



MEASURING THE NATION

Collecting, Interpreting, and Digital Processing of Historical Data

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Maciej Górny is Professor and deputy director at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, foreign member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. His research interests are East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th century, history of historiography, geography, culture, discourses on race and the First World War. His recent books include *Drawing Fatherlands: Geographers and Borders in Inter-war Europe* (Brill 2022) *Science Embattled: Eastern European Intellectuals and the Great War* (2019) and *Forgotten Wars: Central and Eastern Europe, 1912-1916* (together with Włodzimierz Borodziej, 2021).

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Tomasz Panecki, dr, is a researcher at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences (IH PAN). Historian and geographer with a main focus on the history of cartography, scholarly editions of historic maps and digital processing of geohistorical data (historical GIS). His last projects concerned analysing and editing of “Karta Dawnej Polski” (“Map of Ancient Poland”) multisheet geographical map drawn by Polish emigrées in Paris in 1859: a perfect example of political manifesto and cartographic representation of the lost motherland (<https://atlasfontium.pl/karta-dawnej-polski/>). Since 2020 he has been a Chair of the Historical Atlas Department at IH PAN.

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His research focuses on the history of nineteenth-century Poland and Central Europe. He is a recipient of the *Polityka* Historical Award, the Raczyński Library Award, and the Jerzy Giedroyc Award (as co-author of *The History of the Polish Intelligentsia up to 1918*).

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Anne Kelly Knowles, historical geographer, was McBride Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Maine from 2015 to 2025. She previously taught at Middlebury College in Vermont and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and many other grants and awards. Her books range from Welsh immigration and the U.S. iron industry to historical GIS and the geographies of the Holocaust. She is currently developing a narrative atlas of the Holocaust based on detailed datasets of Holocaust places, events, and testimony.

Dariusz Gierczak is a research associate at Herder Institute for Research on East Central Europe. Recently he works on the educational portal Copernico.eu and as standards and as metadata coordinator for the xTree Geografika project.

He was engaged in place names researches in several projects, including *Project Challenges of Geodata-based Research on Place Names (Gazetteers)*, *Upper Silesia from the air* at Herder Institute, *Cultures of Knowledge. Reassembling the Republic of Letters. A digital framework for multi-lateral collaboration on Europe's intellectual history (1500-1800)* at Oxford University (UK), and as

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Wiesława Duży, holds a PhD in History (2013), BA in Sociology (2009), MA in History (2007). Scholarship and fellowship holder of, among others, Leibniz Association Fellowship (Mainz 2024), DARIAH (Lisbon 2019), Herder Institut (Marburg 2018), the Lanckoroński Foundation (London 2015), the Polish Historical Mission (Wuerzburg 2013), the Lithuanian government (Vilnius 2010), EUI (Florence 2007). In 2014-2015 an assistant professor at the Silesian University in Opava, Czech Republic. In 2021-2023 an assistant professor at the University of Warsaw, Poland.

Research interests: social history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, knowledge modelling in the Humanities. Dr Duży is interested in developing research on modelling borders and administrative divisions changing over time. This scope of research is a consequence of projects in which she had participated, including: “Historical Atlas of Poland in the 2nd Half of the 16th Century” focusing on reconstructing settlement network, and “Ontological foundations for building historical geoinformation systems” focusing on building formal domain ontology of settlements types and administrative units.

Morgane Labbé, professor at the EHESS in Paris, works on the social and political history of populations in Central and Eastern Europe as well as on the history of population sciences, quantification and social surveys. She initially focused her research on the issue of the quantification of (ethnic) nationality, topic of her book “La Nationalité, une histoire de chiffres. Politique et statistiques en Europe centrale (1848-1919)”. Her research is also dealing with the history of social welfare and philanthropy in modern Europe and she has recently directed a special collective issue on the issue of the “Authoritarian Welfare State” (Histoire@politique).

<https://crh.ehess.fr/index.php?4583>

Philipp Kröger has been a researcher in the History Department at the University of Siegen since September 2021, where he works on the history of environmental design in the twentieth century. He received his doctorate from the University of Augsburg with a dissertation on German nationality statistics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The dissertation was awarded the 2022 Prize of the Society for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology (GWMT) and was published as *Das vermessene Volk. Nationalitätenstatistik und Bevölkerungspolitik in Deutschlands östlichen Grenzländern 1860–1945* (= Historische Wissensforschung, vol. 21), Göttingen: Wallstein, 2023.

