

Abstract book

ALAS, Marit & LAANSALU, Tiina & PÄLL, Peeter (all Institute of the Estonian Language), Estonia: **Microtoponyms: resurrection or oblivion**

Microtoponyms are language- and culture-bound phenomena, although their general definition remains the same: they denote small places and are used by a small number of people. Large-scale maps provide a good overview of microtoponyms. The number of names on maps has varied over time, depending also on the specific purpose of the map. Gradually, the understanding has deepened that microtoponyms represent a valuable layer of information on maps. In Estonia, this trend was possible later than in many other parts of Europe, for understandable reasons. Dedicated place-name collectors have played a significant role in documenting microtoponyms. Presenting microtoponyms on maps is considered important today, as it helps to preserve older name layers that are part of cultural heritage, reflecting features in language and society characteristic of earlier periods.

The abundance of microtoponyms brings the need to address issues of their representation. This includes questions of orthography, choice of names, and more broadly the need to define where the boundary lies between a name and a landscape description. A crucial issue in Estonia is how to represent local pronunciations of place names. Regional linguistic varieties can differ considerably from the standard written language. It is rather common to follow local pronunciation more closely in the case of microtoponyms. This approach differs somewhat from Finland and Sweden, where a more standardized, written-language-based form is typically used. This contradiction becomes evident in standardizing the written forms of Estonian Swedish place names.

A fundamental issue in mapping microtoponyms lies in the fact that while the general principle of mapmaking is to record the actual state of the landscape, the treatment of microtoponyms in Estonia has often aimed to reconstruct the oldest possible layer of names (due to interruptions in name transmission). This gives rise to a dilemma: should the selection of names on maps revive a distant, name-rich past or acknowledge the more modest reality of present-day usage?

ALBUS, Michael & MEYER, Holger (both University of Rostock, Data Base Research Group), Germany: **Where are the lost places?**

The Mecklenburgisches Namenbuch (Mecklenburg Place Name Book) and HONV (Historical place name directory) contain approximately 860 deserted sites, settlements that were abandoned or laid waste, that are no longer mentioned after a certain point in time or are listed as field names or associated with one. Often, the exact location in the landscape is not recorded and only an approximate location (spatial relationship to a reference place) is given. In addition to the deserted places, there are also settlements that are difficult to pin down because they can only be vaguely located in time and space. This leaves room for misinterpretations if abandoned places later reappear nearby maybe with a modified name.

Suitable spatial-temporal representations help to clarify this. Various classes of difficulties in locating deserted sites are introduced. These differ in terms of the available information in the location details: There are cases in which only a place name without any further positional data is available. Localizations range from information that relates a location with distance and/or directional information to a relatively precisely localizable object, to cases in which only an area of the size of a county or even larger can be determined. In doing so, it is important to avoid misleading implications that may arise or be reinstated by the graphic representation.

Methods of visualization and possible solutions are discussed for each of these problem classes. The approaches mentioned are critically examined using the deserted villages on the island of Rügen as example.

BEKKOUCHE, Ammara (Independent researcher), Algeria: **Can a microtoponym of colonial domination be patrimonialised? The case of the Village Negre districts in Algeria**

Microtoponyms, regarded as "condensed narratives", convey information about the representations and economic relations of the communities that produced them. As such, they constitute a central component of intangible cultural heritage, as recognized by the 2003 UNESCO Convention and by the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). However, not all microtoponyms pertain to a consensual heritage.

This paper examines the patrimonial value of a microtoponym rooted in an ideology of colonial domination, namely the designation *Village Negre*, which referred to certain intra-urban neighbourhoods in several Algerian cities. Based on processes of racialization and spatial hierarchization of populations, this exogenous designation reflects the political, social and symbolic logic of the colonial order.

Today, this microtoponym has disappeared from everyday usage and survives only in historical archives. This raises the question of how such heritage can be safeguarded when the microtoponym bears witness not to a shared memory, but to symbolic violence. The case study of Oran suggests that patrimonialization may take the form of critical documentation rather than the preservation of problematic toponyms. Renamed Medina Jedida ('new city') will show, how this formerly stigmatized neighborhood has evolved since the colonial period?

BERTHOLI, Anderson (Universidade Estadual de Montes Claros UNIMONTES), Brazil

Revitalizing the concept of 'valley' in light of ancestral Brazilian knowledge

The objective of this proposal is to contribute to the epistemological trajectory of Geographic science by "revisiting" the concept of "valley," using the Brazilian "Jequitinhonha Valley" as a spatial reference in the debate regarding its concepts and categories. The central idea is to detach this conception from the notion of the River Basin, whose scope prioritizes the hydric aspect and the conflicts arising from water use viewed as a resource. It is in this scenario that we find the entire "Jequitinhonha Valley," home to around 200 communities of Quilombola ancestry—a space unfolded between imposition—which is Verticality, hegemony, and overexploitation—and Horizontality—which is response, counter-hegemony, liberation, and development understood as the expansion of the freedoms of local subjects. This paradox sustains both the stigma ("Valley of Poverty," "Valley of Drought," and "Valley of the Widows of Living Husbands") and the striking identity celebrated in the verses of local art, such as: "Valley that is worth singing, Valley that is worth living..." These are elements of a concomitantly local-regional-global peculiarity that demands an epistemic (re)interpretation. Therefore, the aim is to translate the Jequitinhonha Valley as a space of combinations between the poverty exploited by the verticalities of sugarcane, coffee, and eucalyptus agribusiness, and the cultural richness brought forth by the horizontalities translated through strategies of (another) development—achieved through the solidarity-based reorganization of peasant-artisan families and the consequent overcoming of a historical drama linked to its water limitations. It is within this context that we conceptualize the space of the valley, composed of ingredients that combine the material basis indispensable to the maintenance of life and the subjectivities of the relationships necessary to sustain hope.

BÖLCSKEI, Andrea (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary) & **MIKESY, Gábor** (Hungarian Committee of Geographical Names), both Hungary: **Microtoponyms in the reconstruction of the past**

Over the past 1,000 years, the Carpathian Basin has witnessed significant transformations to its spatial structure. Many of these changes occurred during the Ottoman occupation, when numerous early Hungarian settlements were destroyed. Fewer than half of the estimated 24,000 medieval villages survived to the modern era. Thanks to the abundance of medieval charters, the historical geography of the country's distinct regions could be documented, and monumental

works were created. However, in many cases, localization was made possible by microtoponyms, as the names of the destroyed medieval villages were often preserved in them. For example, the remains of the medieval Latin settlement name *Alba ecclesia* (1015) appear today in Hungarian as *Fehéregyház* ('white church'), a field name in the village of Szebény in Baranya County. According to a document from 1331, *Gata* was a well-known market town. Nowadays, *Gata* is the name of a field in the village of Lánycsók in Baranya County. The name was also retained by the Germans who settled there in the 18th century, as *Gata Wiesen*. The study of microtoponyms is undoubtedly a valuable resource for historical geography, local history, archaeology, museology and family history research. Furthermore, historical, cartographic and linguistic sources offer a wealth of Hungarian microtoponymic data from the past 150 years. Examining the differences between old and new forms helps us to understand language changes. For instance, adding an initial vowel can eliminate a consonant cluster at the beginning of a word. Examples include *Scro* (1177), *Ztro* (1251), and the modern form: *Iszró*, a microtoponym on the outskirts of the village of Ipacsfa in Baranya County.

BOUHADJAR, Souad (Université Saïda) & **LOUATI, Fatéma** (CRSTDLA, Tlemcen Unity), both Algeria: **Rural microtoponyms in Algeria: colonial-era names and local memory practices**
This paper explores rural microtoponyms, particularly names of farms and small agricultural places in the regions of Saïda and Tlemcen (Western Algeria). These place names, many of which originate from the colonial period, continue to be used locally in everyday spatial practices, despite significant socio-economic transformations and changes in land use. The study adopts a qualitative methodology, combining field surveys, oral data collection through semi-structured interviews with long-term residents, linguistic analysis of name forms, and comparison with historical maps and administrative records. The main research question addresses the persistence and current status of these microtoponyms in local usage, as well as the factors contributing to their maintenance or gradual disappearance. The working hypothesis is that such names remain in use not because of their historical origin, but because of their referential efficiency and mnemonic function within rural communities. Preliminary results show a high degree of stability in local usage, even when these microtoponyms are absent from official cartographic and administrative systems. The paper highlights key challenges related to documentation, transmission and integration of rural microtoponyms in contemporary geographical naming practices.

CHOO, Sungjae (Kyung Hee University), Republic of Korea: **Embodied ways of life and social class heritage reflected in the microtoponym *Pimatgol* (피맛골, 'Horse-Escaping Alley')**

Pre-modern Korean society functioned as a thoroughly stratified hierarchy, and this legacy is vividly reflected in the geographical names used by ordinary people in their everyday lives. *Pimatgol* is one such example. Hanyang – the capital of the Joseon Dynasty and predecessor of modern-day Seoul – was founded and developed according to the traditional *pungsu* (geomantic) principle of *baesan-imsu* (mountain at the back, water at the front), with the royal palaces situated below Bugaksan ('mountain') and officials frequently traveling along Jongno, the main east-west thoroughfare running just north of Cheonggyecheon ('water'). Ordinary people were expected to prostrate themselves and avert their gaze when these nobles passed by. To avoid this, they created narrow side alleys along the main road, calling them *Pimatgol*, literally 'the alley (*gol*) for avoiding (*pi*) horses (*ma*)'. Embedded in this name is a lived, practical wisdom shaped by the social conditions of the time. Over time, taverns, soup-and-rice vendors, and small stores serving commoners emerged along the alley, and as their stories and struggles accumulated, the name acquired strong emotional resonance and became a meaningful vernacular toponym. This presentation uses the case of *Pimatgol* to examine the definition and

significance of microtoponyms and to trace the layers of cultural heritage embedded within them.

