are still available.

If you are not accommodated in the Alpen-Adria Hotel, where our symposium and WG meetings take place and where all catering is included in the price for accommodation, be aware that you will have to pay € 99.- per day for catering (coffee breaks, lunch, dinner) at the reception.

You can still expect a 4th Circular before our event takes place. But, please, don't hesitate to ask me any questions by addressing peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at at any time, e.g. if you need an official invitation for visa application. In the case of specific questions regarding the WG meetings, please approach Emily Lethbridge for the WG on Place Names as Cultural Heritage (emily.lethbridge@arnastofnun.is) or Kohei Watanabe for the WG on Exonyms (kw10004@cam.ac.uk).

With kind regards

Peter Jordan

Chair, UNGEGN Dutch and German Speaking Division (DGSD)
on behalf of the organizers and co-organizers

Hermagor, 10 August 2026

GeoNames Symposium 2026 “The heritage value of microtoponyms”, 12-13 October 2026

Organized by

UNGEGN Dutch- and German-Speaking Division (Chair: Peter JORDAN)

Co-organized by

Austrian Board on Geographical Names, AKO (Chair: Roman STANI-FERTL)

ICOS Working Group on Toponymy (Chair: Peter JORDAN)

Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy (Co-Chairs: Matjaž GERŠIČ, Elena DAI PRÀ)

Municipality Hermagor-Presegger See (Mayor: Leopold ASTNER)

Financially supported by Herfried-Berger-Fonds Hermagor (Curator: Thomas MICHOR)

Scientific Committee

Hubert BERGMANN, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Digital Humanities, Austria
Andreas DIX, University of Bamberg, Institute of Geography, Chair of Historical Geography, Germany

Jasper HOGERWERF, The Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency, Netherlands

Peter JORDAN, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Austria; University of the Free State (South Africa), Faculty of Humanities

Roman STANI-FERTL, Austrian Board on Geographical Names, Austria

Pier-Giorgio ZACCHEDDU, Federal Office of Cartography and Geodesy, Germany

Theme

Microtoponyms not in the sense of smaller toponyms, but of toponyms referring to smaller features like scattered farmsteads and scattered houses, fields, pastures, fences, stones, springs, ditches etc. (names for typically urban features like streets, squares, stadiums excluded), and in general used locally by only a limited number of people exist in high density in predominantly rural, agriculture-oriented areas and societies. They represent there the most intimate namescape, the toponymy of geographical features named by the farmer and the village population in their narrower surroundings according to their perception and indicating what looked essential or striking for them. More than other place-name categories they are ‘condensed narratives’ in two directions: in describing the feature and in indicating the cultural and economic background of the name-givers. They are thus also and even specifically a part of the intangible cultural heritage as highlighted by the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 and as increasingly recognized also by UNGEGN.

Right this place-name category, however, is very much in danger to fall into oblivion – at least in the Global North – due to the conversion from agricultural to industrial and service-oriented societies, for which rural land use is not as important and by which the former patchwork of rural land use has been merged into larger entities. The current older generation offers in many cases the last opportunity to respond to questions on this place-name category, to get it documented and preserved as a source of research into former land use and perception of the environment. It is for this very reason that many surveys on microtoponyms

have been initiated in recent years, and exchange of results and opinions would be very useful.

The Symposium is to respond to this demand and to offer not only on-site information and exchange of opinions, but also the publication of results by proceedings.

Preliminary program

Keynotes last 30 minutes and remain without discussion, other papers last 15 minutes followed by 5 minutes discussion.