Humphrey Southall is Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Portsmouth, UK, and the principal creator of the Great Britain Historical GIS (Geographical Information System), with the associated web site "A Vision of Britain through Time" (www.visionofbritain.org.uk). He has an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. He has published extensively on regional disparities in Britain, and the history of Britain's north-south divide; and also on digital gazetteers, and how best to organise geospatial data to create geographical knowledge. He is perhaps unique in having actively worked with data from every British census, from 1801 to 2021.

Piotr Guzowski, Marzena Liedke, and Radosław Poniak are faculty members at the Department of History at the University of Białystok and at the Center for Research on Demographic and Economic Structures of Central and Eastern Europe, which operates within the department. They specialize in research in the fields of historical demography, economic history, and religious relations, and in recent years have focused their attention on the territories that were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. They are carrying out projects such as: An Inventory of the Contents of the So-Called Fifth Russian Census of 1795 from the Territories of the Former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; Family, Household, and Standard of Living in Vilnius in the 18th Century; The Manorial System in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Its Variations; A Critical Edition of 17th-Century Inventories of Royal Estates from the Territories of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Bartosz Ogórek is a historian and historical demographer and Principal Investigator at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. He holds a PhD in history from Jagiellonian University and an MSc in demography from Lund University. His research lies at the intersection of social and quantitative history, with a focus on population change, demographic behaviour, biological standards of living, and social inequalities in Central and Eastern Europe. His recent work also addresses literacy and human capital.

Catherine Gibson is Associate Professor of East European Studies at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu. Her earlier research examined nationalism, language, and geographical knowledge, leading to her first book, *Geographies of Nationhood: Cartography, Science, and Society in the Russian Imperial Baltic* (Oxford University Press, 2022). She is now developing several new research directions on entangled histories and intra-imperial philanthropy across the Romanov Empire.

Anton Kotenko is a researcher at the Department of East European History at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. He is the author of *The Promise of Ukraine: A Conceptual History of Nineteenth-Century Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2026). Currently he is working on the history of zoological gardens in the Romanov Empire.

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Vojtěch Pojar is a historian and researcher at the Masaryk Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. He received his PhD from Central European University in 2024 for an award-winning dissertation critically examining eugenic discourses, networks, and practices in the late Habsburg Empire and its successor states. He subsequently held research fellowships in Munich, New York, Bishkek, Vienna, and Bucharest. His articles have appeared in *East Central Europe*, *European Review of History*, *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaften*, and *Střed/Centre*.

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Mikołaj Szoltysek, dr hab., Professor at Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw, is a historical demographer and family sociologist whose research examines long-term family systems, household structures, and the spatial diversity of gender and intergenerational inequalities in Europe and beyond. He is co-creator of the Patriarchy Index — a census-based measure of historical inequalities — and of large-scale microdata infrastructures such as Mosaic and CEURFAMFORM. Formerly Deputy Director of the Max Planck Institute's Laboratory of Historical Demography, he now leads the NCN-funded project *Diverse Worlds of European Patriarchy*, integrating quantitative methods, census sources, and comparative family history.

Tomasz M. Jankowski is a historian and genealogist specializing in Jewish studies, digital humanities and demography. He is currently affiliated with the Max Weber Research Center in Lviv and completed post-doctoral fellowship at Vilnius University earlier this year. Jankowski's research

explores Jewish social entanglements in east-central Europe from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. His research ranges from family history and demography to popular music. Jankowski has published two books: *Hebrew Polish Tango* (Polin Museum, 2019) and *Demography of a Shtetl* (Brill, 2022). He has also been involved in documenting Jewish heritage for several institutions, including UNESCO, Center for Urban History and ESJF.

Slawomir Brzezicki (ORCID: [0009-0007-5657-8038](https://orcid.org/0009-0007-5657-8038)), M.A., research associate in the “Digital Cultural Heritage Documentation” department at the Scientific Collections of the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe—a Leibniz Association institute in Marburg. From 1994 to 2000, he studied art history at the University of Wrocław and LMU Munich (with a focus on 19th-century architectural history). Since 2000, he has been involved—in various capacities, including as coordinator, editor, and author—in the series of collaborative projects “Dehio Handbook of Art Monuments in Poland/Zabytki sztuki w Polsce” and “Dehio Handbook of Art Monuments in the Baltic States” (currently working on projects related to northeastern Poland, Estonia, and Latvia).

His work also focuses on issues in digital art history, particularly the challenges of cataloging, analyzing, and presenting architectural and artistic monuments, as well as cultural heritage in the broader sense. In recent years, he has been involved in the development of specialized information systems for architectural and artistic monuments, particularly in projects aimed at establishing a digital Dehio standard (DEHIO Central and Eastern Europe, DEHIO Germany, dehio.org) as well as other solutions for semantic data structures (data modeling, metadata standards, and classification systems, along with the visualization of information).