CUGNO, Federica & RACCA, Sara (both University of Turin), Italy: **Orally transmitted place names as heritage: knowledge, safeguarding and valorisation in the experience of the Atlante Toponomastico del Piemonte Montano**

The paper discusses the role of orally transmitted place names as a heritage resource in processes of knowledge production, safeguarding and territorial valorization, drawing on the experience of the Atlante Toponomastico del Piemonte Montano (ATPM), a geolinguistic research project of the Department of Humanities at the University of Turin, active for over forty years and recently extended to the entire Piedmont region (Italy) (www.atpmtoponimi.it). By adopting a participatory data-collection methodology based on fieldwork conducted by locally rooted researchers, the ATPM provides a privileged observatory for the study of orally transmitted toponymy, with particular attention to microtoponymy, understood as a repository of historical, environmental and social knowledge deeply embedded in local communities.

After outlining the theoretical foundations that support the consideration of place names as intangible heritage, the paper presents selected findings from the surveys, showing how orally transmitted place names – often connected with agropastoral practices, landforms and traditional settlement patterns – preserve naming motivations that are either still semantically transparent or, conversely, increasingly opaque, thereby revealing dynamics of language contact, resemanticization and the erosion of toponymic competence. Finally, the contribution discusses the safeguarding and valorization strategies developed through the digitalization and georeferencing of the collected data, highlighting how digital archives and interactive maps can foster new forms of transmission, use and preservation of microtoponyms, also beyond traditional academic contexts.

DEVINE, Josefin (Institute for Language and Folklore), Sweden: **"This is not especially important". Attitudes to preservation of a transhumance onomasticon**

The formerly widespread practise of summer farms in mid- and northern Sweden has been in rapid decline this past century. Pasture huts are in many cases mere relics in the forest; others are preserved by enthusiasts and sometimes used as tourist bait. Unsurprisingly, an earlier study from two parishes in the county of Jämtland (DEVINE 2021) shows that many hut names are already unknown even to locals. As the Swedish-Norwegian transhumance practise was recently recognised by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage, it has prompted questions about preservation of these names: how important is this issue perceived, and by whom?

This qualitative pilot study is based on survey answers, where the goal is to understand attitudes to the names. Do the participants think that names constitute a cultural heritage in their own right? Which actions are taken to ensure the survival of these names? And where does the responsibility lie for protecting or reviving the onomasticon? Preliminary conclusions suggest that people can find it difficult to see the value of name preservation. Several hard-earned lessons were also learned regarding the creation of a survey form.

DINIZ, Ana Cláudia Araújo & FORTES, Mircia Ribeiro (both Universidade Federal do Amazonas), Brazil: **Indigenous toponymy and cultural memory: the Tarumã Waterfall as a microtoponym in the former rural area of Manaus/Amazonas/Brazil**

This article presents a case study on the indigenous microtoponym *Tarumã*, located in the municipality of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, focusing on the Tarumã Waterfall. Classified as a geographical feature and as a phyto/hydro/ethnotoponym, the term derives from the Tupi-Guarani language and means ‘dark fruit’ (*Vitex montevidensis*). Besides designating a plant species, the name refers to the indigenous territory of the Tarumã, a people who inhabited the lower Rio Negro and were displaced to the area surrounding the São José da Barra do Rio Negro

Fort in 1669, the origin of the current city of Manaus. The toponym also names the Tarumã-Açu stream and hydrographic basin, a tributary of the Rio Negro. Tarumã Waterfall, formerly known as *Alta Waterfall* or *Grande Waterfall*, was part of the rural area of Manaus until 2006 and was recognized as a tourist attraction and leisure space. With urban expansion, it began to suffer environmental degradation: pollution, waste dumping, irregular occupations, and mineral extraction, highlighting the loss of social and ecological functions that structured the landscape. This case study is part of the debates on microtoponyms as cultural and ecological heritage, emphasizing the importance of documenting and preserving traditional names in contexts of accelerated urbanization. *Tarumã Waterfall* holds indigenous memory and constitutes one of the few areas that still shelter Sauim-de-coleira (*Saguinus bicolor*), an endemic and endangered species.

DIX, Andreas (University of Bamberg, Institute of Geography, Chair of Historical Geography), 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**

River landscapes and their associated floodplains are sensitive ecosystems and areas of economic importance to humans. In Central Europe, rivers and their floodplains have undergone a profound transformation process, particularly since the early Middle Ages. In a priority program funded by the German Research Foundation, various case studies are being used to investigate how these transformation processes took place and since when floodplains have been landscapes shaped mainly by humans. One of the areas under investigation is the Wiesent, a 78 km long river that drains a catchment area of approximately 1000 km² in what is known as Franconian Switzerland. The region consists mainly of karst and can still be seen as a predominantly agricultural, peripheral landscape.

In order to reconstruct anthropogenic impact, it is necessary to evaluate a wide variety of sources. These include agrarian toponyms, such as field names, which are available for the early 19th century across the entire area in the sheets of the original cadastral map. For a more detailed evaluation, around 11,000 names were transferred to a database and merged with other data in a GIS project. The presentation will use various thematic examples to demonstrate the possibilities, opportunities, and methodological problems inherent in this approach.

FARIČIĆ, Josip (University of Zadar, Department of Geography), Croatia: **Microtoponyms of the Croatian coastal area as linguistic fossils – indicators of the coexistence of humans and nature**

Microtoponyms may be regarded as linguistic fossils that enable the interpretation of historical relationships between humans and nature. They are names of small spatial units, particularly in rural areas, in which various forms of valuation and use of spatial resources are reflected within the context of food gathering and production and the securing of basic subsistence. In the Croatian coastal regions, these are names of bays, capes, and other parts of the coastline that were of great importance in the organization of diverse maritime activities, primarily those traditionally associated with fishing, as well as with providing access to arable land parcels and pastures, sites of lime production, and locations for the extraction of building stone, timber, and other natural raw materials. However, in light of social and economic functional changes whereby traditional activities have been replaced by tourism as the dominant form of activity, interest has become focused exclusively on those parts of the coast that can be directly used for leisure and recreation. Moreover, numerous islands – especially small and remote ones – as well as coastal mainland areas distant from larger urban centers and outside major tourist destinations are undergoing intensive depopulation, resulting in the disappearance of speakers of local dialects and bearers of knowledge of local toponymy. Under circumstances in which many microtoponyms have not been recorded or cartographically documented, numerous

elements of coastal toponymy are being irretrievably lost across many Croatian coastal areas, thereby contributing to the impoverishment of the linguistic landscape. Consequently, the academic community bears a significant responsibility to inventory and scientifically analyse coastal microtoponyms as soon as possible, in order to conserve and protect this intangible cultural heritage and thus preserve it for future generations, for whom small coastal geographical features may once again acquire sufficiently important spatial functions that would require their identification and an appropriate role in geocommunication.

FELECAN, Oliviu (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, North University Centre of Baia Mare) & **MIHALI, Adelina Emilia** (Institute of Linguistics and Literary History of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca), Romania: **Habsburg microtoponyms in Transylvania, the Banat, and Bukovina**

After 1699, the Habsburg Monarchy gradually took control of the former autonomous Principality of Transylvania, leading to the establishment of the Principality of Transylvania (1711-1867), which came under the rule of the Viennese emperors, who also assumed the title of Grand Princes of Transylvania. Among the Enlightenment-inspired reforms implemented by Austrian monarchs – Maria Theresa, Joseph II, Leopold II, and others – were administrative measures reflected in the cadastral surveying of the territory (with the Josephine Survey serving as a relevant example), the expansion of agricultural land, the regulation of river courses, and the construction of roads and bridges.

The present paper aims to examine microtoponyms originating in the Habsburg period that bear witness to the contribution of the Habsburg emperors to the development of Transylvania, the Banat, and Bukovina. These include names of roads (e.g. *Drumul Mariei Tereza* or *Drumul Terezian* [‘Maria Theresa road/Theresian road’] in Bukovina), forests (*Pădurea Tereziană* [‘Theresian forest’] in Sibiu), meadows (*Poiana Tereziană* [‘Theresian meadow’] in the Apuseni Mountains), and others. On the one hand, such toponyms fulfil a commemorative function, honouring figures associated with the development of these regions; on the other hand, they record imperial visits to predominantly Romanian territories, as well as colonisation processes and related historical realities.

In many cases, these microtoponyms have a popular character, being attested either in early documents or transmitted orally, as in the case of *Fagu Împăratului* (‘Emperor’s beech’): “Legend has it that in its shade the ‘King of the Mountains’, Avram Iancu, is said to have met the Emperor of Austria, Franz Joseph” (TTRT 2024: 102).

Such microtoponyms form part of a broader corpus that also includes other territories which, at various points in history, belonged to the Habsburg Empire, such as *Mária Terézia út* (‘Maria Theresa road’, a forest road in the Bakony Mountains (Hungary), or *Teréziina dolina* (‘Theresa’s Valley’), near Trenčín (Slovakia).

FERRARIO, Viviana (Università Iuav di Venezia), Italy: **Giving micro-toponyms a second life: the power of map-making**

In the field of toponymy, cartography plays a crucial role by locating place names in space and assigning them scale and hierarchy, thus acting as a surrogate for living toponymic knowledge and partially compensating for the growing loss of the link between referent and toponym that lies at the core of contemporary toponymic experience. Rural micro-toponyms, known and used by small local communities, are particularly vulnerable to this erosion, especially when they belong to endangered linguistic minorities.

By fixing place names in written form, maps function as devices of memory. This allows both the use of historical maps to reconstruct past toponymy and the production of new maps featuring indigenous and vernacular place names, a practice that has become increasingly widespread across the Alps in recent decades.

These mapping practices reintroduce microtoponyms into the social life of communities, albeit as heritagized objects. In this new form, place names may still retain agency within the territory: not only by being reused for tourism and recreational purposes, but also by contributing to a deeper understanding of historical processes and to the self-awareness of linguistic minorities.