Monday, 12 October 2026

08.00-09.00	Registration	
	Room 1	Room 2
09.00-10.00	Opening Peter JORDAN (Organizer; Chair, UNGEGN Dutch- and German-Speaking Division) N.N. (Representative of the Federal State Carinthia) Leopold ASTNER (Mayor, Municipality Hermagor-Presegger See) Pierre JAILLARD (UNGEGN Chair) Mark ILIFFE (UNGEGN Secretary) Roman STANI-FERTL (Chair, Austrian Board on Geographical Names)	
10.00-10.30	Keynote 1: HARVALÍK, Milan & VALENTOVÁ, Iveta (Slovakia): The significance of minor place names from the perspective of cultural heritage Chair: Peter JORDAN	
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
	Session 1: Methodological questions Chair: Emily LETHBRIDGE (Iceland)	Session 2: At the margins of microtoponymy Chair: Marie Aurélie THÉRIAULT (Canada)
11.00-11.20	GAMMELTOFT, Peder (Norway): Revisiting the Name-Semantic Model: integrating naming intention and focus of naming	KOCH, Florian (France): Microtoponyms as local identity markers. Locally engaged supporters and their stadium names
11.20-11.40	RAPA, Sanda (Latvia): Talking landscapes: linguistic layers of cultural heritage in geographical names	LUCARNO, Guido (Italy): Comparison between urban and rural microtoponymy. Methods and results
11.40-12.00	NEUMÜLLER, Kristina & PIHL, Elin (Sweden): Collecting microtoponyms today – benefits and challenges of a digital world	PALAGIANO, Cosimo (Italy): Microtoponyms in the Castelli Romani
12.00-12.20	ZSCHIESCHANG, Christian (Germany): Current challenges and solutions in digitizing microtoponymic collections as part of the cultural heritage in Germany	WEI, Yentsao (China, Taiwan): An exploration of the land-sea changes and microtoponyms in the reclaimed land of Hsinchu, Taiwan
12.20-12.40	LLOYD, Abigail (United Kingdom):	BERTHOLI, Anderson (Brazil):

	Dialect, local character and intangible heritage: Saving microtoponyms through modern development	Revitalizing the concept of 'valley' in light of ancestral Brazilian knowledge
12.40-13.00	CUGNO, Federica & RACCA, Sara (Italy): Orally transmitted place names as heritage: knowledge, safeguarding and valorization in the experience of the Atlante Toponomastico del Piemonte Montano	
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-14.30	Keynote 2: RAMPL, Gerhard (Austria): Challenges in standardizing crowd-sourced microtoponyms Chair: Peter JORDAN	
14.30-14.40	Opportunity to change rooms	
	Session 3: Microtoponym surveys in the Alpine-Adriatic region Chair: Josip FARIČIĆ (Croatia)	Session 4: Microtoponyms in the post-Soviet realm and the Black Sea region Milan HARVALÍK (Slovakia)
14.40-15.00	JORDAN, Florian & PIKO-RUSTIA, Martina (Austria): Documentation, writing, standardization, localization, explanation and transfer of Slovenian field and farm names in Carinthia [Kärnten/Koroška]	MANUKYAN, Gevorg & MURADYAN, Vahagn & VARYAN, Yuri (Armenia): Microtoponyms of the Republic of Armenia as elements of historical and cultural heritage
15.00-15.20	WIESER, Vinko (Austria): FLU-LED: A cultural portal of field and house names (2011-2026) – a citizen science product. From handwritten notes by local idealists and supra-regional projects to a multilingual web portal with an online map based on a uniform database	ZYMOVETS, Halyna & MYKHALCHUK, Oksana & YERMOLENKO, Serhii (Ukraine): Microtoponyms as a source for the formation of urban object names in the context of contemporary renaming processes in Ukraine
15.20-15.40	ORTNER, Johannes (Italy): <i>Plandalineira, Piperbühl, Palù longia</i> . Linguistic and ethnological aspects of the South Tyrol documentation of toponyms	VLAHOVA-ANGELOVA, Maya (Bulgaria): Microtoponymy of the village of Starosel, Central Bulgaria
15.40-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00-16.20	FERRARIO, Viviana (Italy): Giving micro-toponyms a second life: the power of map-making	SHKLIARYK, Vadzim (Poland): Online bibliography on Belarusian microtoponymy as an attempt to stimulate relevant research
16.20-16.40	FINCO, Franco (Austria): The contribution of microtoponyms to the study of language contact: medieval Slavic colonization in Friuli (Italy)	
16.40-17.00	ZUPANC, Ivan & CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia): Names of Istrian residential houses as part of microtoponymic cultural heritage	

