Introduction

The second volume of the *Proceedings of the 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences* deals with anthroponomastics, which traditionally covers given names and surnames – more recently also referred to as "conventional anthroponyms" – as well as "unconventional" ones, such as nicknames, bynames, or Internet usernames. The volume consists of 28 chapters authored by 32 scholars representing a wide array of countries, from the Netherlands to Japan, and from Estonia to Botswana. The naming cultures studied are also stunningly diverse, ranging from that of Bulgaria to those found in China.

By far the most numerous group, covering over half of the volume, is made up of the 16 contributions devoted to given names. They focus largely on new naming trends and name fashions, occassionally juxtaposed with historical data, and their frequent methodology of choice is the exploration of big datasets: corpora and digitised civil registers.

A case in point is **Laimute Balode**, who discusses the names of children born in Latvia in the years 2004–2020, comparing the top names of today with those most popular a century ago. The recent tendencies she notes include the use of names derived from toponyms or from Latvian appellatives semantically related to nature, the parents' wish for the names to be international (as seen e.g. by the avoidance of Latvian diacritics), as well as the increasing number of two- or even three-name bestowals.

Ivona Barešová in her article outlines the naming of newborn children in relation to the historical eras in Japan, with particular emphasis on the recent Reiwa Era, which began in 2019 with the abdication of Emperor Akihito. She convincingly proves that such name motivation was found also in the previous three eras that started in the twentieth century: Taishō, Shōwa and Heisei.

Gerrit Bloothooft and **David Onland**, researchers from Utrecht University, showcase the research possibilities provided by the digital civil registration and digitized marriage certificates, which enables, among other endeavours, the study of popularity patterns of given names in the Netherlands from 1790 onwards.

The most recent given name trends feature prominently in a corpus-based study of the two biggest Bulgarian cities, Sofia and Plovdiv, in the years 2008–2018, by **Anna Choleva-Dimitrova**, who identifies, on the one hand, a return to traditional names steeped in the history of the nation, and on the other, conversely, a certain proclivity for uncritical borrowing from foreign personal name stocks. Her findings seem largely corroborated by those of **Gergana Petkova**, who reviews the naming trends in Bulgaria for the same period, as exemplified by their comparison in Bulgaria's capital city Sofia and the historical capital city Veliko Tarnovo. The naming patterns in the smaller locality appear to follow the example set by the larger one. Both papers have been prepared as part of the state project on personal names in Bulgaria at the beginning of the 21st century. The third paper based on the same statistical data in the 2008–2018 time bracket is by **Maya Vlahova-Angelova**, whose focus is the popularity of traditional Bulgarian names in eight of the biggest cities and towns of the country: Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Stara Zagora, Blagoevgrad, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo and Pleven.

Birgit Eggert and **Bo Nissen Knudsen** report on the development of a Danish web lexicon of given names, explaining its structure, the rationale behind its development, and its advantages over other reference sources relating to given names, also offering practical hints on its possible uses.

Annika Hussar explores the choice of given names in Estonia in the Soviet times (1944–1991), taking particular note of the use of multiple names, the popularity of the native stock and the Estonians' reluctance to choose Russian monikers; her research is solidly grounded in history, which occasions interesting comparisons diachronically.

Similar historical and cultural background is relevant for the onyms discussed in **Irena Kałużyńska**'s paper, devoted to the horoscope as semantic motivation for Chinese given names. She stresses the unique character of the Chinese script as a factor that contributes to considerable creativity in name creation, and also emphasises the role of numerology and phonoaesthetic value.

In her article based on the material from official statistics, **Katharina Leibring** studies quantitatively the popularity fluctuations among the names bestowed on children in Sweden in the years 2015–2018, compared to the late 1990s. She also analyses how the recent additions to the name-stock, especially those introduced by the new immigrant groups, are reflected in the contemporary Swedish anthroponomasticon.

As indicated by **Carin Leibring Svedjedal**, self-chosen first names and pronouns can be viewed as vehicles for creating and maintaining different kinds of identities, including those concerned with gender. Basing on a survey, she reflects on various aspects of choosing names and of using them by transgender people: for instance, what motivates the choice, and what traits seem important in a name.

Masahiko Mutsukawa explores the relationship between femininity and suprasegmental features of Japanese given names, and his specific focus is disyllabic and bimoraic names of the structure that combines a feminine first syllable with a masculine last syllable. The study is based on questionnaires, in which respondents were asked to assign a particular syllable combination in names to one of the two genders, to qualify the combination as a potentially unisex name, or altogether disqualify it as a given name.

Oksana Mykhalchuk deals with the interface of anthroponomastics, law and language policy, concentrating on the role of personal names for national identity. This involves, among other factors, the problems with name registration, especially in the case of minorities and of names borrowed from foreign languages.