The paper draws on recent strands of research in human geography, including critical toponymy, more-than-representational approaches to cartography, and critical heritage studies. Their integration proposes a renewed perspective on the recovery and documentation of indigenous, vernacular, and minority-language micro-toponymy.

FINCO, Franco (Pedagogical University Carinthia), Austria: **The contribution of microtoponyms to the study of language contact: medieval Slavic colonization in Friuli (Italy)**

This paper aims to highlight the role of microtoponyms as a valuable tool for investigating past dynamics of language contact and alloglot presences, with particular reference to Friuli Venezia Giulia in north-eastern Italy. A border region par excellence, Friuli Venezia Giulia is characterized by a marked linguistic stratification resulting from its geographical position and the complex historical and cultural processes that have shaped it. This complexity is reflected in a highly stratified toponymic landscape, in which pre-Roman, Romance, Germanic and Slavic layers coexist and intersect.

The paper focuses in particular on the informative potential of toponymy in the study of medieval Slavic colonization in the Friulian plain, a phenomenon that is only sparsely documented in historical written sources and the archaeological record. The analysis of toponyms of Slavic origin, and especially of microtoponyms, makes it possible to outline the geographical distribution of Slavic-speaking settlements and to reconstruct aspects of the linguistic and cultural landscape they produced. The case study of some municipalities near Pordenone shows how microtoponyms can provide significant evidence of alloglot communities and their practices of territorial anthropization, even in the absence of direct attestations in historical sources or archaeological findings.

GAMMELTOFT, Peder (University of Bergen), Norway: **Revisiting the Name-Semantic Model: integrating naming intention and focus of naming**

This paper revisits GAMMELTOFT's name-semantic model (2005) in light of TENT & BLAIR's influential critique, which highlighted the need to move beyond purely motivation-based typologies toward understanding the 'expression of naming intention'. While GAMMELTOFT's original model focused on the namer's expression of locality, this paper proposes an enhanced framework that incorporates a top-tier superdivision relating to naming focus, distinguishing between names where focus lies on describing the locality itself versus those where focus centers on the namer's perspective or relationship.

This refined model proves particularly valuable for toponym analysis, where place names function as 'condensed narratives' encoding both physical features and cultural-economic contexts. With inspiration from TENT & BLAIR's typology of naming expressions with an explicit recognition of naming focus, the model better captures how toponyms serve as intangible cultural heritage, revealing not only what features were named but how and why they were named.

The paper demonstrates this framework's application through examples, showing how the enhanced name-semantic model provides deeper insights into the heritage value of toponyms while maintaining analytical rigor and addressing the theoretical inconsistencies identified in earlier typological approaches.

GARING, Jusmianti (Hasanuddin University or National Research and Innovation Agency, BRIN), Indonesia: **Naming and representation patterns in ancient Maros toponyms: linguistic and cultural perspectives**

The ancient toponyms of Maros serve not only as geographical markers but also as cultural heritage that records the linguistic, historical, and social value of the community. The names of these places preserve local knowledge passed down from generation to generation while reflecting the community's perspective on nature, space, history, and collective identity. This study aims to describe the linguistic characteristics of toponyms, identify naming patterns and cultural representations, and examine the shifts in meaning that occur. Using an interdisciplinary approach that combines linguistic analysis and cultural studies, data was obtained through descriptive qualitative methods, including participatory observation, in-depth interviews with community leaders and residents, and the study of historical documents and oral traditions, including Lontara manuscripts. The results of the study revealed that the ancient toponyms of Maros were formed through various linguistic processes such as affixation, composition, reduplication, and derivation, which are closely related to the cultural construction and socio-historical relations of the speaking community. The naming pattern is shaped by ecological-topographic, agrarian-economic, maritime, historical-political, and cultural-expressive factors, all of which contribute to the formation of community identity. These findings underscore the paramount importance of preserving ancient toponyms as part of intangible cultural heritage that now faces the challenges of modernization, shifting meanings and values, and weakening regeneration among native speakers. This study is expected to provide an understanding of the relationship between language, space, and local culture in Indonesia, as well as raise awareness of the importance of protecting the collective memory embodied in place names.

GUGGENBERGER, Hannes (Independent researcher), Austria: **Four villages, four alpine pastures, many names. Valle and Rivalpo over there, and Goderschach and Stranig over there**

These are two villages from the Canale d'Incarojo in Carnia/FVG/Italy and two villages from the Upper Gail Valley in Carinthia/Austria. These villages face Monte Sernio, the others the Reisskofel. Both the Carnic villages and those in the Upper Gail Valley share alpine pasture holdings. Their pastures lie on the main Carnic ridge and border directly on one another.

Contrary to what one might expect, the boundaries of these pastures do not coincide with the Austrian-Italian border. The villages and pastures are part of a cultural contact zone where Romance speakers live on one side and German speakers on the other. Even the place names reveal that Slavic names are essential to the Upper Gail Valley. Significant impetus for the production of Gail Valley alpine products came from across the border.

GUPTA, Debanjana & VAISH, Tushar (both Survey of India), India: **Mapping memory: small names, deep roots — heritage value of microtoponyms in the Indian landscape**

India's linguistic diversity is captured in the saying "*Kos kos par pani badle, chaar kos par vaani*", meaning that water changes every few miles and language every four, reflecting how landscape and lived experience vary across short distances. This diversity is embedded in microtoponyms – rooted in dialects, oral traditions, folklore, mythology, and everyday land-use practices. Across India's official and non-official languages and its many documented and undocumented dialects, microtoponyms function as repositories of collective memory and cultural meaning.

This paper examines the heritage value of microtoponyms in the Indian landscape. Historically, conventional surveying practices involved field visits and interactions with local communities to record place names in use. While this enabled contextual understanding, such methods also had limitations related to pronunciation, transcription, and interpretation.

In recent decades, surveying has become increasingly technology driven. While remote sensing, GNSS, and automated workflows enhance accuracy and efficiency, they risk marginalizing vernacular place knowledge that exists primarily in oral form. At the same time, widespread access to mobile devices and internet connectivity has empowered citizens to document and share landscape narratives.

This paper explores how crowdsourcing can complement existing practices to systematically document and safeguard microtoponyms as part of India's living cultural and geographical heritage.

GYÖRFFY, Erzsébet & RÁCZ, Anita (University of Debrecen), Hungary: **Microtoponyms in Hungary: current trends and approaches to preservation**

This paper examines Hungarian microtoponyms as elements of the most intimate local namescape, reflecting former land use, environmental perception, and rural cultural practices. Based on socio-onomastic surveys conducted over the past 10-15 years in predominantly rural, agriculture-oriented communities, the first part of the presentation outlines current trends in microtoponym knowledge among Hungarian speakers. The results consistently indicate that only a diminishing portion of the traditional microtoponymic stock remains in active use, while intergenerational transmission is rapidly weakening, placing this place-name category at serious risk of disappearance.

In response to this situation, the Hungarian National Toponym Register Program was launched to document the living-language-and partly historical microtoponyms of the Carpathian Basin. The second part of the paper addresses methodological challenges of microtoponym surveys, with particular emphasis on informant selection. Statistical data reveal a clear shift away from the classical 'rural' informant type traditionally preferred in onomastic fieldwork, reflecting broader social and demographic changes affecting rural communities.

Finally, the paper presents preservation-oriented dissemination strategies employed by the program, including popular publications, digital platforms, and public lectures. These activities aim not only at documentation but also at the community-based reactivation of microtoponym knowledge. The Hungarian case thus contributes empirical and methodological insights to the broader discussion of microtoponyms as endangered elements of intangible cultural heritage.

HARVALÍK, Milan & VALENTOVÁ, Iveta (both Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences), Slovakia: **The significance of minor place names from the perspective of cultural heritage**

The paper initially focuses on the terminological issues associated with naming geographical features that are referred to in various terminological systems and traditions most commonly as minor place names, microtoponyms, or anoikononyms. The authors define the term *anoikonym* and argue against the use of the term *microtoponym*, which they consider terminologically inaccurate. They then analyse the importance of anoikonymic research within onomastics and other linguistic subdisciplines, as well as its contribution to related fields. Particular attention is paid to the broader cultural and social context in which anoikonymy functions as a component of cultural heritage. Theoretical foundations and practical implications of the research are illustrated through selected results from the analysis of Czech and Slovak anoikononyms.

HERZEN, Andrey (Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography), Russian Federation: **Microtoponymical indicators of great historical and geographical evolution: inherited strata, motivational background, reconstruction of etymology and place-name transfer**

Microtoponyms, which are considered to have local significance, actually play an extremely important role in the reconstruction of the evolution and modern structure of the geographical systems and their toponymical component. Inherited place-name strata contain many indicators

of a complex development path of the geosystems and geonames, of which convincing etymology can be revealed only through the analysis of the motivational background, the whole set and systemic interconnections. Our research methodology contributed to significant advancement in reconstruction of the features of the different regions' historical and geographical evolution, integrating information on key geosystem components: natural (landscapes, hydrographic transformations), socio-economic (settlement system, ancient road network), toponymic (ancient and modern names) and archaeological and architectural (monuments of Antiquity, fortification systems). Interdisciplinary integration of geographical, historical, archaeological, linguistic and art studies of natural-anthropogenic geosystems and their components is the fundamental basis for reconstructing the historic-geographical evolution of regions. This is a very complex, but extremely important scientific problem, the development of which became possible as a result of the accumulation of a colossal array of diverse studies in different disciplines over the past centuries and the rapid digitalization of the research base (the objects and tools themselves) at present. This approach allows us to take a different look at the problems of microtoponymy itself, as an integral part of intangible cultural heritage.