Tuesday, 13 October 2026

	Room 1	Room 2
09.00-09.30	Keynote 3: RESZEGI, Katalin (Hungary): Microtoponym survey in bilingual communities Chair: Peter JORDAN	
09.30-09.40	Opportunity to change rooms	
	Session 5: Microtoponyms from the Pannonian Basin to the Adriatic Chair: Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia)	Session 6: Local case studies Chair: Gerhard RAMPL (Austria)
09.40-10.00	BÖLCSKEI, Andrea & MIKESY, Gábor (Hungary): Microtoponyms in the reconstruction of the past	CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): Embodied ways of life and social class heritage reflected in the microtoponym <i>Pimatgol</i> (피맛골, 'Horse-Escaping Alley')
10.00-10.20	GYÓRFFY, Erzsébet & RÁCZ, Anita (Hungary): Microtoponyms in Hungary: current trends and approaches to preservation	STANI-FERTL, Roman (Austria): Croatian field names in south-eastern Lower Austria. An unconventional approach to recovering lost toponyms
10.20-10.40	FELECAN, Oliviu & MIHALI, Adelina Emilia (Romania): Habsburg microtoponyms in Transylvania, the Banat, and Bukovina	GUGGENBERGER, Hannes (Austria) & SANDRI, Ireno (Italy): Four villages, four alpine pastures, many names. <i>Valle</i> and <i>Rivalpo</i> over there, and <i>Goderschach</i> and <i>Stranig</i> over there
10.40-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-11.20	FARIČIĆ, Josip (Croatia): Microtoponyms of the Croatian coastal area as linguistic fossils – indicators of the coexistence of humans and nature	WILLMANN, Jutta (Austria): Microtoponyms as condensed multilingual narratives and markers of identity: the case of the linguistic enclave of Tischelwang
11.20-11.40	ŠKOFIC, Jožica (Slovenia): Slovenian dialect microtoponymy – a dialectological contribution to the study and preservation of intangible cultural heritage	JAGODIC, Devan (Italy): Enhancing microtoponymy in a minority language: installing stone plaques with the original Slovenian names of Barcola's historic hamlets (Trieste, Italy)
11.40-12.00	SPASOVSKI, Zoran (North Macedonia): Cartography as a scientific tool: preserving and mapping microtoponyms for geographic and onomastic research	
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	
13.00-13.30	Keynote 4: NORDLAND, Ingvil (Norway): Evaluating Norway's grant scheme for microtoponym collection: methods, challenges, and lessons learned Chair: Peter JORDAN	
13.30-13.40	Opportunity to change rooms	
	Session 7: Microtoponyms in Europe's center and North Chair: Peder GAMMELTOFT (Norway)	Session 8: Global comparison Chair: Sungjae CHOO (Republic of Korea)
13.40-15.00	ŠTĚPÁN, Pavel (Czechia):	THÉRIAULT, Marie Aurélie (Canada):