An insight into non-European, lexically transparent naming patterns is offered by **Goabilwe Nnanishie Ramaeba**, who reviews Setswana-language personal names in Botswana, outlining six semantic categories: situational

names (events and situations around the pregnancy and birth), symbolism and symbolic objects names, activity names, God-related names, occupation and position in society names, and virtue names.

Spanning in her Lithuanian data the time period from 1910 to 2020, **Daiva Sinkevičiutė** draws attention to the connection between personal naming and societal values, and thus to the interface of onomastics and sociology. She is concerned with those names that in their semantic aspect reflect human features, of which 75 have been identified in the analysed corpus.

The methodological perspective employed by **Mariann Slíz** is also corpus-based. Her objective is to demonstrate the usefulness of medieval, early modern and modern Hungarian corpora for studying the cults of saints, and also to highlight the differences between the applicability for that purpose of the historical female name data, usually limited, in contrast with the male data, typically much more abundant.

The anthroponomastic category of surnames is represented in the volume by six contributions. **János N. Fodor** is concerned with the spatial distribution of Hungarian surnames and its consequences for their typology, drawing on the insights provided by geonomastics and underscoring the role of territoriality in the name types that can be found in an onomasticon. He also ponders the existence and status of "onomastic dialects", and, specifically, "surname dialects".

In her chapter, **Kitti Hauber** attempts a cognitive analysis of the 18th century Transylvanian Saxon surnames of German origin, comparing them with the Hungarian and German surname stock and finding differences in their motivational patterns. She attributes the identified differences to diverse temporal, spatial and societal factors.

Johan Hedberg seeks to uncover the reasons for changing foreign-sounding surnames in Sweden in the years 1925–2015. In most cases, it would seem, the applicants wished to alleviate the problems with their pronunciation and/or spelling, even though this inconvenience appears to be of less importance in the past few decades than before the 1980s.

Special attention has been devoted by **Igor Kusin** in his research to the surnames of Zagreb Jews in the period beginning at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries and ending with WW2. Based on the excerption of birth registers, cemetery inscriptions and a written history of the Jewish community in Zagreb, the material is subjected to statistical analysis, also revealing the etymology and changes of the investigated names.

The cross-cultural spirit also permeates the German-language chapter by **Renāte Siliņa-Piņke**, whose topic is Latvian surnames of German origin, little studied so far, despite being the largest foreign surname group in that country. For data she draws on the 1935 census conducted in the Latvian province of Kurzeme (Courland).

Finally, **Annamária Ulla Szabó T.** shifts the perspective from historical to contemporary by exploring the choices of married names made by women in Hungary. She presents the results of a 2017 survey, with the point of reference for her informants being the changes in the regulations regarding married surnames in Hungary, which took effect in 2004.

Unconventional anthroponyms were not as popular a topic as the conventional, traditional personal name categories described above. Two papers present the phenomena connected with nicknames or bynames. The first one, in French, by **Gabriela-Sînziana Ioaneş**, discusses what the author terms individual bynames (i.e. those borne by one person) and collective bynames (borne by the whole community) in Maramureş, Romania. The aim of her study is to classify the names on the basis of their motivation and frequency, taking into account certain sociological factors as well. In the other paper, **Anna Tsepkova** analyses, using statistical tools, a corpus of about 1,700 nicknames of secondary school, college and university students from Novosibirsk (Russia) in their gender aspect, focusing specifically on those given by males to other males and those bestowed on females by other females, and finding that the studied material largely reflects the traditional concepts of masculinity (strength, domination, aggressiveness) and femininity (emotionality, compliance).

The only text devoted to Internet usernames has been written by **Katarzyna Aleksiejuk**, who – somewhat in contrast with the traditional (and debated to this day) tenets of onomastics – perceives these onyms not as meaningless labels but as information-rich linguistic tools. The base of her research is a survey conducted among participants of the website *Chat30*, and she approaches her data from the name users' perspective.

Of the contributions to this volume, the remainder, three texts in all, are concerned with more than one category of anthroponyms each. Thus, **Rozalia Colciar** devotes her corpus-based study to not only conventional but also unconventional anthroponyms, both individual and collective, in dialectal Romanian texts.

The ideas expressed in a theoretical contribution by **Daiana Felecan** revolve around the notion of proper names, considered on three functional

levels proposed by the Romanian linguist Eugen Coșeriu – the universal, the historical and the individual one, though the author's ambition in her work is also to combine anthroponymy, pragmatics, text theory, speech act theory and the philosophy of language.

In the last of all scholarly contributions to this volume devoted to multiple types of anthroponyms, **Robert Skoczek, Sabine Strauß** and **Steffen Voigt** discuss the problems occasioned by the phonetic adaptation of foreign proper names. They turn for exemplification of their observations to Spanish, Dutch and Russian personal and place names, underscoring the significance of phonological and grammatical differences between the source and target languages, as well as stressing the role played by language policies.

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