JAGODIC, Devan (Slovene Research Institute, SLORI, Trieste), Italy: **Enhancing microtoponymy in a minority language: installing stone plaques with the original Slovenian names of Barcola's historic hamlets (Trieste, Italy)**

Barcola (Slovenian: *Barkovlje*) is a coastal suburban district of Trieste that was once inhabited predominantly by Slovenians. In the eastern border area of the Italian Republic, adjacent to Slovenia, a historically rooted Slovenian-speaking population remains present and is today officially recognized as an indigenous linguistic minority. For centuries Barcola was a small fishing village; however, alongside rapid urbanization – especially after 1850, following the construction of the railway linking the settlement to Trieste – numerous hamlets developed and acquired names in the local Slovenian dialect. These historical microtoponyms have been preserved through oral tradition to the present day, even though Barcola's contemporary landscape differs markedly from its past. In recent decades, increasing residential attractiveness has brought new inhabitants from diverse social and linguistic backgrounds, mostly non-Slovenian, who generally know little about the area's history and even less about the original names of its hamlets. As the number of local speakers who still use these microtoponyms continues to decline, documenting and reintroducing them into the public space has become a matter of cultural-heritage preservation. These premises led to the project Reviving the Past for Planning the Future, which involved producing and installing 24 stone plaques engraved with the Slovenian names of Barcola's historic hamlets. The paper presents the project's aims, methodology, and results, highlighting its contribution to strengthening the visible presence of Slovenian in Trieste's urban cultural landscape.

JORDAN, Florian & PIKO-RUSTIA, Martina (both Slovenski narodopisni inštitut Urban Jarnik) & **WIESER, Vinko** (Independent researcher), Austria: **Documentation, writing, standardization, localization, explanation and transfer of Slovenian field and farm names in Carinthia/Koroška**

The initiatives for the preservation of orally transmitted field and farm names and other geographical names in Carinthia have experienced a significant upswing since their inclusion in the list of the Austrian UNESCO Commission in March 2010. The most visible fruits of this work are the 11 printed maps and the cultural portal FLU-LED (www.ledinskaimena.si, [<http://www.flurnamen.at>]/www.flurnamen.at), which strongly influenced social awareness of the importance of this intangible cultural heritage. On the basis of these collections and maps, in which the names are localized and written in the local dialect and in a standardized form, research is carried out on the scientific interpretation of the names. In 2024, the reference work

on the naming landscape of Köttmannsdorf/Kotmara was published, which contains basic explanations of the meaning and origin of the geographical names. The project of documenting traditional names, in which the local population and experts work together, is also attracting international attention. It has been presented several times in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) as an example of good practice in the (living) preservation of geographical (minority) names. Since the symposium will take place in Hermagor/Šmohor, the process of documentation (writing and localization), standardization and explanation of the names will be presented using examples from Gailtal.

KANG, Peter (Graduate Institute of Taiwan History, National Taiwan Normal University), 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**

The paper utilizes the data collected by the research projects sponsored by the National Academy of Marine Research for the past five years to discuss the nature of microtoponyms along the eastern and southern coasts of Taiwan. The said microtoponyms are derived from different linguistic communities, mainly from the various coastal Formosan Austronesians and Taiwanese Hokkien. The microtoponyms from the said data mainly reveals the local perception toward their daily environment, including the environmental features exclusively known (and useful) to the local inhabitants, the site memory of locally meaningful past events. The said data also indicates how a site is named by different language communities through their own microtoponyms, in which some cases strikingly display the completely different perceptions and even misinterpretation of the other cultures by linguistic corruption and appropriation.

KLOTZ, Emanuel (University of Heidelberg, Institute of Slavistics), Germany: **Onomastica Tirol-Slovenica: microtoponyms in Eastern Tyrol and their namesakes in Slovenia**

From the 8th century, Bavarian and early Slovene were in close contact in today's Southern Austria and Northern Slovenia. During this coexistence, a vast amount of place names was borrowed from early Slovene into Bavarian. As the applicant's research has shown, many names in Eastern Tyrol are paralleled on Slovenian territory. Often, the findings from Slovenia made the etymology possible in the first place. However, while the material in Tyrol consisted mostly of microtoponyms, the etymological publications on Slovenia are focused on settlement names. The data is thus only comparable to a limited extent. Slovenian microtoponyms have been primarily treated, in pre-doc theses, but not yet published to a broader audience. The Onomastica Tirol-Slovenica project aims to connect the newest results of Slovenian toponomastics with those of Eastern Tyrol to open new etymological perspectives. The applicant plans to engage in toponomastic research in Slovenia to increase the comparison material. The collected data will also allow to draw conclusions on the relative chronology of Bavarian and Slovene sound changes as they are intertwined in toponomastic loans. In the presentation, examples are given about how useful a cross-border initiative is for research on both sides.

KOCH, Florian (Centre Interlangues – Texte, Image, Langage, TIL, Université Bourgogne Europe, UBE), France: **Microtoponyms as local identity markers. Locally engaged supporters and their stadium names**

The English Premier League is undoubtedly, by far, the most lucrative European professional football league for (foreign) investors, generating the highest profits. English clubs invest several hundred million euros in their squads every year, significantly more than any of the other European clubs (POLI et al. 2022). In 2025, the first non-English club, Paris Saint-Germain, ranked only seventh with a squad value of € 873 million. Interestingly, the most successful European club, Real Madrid, ranked only eighth, and the German lighthouse, Bayern Munich, only thirteenth (VIMOND 2025).

Taking up the thesis of hyper-commodification of leisure activities (GIULIANOTTI & NUMERATO 2018), one would now assume that all opportunities to generate fresh money are being exploited in order to redeem these investments. One option that has been increasingly used in Germany since the turn of the millennium is the commercial renaming of stadiums (VUOLTEENAHO et al. 2019). However, this is not the case in England, where toponyms, especially microtoponyms such as *Anfield Road*, and *Stamford Bridge*, govern, nor in France, where eponyms dominate, nor in Spain, where toponyms are most common (BACH et al., 2021).

As part of the research project DISCLOSE, we seek to visualize the naming practice in four European countries England, France, Germany, and Spain – and to find out how fans – who might fear the loss of a local (linguistic) identity marker (KOCH & GAUTIER 2022, 2024) – evaluate the ‘value’ of ‘their’ stadium name. The theoretical framework is a socio-discursive model (BACH 2022) which is tested by means of a web-scraped data set (~ 2,500 cases). In addition, an online survey is currently being conducted to contextualize these results.

Preliminary results confirm that the (re-)naming practice depends largely on the national and local context. Finally, local fan resistance is mainly determined by the image of the commercial sponsor.

LETHBRIDGE, Emily (Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, Reykjavík), Iceland:
Icelandic field names: first steps to a survey

The documentary preservation of Iceland’s toponymicon is unusually extensive. Some 500,000 names for landscape features, both natural and manmade, ranging in scale from micro to macro, are recorded in place-name documents (*örnefnalýsingar*) held at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Research. These documents contain not only the names themselves but also rich contextual information including notes about the origins of many names. Thanks to the recent development of Nafnið.is, an online database and website that has made these documents accessible and searchable, many opportunities for new place-name research now exist. Not least, it is possible to extract large data-sets (e.g. for specific categories of names) in order to analyse them with the aim of uncovering patterns, or identifying idiosyncrasies, that illustrate how names functioned in social, economic and historical contexts in Iceland in past and more recent times (see further LETHBRIDGE 2023).

Field names/*túnanöfn* constitute a significant proportion of the half-a-million names in the *örnefnalýsingar* and the *Nafnið.is* database. No exact count has been made but if we assume that for each of the roughly 7,000 farms in the register, an average of 5 or so field names are likely to have been noted down, a very rough estimate of recorded field names might come in at around 35,000. An open search for all names ending *-tún* in Nafnið.is yields over 6,000 examples. Other field names have the generics such as *partur*, *stykki*, or *flöt* to give a few examples. Many field names are descriptive and indicate e.g. the location of the field (*Suðurtún*, *Miðengjar*, *Framtún*, *Heimatún*, *Jaðartún*), or its specific qualities or other distinguishing features (*Tóftatún*, *Grjótatún*, *Hesthústún*), or its size (*Litla-Mýri*, *Tveggjadagaslátt*); others reference individuals or events that gave rise to the name (*Sigmundaroddi*, *Davíðs-Ólafssonartún*, *Einsetukerlingartún*; field names in *Prætu*-).

Scholarly discussion of Icelandic field names hitherto has been limited to the consideration of individual names or types of names (e.g. Anne HOLTSMARK 1933; Kristín ÓLAFSDÓTTIR 1936-1939; Ólafur LÁRUSSON 1944; Svavar SIGMUNDSSON 2006; Guðmundur BENEDIKTSSON, 2009; Elsa ÞORBJARNARDÓTTIR 2013; Bjarni GUÐMUNDSSON 2023; Elva BJÖRG EINARSDÓTTIR 2023; Margrét VALMUNDSDÓTTIR 2023; LETHBRIDGE 2025). No larger-scale work has been conducted that is comparable to, e.g., field-name collection, recording and research undertaken in the United Kingdom (see, e.g., FIELD 1972, 1993; BURNS 2015; CAVILL & GREGORY 2018). In the proposed paper, I will present preliminary results of a first attempt at studying this category of Icelandic place name. Field names in *örnefnalýsingar* will be surveyed and analysed with the aim of (i) compiling a handlist of all field-names in these place-name

records that can be published to aid future research; (ii) identifying different categories of field names in the data; and (iii) drawing out what is known about the origins of these names where comment or explanation is recorded in the sources, in order to better understand this category of names from a socio-onomastic perspective.

LLOYD, Abigail (University of Nottingham), United Kingdom: **Dialect, local character and intangible heritage: Saving microtoponyms through modern development**

With the advent of modern farming, rapid urbanisation and recent house-building initiatives, historical field names and other microtoponyms are dropping out of the English consciousness at an alarming rate. Such names reflect past dialect, language evolution, landscape character, historical events and people, as well as their perceptions of the world around them. There is, however, a hunger for this rapid change to be able meaningfully to preserve traces of the past, to celebrate a place by highlighting and working with its particular and local onomastic history.