	Non-settlement names in Bohemia as cultural heritage	Rural microtoponymy in Québec: a cultural heritage of territorial organization in North America
15.00-15.20	ALBUS, Michael & MEYER, Holger (Germany): Where are the lost places?	DINIZ, Ana Cláudia Araújo & FORTES, Mircia Ribeiro (Brazil): Indigenous toponymy and cultural memory: the <i>Tarumã Waterfall</i> as a microtoponym in the former rural area of Manaus/Amazonas/Brazil
15.20-15.40	DIX, Andreas (Germany): Agrarian microtoponyms and their value as sources for the historical-geographical study of river landscapes: The case study of the river Wiesent and its catchment area in the northern Franconian Alb in Bavaria	BOUHADJAR, Souad & LOUATI, Fatéma (Algeria): Rural microtoponyms in Algeria: colonial-era names and local memory practices LOUATI, Fatéma & BENLAKHDAR, Bourelhouda (Algeria): The heritage value of microtoponyms in post-conflict Algeria: memory, violence, and everyday landscapes
15.40-16.00	ALAS, Marit & LAANSALU, Tiina & PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Microtoponyms: resurrection or oblivion	MUHURI, Sophia Waithera (Kenya): Microtoponyms of Kenya: mapping local names as intimate cultural heritage
16.00-16.30	Coffee break	
16.30-16.50	DEVINE, Josefin (Sweden): "This is not especially important". Attitudes to preservation of a transhumance onomasticon	GARING, Jusmianti (Indonesia): Naming and representation patterns in ancient <i>Maros</i> toponyms: linguistic and cultural perspectives
16.50-17.10	MAC GIOLLA CHOMHGHAILL, Aindí (Ireland): "We used to play on the Cloch Bhán when my grandad was making the hay": the survival of Irish-language microtoponymy in Dublin	GUPTA, Debanjana & VAISH, Tushar (India): Mapping memory: small names, deep roots — heritage value of microtoponyms in the Indian landscape
17.10-17.30	LETHBRIDGE, Emily (Iceland): Icelandic field names: first steps to a survey	KANG, Peter (China, Taiwan): The microtoponyms along the littoral areas of Taiwan: based on the data collected by the research projects sponsored by the National Academy of Marine Research
17.30-17.50		YOON, Jihwan (Republic of Korea): Everyday heritage in transition: the making and unmaking of microtoponyms in urbanizing Jeonju, South Korea
17.50-18.30	Closing Peter JORDAN (Organizer; Chair, UNGEGN Dutch- and German-Speaking Division) Emily LETHBRIDGE (Co-convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Place Names as Cultural Heritage) Kohei WATANABE (Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms) Mark ILIFFE (UNGEGN Secretary) Pierre JAILLARD (UNGEGN Chair)	

19.00-	Social dinner invited by the Municipality of Hermagor-Pressegger See	
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Meetings of the UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and the Working Group on Exonyms, 14-16 October 2026

See attachment

Venue

The Symposium will take place in the Alpen Adria Hotel & Spa, Hermagor, Carinthia [Kärnten/Koroška], Austria. The venue is accessible also by train and about one hour from the Klagenfurt airport from where connection flights to the international hub Vienna [Wien] are available and two hours by train from the Graz airport, from where connection flights depart not only to Vienna, but also to the even larger international hubs Frankfurt, Munich [München] and Zurich [Zürich]. Another convenient option to approach the venue is via Rome [Roma]-Fiumicino and Trieste (Airport Ronchi dei Legionari). Also from there the venue is accessible by train. A train station with a train every hour (not at night) is right behind the venue. Shouldn't have booked your accommodation yet, you can approach our venue, Alpen Adria Hotel & Spa by using <https://www.alpenadriahotel.at/en>, www.alpenadriahotel.at, info@alpenadriahotel.at or telephone +434282 2666, or other accommodation in the wider surroundings by consulting https://www.nassfeld.at/en/Service/Nassfeld-A-Z/Tourismusburo-Information_az_30419

The organizers are, however, not able to cover any travel and accommodation expenses except the dinner on the second symposium day (13 October), to which we will be invited by the Municipality Hermagor-Pressegger See.

Excursion

A common bus excursion for participants of all meetings to a multicultural valley across the Italian border (Val Canale/Val Cjanâl/Kanalska dolina/Kanaltal) with a quadrilingual linguistic landscape will be offered at the end of the meeting week, i.e. **Saturday, 17 October, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** € 40.- will be requested for bus transport. Please register for 3 seats still 3 available by approaching peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at directly.

Proceedings

After a double-blind reviewing proceedings of the papers presented at the Symposium are to be published as Volume 10 of the toponymic book series "Name & Place" edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN. Volume editors have still to be found.