This paper presents the results of a project between the Institute for Name-Studies, at the University of Nottingham, GeoPlace LLP (a governmental association involving the Ordnance Survey), and the Street Naming and Numbering Officers from four local authorities. The project demonstrated how to use the resources of the Survey of English Place Names, researching and explaining historical microtoponyms, using the evidence base to inform modern street naming, policy creation and decision making. The results were striking. Access to a national baseline and independent university-based research was welcomed by all stakeholders, from developers to members of the public and the SNNOs themselves. This paper will be an opportunity to share these results and discuss best practice for future initiatives.

LOGJE, Mikkel Rasmus (Sámi University of Applied Sciences, Guovdageaidnu), Norway: **The underwater landscapes of seine fishing grounds**

We all develop unique relationships with the landscapes that surround us, based on our experiences, practices, and activities. For example, a person traveling on foot experiences the landscape differently from someone traveling by vehicle. Likewise, a reindeer herder relates to land and areas in ways that differ from those of a farmer, and an experienced fisherman possesses a fundamentally different knowledge of waters than a non-fisherman.

This presentation examines the cognitive content associated with Northern Saami seine fishing ground names in Guovdageaidnu, Northern Norway. Seine fishing is a fishing method that employs a surrounding net, known as a seine. The aim of the presentation is to identify the types of experience-based information and knowledge held by practitioners of seine fishing in relation to fishing grounds, and to discuss how this information may be categorized.

Cognitive linguistics emphasizes the relationship between language and other cognitive functions and approaches language as an integral part of general human cognition (SjÖBLOM 2004: 82; RESZEGI 2023: 3). Within onomastics, this perspective entails treating names – and the usage of names – as forms of knowledge within a mental system (RESZEGI 2023: 4).

The research material consists of interviews with informants from the Guovdageaidnu area, who have practiced seine fishing. The findings demonstrate that seine fishing practitioners possess extensive knowledge of fishing grounds. This knowledge relates to i.e. the characteristics of fishing grounds, seasonal divisions of the year, and even legal conceptions.

LOUATI, Fatima (Research Unit “The status and development of linguistic studies in Arab countries” Tlemcen) & **BENLAKHDAR, Bourelhouda** (Abou Bakr Belkaid University, Tlemcen), both Algeria: **The heritage value of microtoponyms in post-conflict Algeria: memory, violence, and everyday landscapes**

Place names are not merely geographic labels; they function as carriers of collective memory, social history, and shared human experience. In contexts marked by violence, microtoponyms often preserve traces of traumatic events that remain absent from official archives. This paper

examines place names as “silent archives” through a microtoponymic analysis of spaces associated with Algeria’s Black Decade of the 1990s, a period characterized by widespread fear and insecurity resulting from armed violence and the state’s confrontation with them.

Drawing on perspectives from microtoponymy, cultural geography, and memory studies, the study analyzes locally used names referring to sites of massacres, violence, and collective suffering. Often transmitted orally within local communities, these microtoponyms encode narratives of trauma, loss, and resistance, revealing the role of language in preserving collective memory. Focusing on locally used rural microtoponyms embedded in everyday landscapes, the study highlights how these names function as elements of intangible cultural heritage.

The research adopts a qualitative methodology based on fieldwork, oral testimonies, and linguistic-semantic analysis. It demonstrates how microtoponyms contribute to the specialization of memory and how naming practices transform places into symbolic markers of historical violence. By focusing on unofficial and marginalized place names, the paper sheds light on alternative forms of historical documentation embedded in everyday language. The study argues that microtoponymy provides a valuable framework for understanding the relationship between space, language, and memory in post-conflict societies and underscores the importance of preserving microtoponymic heritage for the intergenerational transmission of collective memory.

LUCARNO, Guido (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Milano), Italy: **Comparison between urban and rural microtoponymy. Methods and results**

The remaining preservation of microtoponymy, or the names of places recognized only by the population living in their immediate vicinity, is now entrusted solely to the memory of the elderly. The places favored for the survival of microtoponymy are primarily located in suburban areas, near small agricultural or mountain towns. Given the significantly reduced youthful and productive population following the mountain and rural exodus, the inhabitants are largely elderly, still speaking dialect and, in this language, remembering microtoponyms.

In cities, especially those that have seen a significant population increase in recent decades following immigration from external regions, characterized by a diverse cultural component and origins, the national language established itself very early as the vehicular language aimed at mutual understanding, leading to the rapid disappearance of dialectal varieties.

For some years, the Municipality of Milan has activated a permanent citizens' assembly to receive bottom-up recommendations for resolving certain problems in the management of the municipal administration. Among the topics addressed in 2026, there is the valorization of toponymy as a cultural asset and the shared heritage of the citizens. Considering the work carried out by a specific working commission during the current year, this paper will consider the recommendations expressed for the conservation of traditional microtoponymy in urban settings and compare them with those adopted in a small hamlet of a lakeside municipality after the recording and georeferencing of microtoponyms still preserved only in the memory of the older population. The recommendations resulting from the research and comparison in urban settings for the valorization of microtoponymy will also be documented with appropriate cartography. The paper will discuss different methods for collecting, recording, and officially recognizing microtoponyms.

MAC GIOLLA CHOMHGHAILL, Aindí (An Brainse Logainmneacha/Place-Names Branch), Ireland: **“We used to play on the Cloch Bhán when my grandad was making the hay”: the survival of Irish-language microtoponymy in Dublin**

This paper discusses two adjacent valleys, Gleann an Smóil/Glenasmole and Gleann Cuilinn/Glencullen, situated in the hills 10 km south of Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin. Although the

community language shifted from Irish to English at the turn of the 19th century, a survey of the existing microtoponymy reveals almost 50% of the fields and sheep-farming landmarks in these valleys still bear Irish names, phonetically adapted into English. (Comparable studies from nearby areas show survival rates of 6% to 11%.) As well as the intrinsic linguistic and historical value of the material, this concentration of Irish-language microtoponymy allows for useful categorization and analysis of generic and specific elements. Comparison with toponymy generated in the valleys since the language shift to English reveals differences in naming motives. Reasons for the survival of the semantically opaque Irish place names can also be explored. The most significant grouping of Irish field names is found in the settlement cluster with the most stable demographics since the late 18th century. Differences in active versus passive knowledge can be observed in respect of occupation, age and gender. Although traditional usage is rapidly dying out, the names are being consciously preserved and passed on for local heritage purposes.

MANUKYAN, Gevorg & MURADYAN, Vahagn & VARYAN, Yuri (all Cadastre Committee of the Republic of Armenia), Armenia: **Microtoponyms of the Republic of Armenia as elements of historical and cultural heritage**

Microtoponyms in the Republic of Armenia represent one of the oldest and most informative layers of the toponymic system, encompassing the names of small-scale natural and anthropogenic geographical features. Those toponyms have predominantly local significance and are primarily used within specific communities for the identification and interpretation of geographical objects.

These names refer to springs, ravines, hills, fields, pastures, cultivated plots, wells, ponds, and other small-scale geographical features, which are usually known only to local communities and are transmitted through oral tradition. For example, the names *Sare jur* ('cold water'), *Ttu aghbyur* ('sour spring') and *Karmir jur* ('red water') reflect the physicochemical and sensory characteristics of water bodies, while microtoponyms such as *Barak blur* ('thin hill'), *Mut dzor* ('dark canyon') and *Arevot lanj* ('sunny slope') describe the form, illumination, and spatial orientation of the relief.

Another group of microtoponyms is associated with traditional land use and social memory, such as *Hin art* ('old field'), *Khothark* ('hayfield'), *Meliki dasht* ('Melik's field') and *Papiki aghbyur* ('grandfather's spring') which testify to patterns of ownership as well as family and community functions. At the same time, names such as *Vanki dzor* ('monastery canyon'), *Amrotsi tegh* ('castle site') and *Hin gerezman* ('old cemetery') preserve the memory of the historical and cultural landscape, even when the physical objects themselves have disappeared. In addition, microtoponyms such as *Gurgur*, *Lolozik*, *Areguniner*, *Ktsvtsuk*, and *Jegra* stones extend beyond purely dialectal usage in terms of their linguistic value.

This study also presents general approaches to the analysis of microtoponyms, with brief reference to the village of Khachik in the Vayots Dzor marz, which is considered a representative example of a local microtoponymic system.

It is well established that microtoponyms reflect not only dialectal features but also historical facts, as well as aspects of traditional rural life and worldview. Rural microtoponymy was not chosen as the object of study by chance, as it is considerably richer and more conservative than urban microtoponymy. Urban microtoponyms, by contrast, are predominantly created artificially and officially, and generally lack figurative expression and ideological depth.

Under the influence of spatial development and globalization, microtoponyms are gradually falling out of use, making their systematic collection and spatial documentation an increasingly urgent task. This study considers microtoponyms as a component of intangible cultural heritage and emphasizes the importance of their systematic collection, spatial documentation, and the creation of a digital database.

Modern geographic information system (GIS) technologies play a particularly important role in the preservation and valorization of microtoponyms as elements of historical and cultural heritage. Their application enables the systematic collection, mapping, and standardization of microtoponyms, as well as the creation of a digital spatial database, ensuring data accuracy, interoperability, and long-term preservation.

In this context, the Republic of Armenia already maintains an information base of geographical names, within which more than 20,000 microtoponyms have been registered and mapped. The resulting GIS database represents an important foundation for the national-level preservation of microtoponyms, their scientific study, and their effective use in state governance, spatial planning, and the national geoportal.

MUHURI, Sophia Waithera (Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, State Department for Lands and Physical Planning, Directorate of Survey and Mapping), Kenya: **Microtoponyms of Kenya: mapping local names as intimate cultural heritage**

Across pastoral, coastal and highland regions of Kenya, communities continue to use highly localized place names for springs, grazing areas, fishing inlets, footpaths, stones, seasonal rivers, and ancestral homesteads features that are rarely captured in official records. These microtoponyms form the most intimate layer of the national namescape and represent an important component of intangible cultural heritage. They encode ecological knowledge, land-use practices and social memory transmitted through everyday language.

The paper will examine Kenya's microtoponyms as living cultural heritage within the framework of geographical name standardization. Drawing on community consultations, participatory mapping, linguistic documentation and archival sources, it will demonstrate how microtoponyms convey information about water reliability in arid rangelands, tidal conditions along the coast, cultivation cycles in highland areas and historical patterns of settlement and movement. Many of these names are known primarily to elders, local administrative authorities and landowners and are increasingly vulnerable due to land consolidation, urban expansion, rural-urban migration and changing livelihoods.

The paper will highlight methodological and institutional challenges in documenting microtoponyms, including multilingual usage, variable spelling and scale limitations in national mapping systems. It will propose community-based documentation and culturally sensitive recording practices consistent with UNGEGN principles, emphasizing the need to recognize microtoponyms alongside standardized names. The Kenyan experience will illustrate how safeguarding microtoponyms can strengthen cultural heritage preservation while supporting accurate and inclusive geographical naming practices.

NEUMÜLLER, Kristina & PIHL, Elin (both Institute for Language and Folklore, Uppsala), Sweden: **Collecting microtoponyms today – benefits and challenges of a digital world**

The place-name collection at the Institute for Language and Folklore in Uppsala consists of nearly 3.8 million cards with information about names from all over Sweden. Most of the data was collected during the first half of the 20th century, from written historical sources and specialist literature as well as through on-site interviews of local informants. All kinds of place names were recorded, including large quantities of microtoponyms. The place-name collection thus provides a relatively broad coverage of the microtoponyms used at the time.

The onomasticon, though, is ever changing, and there is by now a great need to update the data with contemporary names. However, means and methods for collecting place names have changed considerably in the last hundred years. Onomastics is unfortunately no longer the hot field of research it used to be, and as a result the resources for collecting place names have been severely diminished. On the other hand, the tools for communicating and sharing information have been revolutionised by digital technology.

Our presentation will be a hands-on talk on the methods we are currently using for collecting microtoponyms, and on our plans for the future.

NORDLAND, Ingvil (Language Council of Norway, Språkrådet), Norway: **Evaluating Norway's grant scheme for microtoponym collection: methods, challenges, and lessons learned**

In 2014, the Norwegian Ministry of Culture tasked the Language Council of Norway (Språkrådet) with establishing a grant scheme aimed at collecting and registering local place names, particularly microtoponyms, before they are lost with the passing of older generations. The first grants were awarded in 2015. A dedicated registration tool was developed at the University of Oslo and later transferred to the University of Bergen, and grant recipients are required to use this tool. To date, over 170,000 names have been registered, primarily by local history societies, museums, and municipalities across Norway, including names in Norwegian, Sámi, and Kven. In 2026, the Language Council is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the scheme. The evaluation examines four dimensions: the application and grant process, the usability of the registration tool, the quality and scope of results, and the collaboration between stakeholders. Data collection methods include a digital survey distributed to all grant recipients, semi-structured interviews with selected projects, and consultations with technical partners.

This paper presents preliminary findings from the evaluation, focusing on challenges encountered by local collectors such as volunteer recruitment, tool usability, and dissemination of results and identifies measures to strengthen similar initiatives. The findings offer insights relevant to microtoponym documentation efforts internationally, particularly regarding the engagement of local communities in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

ORTNER, Johannes (Independent researcher), Italy: **Plandalineira, Piperbühl, Palù longia. Linguistic and ethnological aspects of the South Tyrol documentation of toponyms**

In its early stages, the large-scale South Tyrol toponymic project (1997-2015) focused on dialectology and ethnology (synchronous documentation). In a kind of work in progress, the project was expanded to include geographical and cartographic aspects in order to reflect the multilingualism and multiple names of the trilingual autonomous province in Northern Italy.

The 180,000 microtoponyms collected and located reveal South Tyrol to be a diverse dialect landscape that has developed in the course of a heterogeneous settlement history under various political forms of rule. In this respect, there are overlaps with the Swiss canton of the Grisons on the one hand, and – from the perspective of language contact – parallels with southern Carinthia and Burgenland on the other.

However, a more in-depth analysis of South Tyrolean microtoponyms from a historical perspective (diachronic approach) and a linguistic study (etymology) of at least a part of the huge corpus of names are still pending. Following the example of the Rhaetian Name Book, the research project could result in a South Tyrolean name book, which is currently a pipe dream. In the medium term, however, it might be possible to merge the databases of the three “Tyrolean” toponymic collections from Trentino, South Tyrol and the Austrian federal province Tyrol under the auspices of the European Region.

The presentation in Hermagor highlights both the successes and difficulties of the South Tyrolean field name project: these concerned the survey situation with informants, the ‘struggle’ with the map material and the correct transcription of toponyms, but also the sometimes challenging trilingual reality (German, Italian and Ladin).

PALAGIANO, Cosimo (Sapienza Università di Roma), Italy: **Microtoponyms in the Castelli Romani**

The term *Castelli Romani* refers to the entire geographical area southeast of the city of Rome, around the Alban Hills, consisting of a cluster of towns and cities, part of the Latium Vetus

territory, surrounded by the Roman Campagna. According to Giuseppe Tomassetti (1848-1911) in the 14th century, many inhabitants of Rome, due to the problems of the Avignon Papacy, took refuge in the castles of the Roman feudal families: the Savelli (Albano and Castel Savello, Ariccia, Castel Gandolfo, Rocca Priora), the Annibaldi (Molara, Monte Compatri, Rocca di Papa), the Orsini (Marino), and the Colonna (Monte Porzio Catone, Nemi, Colonna, Genzano, and Civita Lavinia).

The investigation I wish to propose is to consider – within this historic region – those place names that have experienced significant historical events and are now indicated on topographical and cadastral maps. These microtoponyms, now only known as place or area names, deserve a geographical, as well as historical, and archaeological, reflection.

RAMPL, Gerhard (University of Innsbruck, Linguistics Department), Austria: **Challenges in standardizing crowd-sourced microtoponyms**

The citizen science project “Field Name Collection in the State of Tyrol” (2007-2017) focused on the comprehensive documentation of approximately 120,000 microtoponyms across Tyrol, Austria. A defining characteristic of this initiative was its rigorous digital-first approach: data was georeferenced using a specialized WebGIS platform based on high-resolution orthophotos. Utilizing a hybrid methodological framework, local chroniclers collected and transferred linguistic data into a proprietary geodatabase. This workflow ensured precise localization and the seamless integration of rich metadata. Today, these records are embedded within the Tyrolean Spatial Information System (tiris) and serve as the technical foundation for a mobile crowdsourcing application dedicated to capturing local pronunciations.

Despite their integration into official spatial infrastructures, these microtoponyms remain unstandardized. This presentation analyzes how the “crowdsourcing” methodology and the diverse requirements of third-party institutions influenced the current, non-standardized presentation of the data. Furthermore, the talk explores the theoretical framework for a standardized name format and outlines a roadmap for retroactively implementing such a process. By addressing these challenges, the presentation highlights the tension between the preservation of local heritage and the technical demands of modern spatial data standardization.

RAPA, Sanda (University of Latvia, Latvian Language Institute), Latvia: **Talking landscapes: linguistic layers of cultural heritage in geographical names**

Cultural heritage preserved in geographical names is embedded across several linguistic layers, each of which reflects historical experience in a different way. Some layers are transparent to contemporary speakers, while others require linguistic reconstruction and comparative analysis. Taken together, these layers show that geographical names function as stable onomastic formulas that preserve cultural memory far beyond everyday language use. This multilayered preservation applies primarily, and in many respects almost exclusively, to microtoponyms, which are capable of retaining concrete, non-generalized cultural knowledge tied to specific places and events.

At the lexical level, cultural heritage is encoded either through direct reference to historical events or through event-frame metonymy, whereby a single salient element comes to represent a more complex historical experience. Such lexicalization makes cultural content partially accessible, yet often reduces extensive lived experience to a minimal linguistic marker.

At the semantic level, cultural heritage is not always uniformly accessible to contemporary speakers. In some cases, semantic meaning remains synchronically available, but only within specific dialects or local varieties; in others, it becomes opaque and can be recovered only through etymological and diachronic analysis. As a result, geographical names may preserve ancient semantic layers that are unevenly distributed across speech communities, functioning as repositories of meanings that survive in limited linguistic contexts.

A third layer is metasemantic and lies outside the linguistic sign itself. At this level, a geographical name functions less as a descriptive unit and more as a condensed reference point for a much larger narrative. In local usage, such names activate place-based narrative frames, which may include traumatic, dramatic, or socially significant histories known only within the community.

Beyond individual names, cultural heritage is also readable at the discursive level, through recurring naming patterns that reflect shared cognitive models of landscape. In such patterns, the land is conceptualized as a living, structured entity, revealing a culturally embedded worldview rather than isolated historical events. Finally, at the level of grammatical life, the structural stability of geographical names preserves traces of earlier linguistic and cultural stages.

RESZEGLI, Katalin (University of Debrecen), Hungary: **Microtoponym survey in bilingual communities**

The aim of the Hungarian National Toponym Registry Project is to collect all place names from the entire Hungarian language area. In addition to urbanonyms, this work primarily focuses on microtoponyms. However, the Hungarian language area also includes bilingual regions. As a result, the corpus of place names is not linguistically uniform, since the names – especially microtoponyms – clearly reflect the linguistic and ethnic characteristics of each region. This raises several questions concerning the scope and methodology of data collection.

The project applies different principles to bilingual regions within Hungary and those beyond its borders. In Hungary, it seeks to document the place-name material of minority communities. In cross-border areas, for practical reasons, the focus is limited to collecting Hungarian place names, which nevertheless bear traces of bilingualism. The collection of these corpuses is particularly urgent, as language shift and modern lifestyle changes contribute to the rapid disappearance of these names, with microtoponyms being especially endangered.

The paper discusses the data-collection principles applied in bilingual areas within the Hungarian National Toponym Registry Project, along with the experiences and results obtained so far.

SHKLIARYK, Vadzim (Independent researcher), Poland: **Online bibliography on Belarusian microtoponymy as an attempt to stimulate relevant research**

The current language situation in Belarus raises concerns about the future of the Belarusian language. The same can be said about Belarusian dialects and the local names of small geographical objects. This issue is further compounded by the decline in the village population, who are the primary carriers of microtoponyms. Such linguistic material is also unpopular among Belarusian researchers. Currently, only five dissertations devoted exclusively to microtoponyms have been completed in Belarus. Furthermore, not all of the local names of small geographical objects have been collected, so it is crucial to document as many as possible. One attempt to stimulate the collection and study of microtoponyms in Belarus is the thematic online bibliography created in 2022. This database can be sorted by the 118 districts of the country. An interactive map showing the number of publications for each district is also available. The online bibliography is periodically updated with new publications. The aim of the project is to estimate how many microtoponyms have already been researched, in which areas of Belarus and to what extent such material has been collected. As one of the creators of this database, I will talk about the specifics of creating this project in my presentation at the GeoNames Symposium 2026.

ŠKOFIC, Jožica (Slovenian Academy of Sciences, ZRC Ljubljana; UP FHŠ, Koper), Slovenia: **Slovenian dialect microtoponymy - a dialectological contribution to the study and preservation of intangible cultural heritage**

This paper presents the history and development of systematic efforts to collect dialectal house and field names in the Gorenjska (Upper Carniola) region of Slovenia, with particular reference to the projects *Kako se pri vas reče?* ('How Do You Call It?') and FLU-LED.

The paper outlines the methodological framework employed in these projects, which have been conducted since 2009, focusing on fieldwork procedures, dialectal transcription practices, and the principles guiding the standardization of collected microtoponyms. Particular attention is devoted to the dialectological dimension of the research, demonstrating how microtoponyms preserve salient features of the local dialectal landscape, including archaic elements no longer attested in contemporary spoken varieties. In this way, microtoponymic material contributes to the safeguarding of both linguistic and broader cultural heritage.

The collected names are disseminated through multiple channels: dedicated online platforms (www.hisnaimena.si; www.ledinskaimena.si), 55 locally oriented booklets, 20 printed maps, and in situ installations marking named features within the landscape itself. To date, approximately 16,000 house names and 7,000 field names have been documented across nearly 500 settlements in 25 municipalities of the Gorenjska region (with additional material from other Slovenian regions). The scope, authenticity, and methodological rigor of the corpus have led national institutions—such as the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia—and professional associations, including the Mountaineering Association of Slovenia, to recognize its value and to incorporate the documented names into official state registers of geographical names.

SOKIL-KLEPAR, Nataliia (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Professor Ivan Kovalyk Department of Ukrainian Language), Ukraine: **Traditional trades and crafts as a source of microtoponymy in Ukraine**

This paper investigates the layer of Ukrainian microtoponyms derived from traditional trades, crafts, and manufacturing processes. These local names function as a "living archive," preserving the socio-economic history of regions where many professions have long vanished. The study focuses on identifying names related to specialized activities such as iron smelting (*Rudnia*), potash production (*Budy*), and various communal crafts (*Honchari*, *Bondari*, *Kovali*). The author explores the semantic evolution of these names and their role in reconstructing the historical economic landscape. Beyond mere linguistic analysis, the paper emphasizes the importance of documenting these toponyms as intangible cultural heritage. Special attention is given to the methodology of collecting and systematizing this data to ensure its preservation for future generations. By analyzing the spatial distribution of craft-related names, the research offers insights into the historical management of the Ukrainian landscape. The paper concludes that microtoponyms are crucial markers of cultural identity and historical continuity within the European toponymic space.

SPASOVSKI, Zoran (Institute of Macedonian Language "Krste Misirkov" – Skopje, Department of Onomastics), North Macedonia: **Cartography as a scientific tool: preserving and mapping microtoponyms for geographic and onomastic research**

Microtoponyms – names of small geographic features such as fields, springs, paths, and local landmarks – are invaluable carriers of historical, cultural, and environmental knowledge. Yet, their documentation faces persistent challenges: industrialization, urban expansion, migration, and deliberate renaming often lead to the erosion or complete disappearance of these names. This paper examines the scientific value of cartography in addressing these issues, focusing on its role in geography and onomastics. We begin by outlining common problems in mapping microtoponyms, including data fragmentation, loss of oral traditions, and inconsistencies in historical sources. Next, we propose a methodological framework for systematic collection and cartographic representation of microtoponyms, integrating field surveys, archival research, and GIS-based visualization. Finally, we demonstrate how such mapping not only safeguards

intangible cultural heritage but also enriches scientific inquiry by revealing patterns of settlement, land use, and linguistic evolution. The study argues that cartography, when applied to microtoponymic research, transforms names into spatially anchored data, unlocking insights across disciplines and ensuring their preservation for future generations.

STANI-FERTL, Roman (Austrian Board on Geographical Names), Austria: **Croatian field names in south-eastern Lower Austria. An unconventional approach to recovering lost toponyms**

Until the early 20th century certain communities in Lower Austria were bilingual, with Croatian spoken colloquially alongside German. Today, however, the use of Croatian has disappeared from this region.

This study focuses on two neighbouring municipalities, Hof am Leithaberge and Au am Leithaberge (Cundrava), both of which were traditionally Croatian speaking. Despite this linguistic heritage, cartographic sources – beginning with the Franziszeischer Kataster of 1819 – record only German field names.

Interestingly, a review of the local chronicle of Au reveals a list of field names with Croatian roots, whereas the chronicle of Hof contains no such entries. Furthermore, inquiries at the municipal office in Hof, supported by a named local informant, confirm that only German field names are in use.

Contrary to these sources, fieldwork conducted in Hof uncovered field names of Croatian origin that remain in active use among local residents. This presentation will detail the methodology employed to identify these toponyms. The methodology involved local informants, cartographic materials, a Slavic studies specialist.

This research highlights the importance of integrating oral history, local knowledge, and linguistic expertise to recover marginalized place names, thereby enriching our understanding of the region's cultural and linguistic heritage.

ŠTĚPÁN, Pavel (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Language Institute), Czechia: **Non-settlement names in Bohemia as cultural heritage**

In the 1960s and 1970s, the onomastic department of the Czech Language Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences carried out an extensive systematic survey, during which more than 400,000 non-settlement names from the territory of Bohemia were collected. The paper presents in some detail the results of this survey as well as the subsequent processing of the collected material. Particular attention is paid to the cultural value of minor place names, their importance for cultural history, for understanding landscape transformations, and, last but not least, also for the study of language development, as minor place names often contain archaic linguistic elements that are not attested in the appellative lexicon.

The concept of non-settlement names (also *anoikonims*, in Czech *pomístní jména*) as understood in Czech onomastics – best corresponding to the German term *Flurnamen* – largely overlaps with the notion of *microtoponyms*. The introductory part of the paper also addresses this terminological issue, explaining why Czech onomastics prefers a concept and term based primarily on the type of the named objects (names of non-settlement features, especially fields, meadows, forests, mountains, waters, and paths) rather than on their size or on the extent of the circle of their users.

THÉRIAULT, Marie Aurélie (Université de Montréal), Canada: **Rural microtoponymy in Québec: a cultural heritage of territorial organization in North America**

Territorial microtoponymy may be approached from diachronic or etymological perspectives, as exemplified by traditional indigenous toponymy in Québec, or conceived as the expression of a synchronic linguistic system of spatial orientation within territorially undifferentiated environments such as farms or agricultural landscapes. This paper adopts the latter perspective

and examines agricultural Québec microtoponymy as a punctual, functional, and predominantly oral system of reference structuring spatial interaction. The persistence of such systems is closely linked to human land use and territorial vocation. Without systematic field investigation, microtoponymy tends to disappear, as residual traces no longer suffice to reconstruct its organization. Microtoponymic systems do not survive the disappearance of native user-speakers or major changes in land use. The study draws on three microtoponymic surveys conducted in agricultural contexts, analytically harmonized into a database comprising 222 microtoponyms, collected during earlier fieldwork. Analysis focuses on categories of named entities through generics and the typology of specifics (type relations), as well as on prepositions distinguishing between locative language and pure locative language. A lexicon of rare and archaic terms, attesting to a shared linguistic heritage between France and Québec, is presented as a result of the analysis. Future research aims to expand this database through recent microterritorial surveys (CTQ, 2023) and heritage-oriented landscape documentation initiatives, including the cabourons of Kamouraska, supporting recognition of microtoponymy as an element of intangible cultural heritage and territorial knowledge.

VLAHOVA-ANGELOVA, Maya (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Bulgarian Language), Bulgaria: **Microtoponymy of the village of Starosel, Central Bulgaria**

The present paper aims to present the microtoponymic legacy of the village of Starosel. The area in which Starosel is located has been inhabited since ancient times, and is rich in valuable archaeological sites, chiefly shrines and tombs, dating back to the indigenous Thracian people. The microtoponymy of the settlement has not yet undergone thorough study. A fieldwork investigation was conducted in the village of Starosel in 2016 as a part of a project for researching the toponymy of the Plovdiv region. The objective of the investigation was to collect microtoponymic data on-site through interviews with local informants. A corpus of the microtoponyms of the surroundings of the village of Starosel has been compiled. This was based on microtoponymic excerption from administrative documents for land use, as well as fieldwork data and other written sources. The toponymy of the village is characterized by a rich variety of microtoponyms, including names of fields and pastures, meadows, small water bodies, hills and rocks, etc. Despite the fact that the fieldwork was conducted a considerable time ago, the results have not yet been presented or published.

WEI, Yentsao (National Taiwan Normal University, Department of Geography), China, Taiwan: **An exploration of the land-sea changes and microtoponyms in the reclaimed land of Hsinchu, Taiwan**

The coastal land in Hsinchu has been continuously reclaimed from the sea since the ruling of the Manchu empire. Originally about 50 hectares of salt fields, by 1966, the area of land developed exceeded 6 square kilometers. Currently, the main land use is paddy fields. Through continuous changes from sea to land, local people have observed and perceived these environmental shifts, giving rise to many microtoponyms. These microtoponyms are a manifestation of the collective living experience of the residents and can also be used to observe the changes from sea to land, and land use in the region.

The research methods used in this paper include: interviewing elders to compile their oral histories, and using map interpretation and field investigation to understand the relevant geography and geographical connotations of microtoponyms in this region. The research aims to establish relevant information and knowledge about these microtoponyms including the Romanized scripts and Chinese characters of microtoponyms, the location and scope of place names, the meaning of place names, the process of environmental changes in the location of place names, and the interpretation of the interaction between people and land shown by microtoponyms. We hope that the documentation and construction of these microtoponyms will become an important database of local historical memory and cultural assets.

WIESER, Vinko (Slovenska prosvetna zveza Slowenischer Kulturverband), 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** www.flurnamen.at, www.ledinskaimena.si

It all started with the desire of local cultural idealists to preserve geographical names, which due to rapid social change were in danger of disappearing as they had been passed down (almost exclusively) orally. How can house and field names, as well as water and mountain names, an important element of a region's cultural heritage and identity, be passed on to future generations?

It began with hand-drawn maps based on conversations with dozens of people, most of whom were farmers. Village by village, the names of meadows, fields, forests, marshes and streams were recorded until the first map of names in local Slovene dialect was completed. The local cultural association later transferred the names to digital systems, to enable the correct location and an attractive graphic design of maps. This first name maps formed the basis for the listing of [Slovenian Field and House Names in Carinthia](#) to the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Austria in 2010.

This was followed by acoustic recordings of the pronunciation of the names, and a first local website with an online map was created. In the background, a database with additional information and audiovisual data on the names recorded was compiled, processed using linguistic methods in collaboration with dialectologists and linguists from Austria and Slovenia. The UNESCO award motivated other Carinthian Slovenian cultural associations to carry out similar projects. This collaboration gave rise to a supra-regional, cross-border four-year EU project called FLU-LED. The visible result of which was four maps in Carinthia, three in Slovenia and a joint cultural online portal.

The main objective of the FLU-LED cultural portal is to collect all newly recorded geographical names in one place and make them available to the public, even after the end of the EU project. At the end of the project (2015), there were approximately 12,500 names; meanwhile there are approximately 20,000 names online. Additional municipal maps are currently still being processed.

WILLMANN, Jutta (University of Vienna), Austria: **Microtoponyms as condensed multilingual narratives and markers of identity: the case of the linguistic enclave of Tischelwang**

Microtoponyms possess a constitutive significance whose relevance extends beyond various academic disciplines into the sphere of local, individual, and collective identity formation. They document diachronic developments, bear witness to historical memories, reflect cultural practices, and function as carriers of local knowledge and transmitted narrative traditions. As “condensed narratives,” they acquire particular significance in contexts of multilingualism, as they encapsulate multilingual experiential and interpretative spaces. In linguistic enclaves, their immaterial cultural heritage value is considerably intensified. In this context, microtoponyms can be interpreted as the result of long-term processes of contact and negotiation between different linguistic systems and, despite the decline in proficiency in the autochthonous minority language, exhibit a remarkable dominance in their frequency of use.

Within the framework of my doctoral dissertation, the linguistic enclave of Tischelwang in the Carnic Alps was examined from a sociolinguistic perspective. The focus was on the relationship between language and identity, with particular attention paid to those parameters that play a decisive role in shaping the speakers' self-perception of identity. In this context, the use of toponomastic designations proves to be of central importance. Microtoponyms function both as instruments of differentiation from the majority society and as socially cohesive

elements within the speech community, thereby making a significant contribution to the construction, reproduction, and stabilization of collective identity.

YOON, Jihwan (Jeonbuk National University, Department of Geography Education), Republic of Korea: **Everyday heritage in transition: the making and unmaking of microtoponyms in urbanizing Jeonju, South Korea**

Jeonju, South Korea, contains a rich layer of microtoponyms, which means vernacular names for small-scale features and locally meaningful places such as *Mulwangmeol*, *Jonggwangdae*, *Yongmeori*, and *Wansan Chilbong*. These names originate across a wide spectrum, ranging from remembered historical events and landscape changes to the everyday cultures of ordinary residents. Yet, rapid urbanization and redevelopment in Jeonju, together with the passing of generations who routinely used these names, have weakened the social and material anchors that sustained microtoponyms. In their place, new administrative place names, road-name addresses, and neighborhood labels increasingly dominate the contemporary cityscape. While these official names improve governance and navigation, they may leave a sense of loss by providing thinner historical depth and weaker rootedness in local identity. This study uses Jeonju as a Korean case to examine how microtoponyms are generated, circulated, and eventually erased alongside urban geographical transformation. It argues that the decline of microtoponyms is linked to limited public recognition of their cultural-heritage value and reduced human–microtoponym interaction under changing mobility, land use, and communicative infrastructures. The paper concludes by proposing practical implications for preserving and creatively mobilizing microtoponyms as everyday cultural heritage within urban development.

ZSCHIESCHANG, Christian (Serbski institut/Sorbisches Institut Budyšin a Chóšebus/Bautzen und Cottbus), Germany: **Current challenges and solutions in digitizing microtoponymic collections as part of the cultural heritage in Germany**

Microtoponyms are not only forgotten due to economic and social changes, but also in the field of Digital Humanities. On the one hand, the public and scientists increasingly expect to find all relevant data on the internet. They do not consider material that is not available online. On the other hand, microtoponyms are everywhere. As a dense network identifying landscape elements, they sum up to millions in greater areas. This raises the question: Do the innumerable microtoponyms deserve the enormous resources needed to digitise them?

From an onomastic perspective, the answer is: Yes. Masses of locally used names are highly important sources for linguistic research, and as an important part of cultural heritage, they must be easily accessible. Furthermore, research has been conducted on these names for many decades, and the results constitute an important part of onomastics. This research would be lost if microtoponyms and the associated scientific data (records, etymology, etc.) would not be available. However, digitisation must be carried out in accordance with certain principles and standards in order to achieve useful data stocks. In this respect, there are currently several activities in Germany and neighbouring countries that will shortly be introduced. Furthermore, the current stage of digitising several microtoponymy collections in the Lower Sorbian language area in eastern Germany will be presented.

ZUPANC, Ivan (University of Zagreb) & **CRLJENKO, Ivana** (University of Zadar), both Croatia: **Names of Istrian residential houses as part of microtoponymic cultural heritage**

The presentation deals with the names of residential houses on the Istrian peninsula (Croatia). Three types of such houses have been distinguished by geographical location: palaces, villas, and farmhouses (*stancije*). While palaces are located in towns, villas were usually built on the edges or outside towns, and farmhouses are scattered in the countryside. The location of the farmhouses was determined by the large estates of the feudal lords. In these primarily

production-driven complexes, the peons lived; they were sometimes also the owners. The purpose of a building also plays a significant role. Palaces were used for the living of wealthy and/or noble families, villas for permanent or occasional stays, and farmhouses primarily for agricultural production. All these houses were named. Villa's names were usually assigned by the owner during or after construction. The names of the palaces and farmhouses were given spontaneously by local people, mostly after the family that lived there. Recently, with a new way of life and fast-growing tourism, these buildings have been given new functions and, accordingly, new names that are sometimes misleading. Villas become palaces due to tourism promotion, and luxurious holiday homes become *stancije*. To emphasize their heritage value, we will present examples of typical names and some inadequate recent names for residential houses.

ZYMOVETS, Halyna & MYKHALCHUK, Oksana (National Academy of Science of Ukraine, O.O. Potebnia Institute to Linguistics), Ukraine: **Microtoponyms as a source for the formation of urban object names in the context of contemporary renaming processes in Ukraine**

Microtoponyms reflect the grassroots conceptualization of space and constitute an important source of knowledge about the past. Processes of urbanization lead to the absorption of hamlets, villages, localities, fields, and forests by cities, often resulting in the loss of their names and, consequently, of the history of territorial development. While mapping microtoponyms (e.g. on Google Maps) contributes to memory preservation, a more effective strategy is the formation of official urban object names derived from microtoponyms. This approach has intensified in Ukraine since independence.

Our research examines, first, which classes of microtoponyms are most productive in the formation of urbanonyms and, second, which subclasses of urbanonyms most clearly demonstrate motivation from microtoponymic bases. The analysis shows that microtoponyms are represented in the urban linguistic landscape at both the macro level (administrative district names) and the micro level (street and square names). In Kyiv, 7 out of 10 administrative district names derive from toponyms; similar patterns are observed in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Lviv, and Chernivtsi. The prominence of microtoponyms is further reinforced by unofficial urbanonymy, especially in cities without formal district divisions, where residents use historically motivated local names for spatial orientation.

Renaming campaigns demonstrate that urbanonyms are most frequently derived from three classes of microtoponyms: geographical features, former settlements and their parts, and micro-objects associated with historical and cultural landmarks. The growing use of microtoponyms in official urban naming represents a productive contemporary strategy that facilitates the preservation of culturally significant information.