Victoria Gerasimova is an assistant at the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of History, in the Section for Retrospective Bibliography for the 19th and 20th Centuries, and a doctoral candidate at the University of Warsaw. Her doctoral dissertation focusses on the conversion of Jews in the Kingdom of Poland between 1867 and 1915, with particular attention to social practices and the constraints imposed by unification with the Russian Empire. Her research interests include the history of Jews in the 18th and 19th centuries in the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Poland, the history of Jews in Siberia, the Jewish press in Central and Eastern Europe, and digital methods in Jewish studies. She is also a member of the Siberian History Research Section of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

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Research interests focus on the history of monastic orders and male congregations in Poland in the 19th and 20th centuries, the dedications of parish churches and parishes, and the socio-religious aspects of the history of medicine. In her work, she uses geoinformatics software and spatial databases based on mass sources such as schematisms.

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Magdalena Baran-Szołtys, dr., is a literary and cultural scholar working on the literatures and cultures of East Central Europe. Her research interests include Habsburg Galicia and its transnational cultural legacies, memory, space, and literary representations of social transformation. In her monograph *Galizien als Archiv. Reisen nach (Post-)Galizien in der Gegenwartsliteratur* (2021), she conceptualized Galicia as a multilayered archive of texts, memories, and material traces. She has co-edited, among others, *Galicja. Niezakończony projekt* (2022), *Continuities and Discontinuities of the Habsburg Legacy* (2020), *Galizien in Bewegung* (2018), and *Lwów: miasto wielu stron* (2025). She currently works at RECET, University of Vienna, where she leads an FWF project on narratives of transformation and inequality in post-socialist Poland.

Steven Seegel is Professor of European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the founder and manager of the digital February 24th Archive, and the author of three books in the history of critical geography and cartography: *Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe* (University of Chicago Press, 2018, rev. Russian edition 2024), *Ukraine under Western Eyes* (Harvard University Press, 2013), and *Mapping Europe's Borderlands: Russian Cartography in the Age of Empire* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

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Kingdom in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century (Peter Lang 2019). He currently leads the NPRH project: *Cartography in the Service of State Reforms During the Reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski – A Critical Edition of the 'Geographical-Statistical Description of Parishes in the Kingdom of Poland' and Karol Perthées's Maps of the Crown Palatinates*.

Gábor Demeter (ur. 1980), historian, geographer. Senior researcher at HAS/ELTE. PhD in History (2007, diplomatic history of the Balkan Peninsula), in Earth Sciences (2008, quantifying relationship between lithologic and morphometric features). Habilitated (2017) in Historical Geography at the University of Debrecen (ethnic mapping of the Balkans, statistical analysis), DSc in History (2025, regional inequalities in Hungary, 1720-1920). Fields of interest: hGIS, historical statistics and maps (1500-2010), environmental history, socio-economic and diplomatic history of Austria-Hungary and the Balkans (1700-1945), Ottoman Hungary. Leader of the Bulgarian-Hungarian Joint Commission of Historians, editor of the Hungarian Historical Review.

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Kristina Wittkamp, dr., (b. 1987, Leningrad/St. Petersburg) is a Senior Researcher at the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History of Eastern Europe and its Cultures at the University of Passau. She completed her studies in Eastern European History and Slavic Studies at the University of Freiburg and received her doctorate with a dissertation on Soviet radio culture ([dissertation](#)). Her current research focuses on medievalist discourses of Rus' in East Central Europe ([project page](#)). Further research interests include Soviet media history, cultures of remembrance, Eastern European game studies, cultural, public, digital, and spatial history.

Piotr Jaskulski graduated in archaeology from the University of Warsaw, but works as a programmer. He has worked at the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw and at large IT companies such as Asseco. He currently works at the Digital History Laboratory of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he deals with the application of natural language processing methods

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studies the methodological and epistemological challenges involved in measuring, interpreting, and digitally processing historical data. In his teaching, he develops historians' digital skills and critical reflection on AI tools.

Timothy Tambassi will soon join the University of Turin as a Research Fellow. He is also a member of the Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities (VeDPH).

Prior to his appointment in Turin, he held research and teaching positions at several Italian and international institutions. He was a Research Fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Assistant Professor in Philosophy at the University of Salerno, and both Adjunct Professor and Research Fellow at the University of Eastern Piedmont. He also served as an ICUB Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Bucharest and has held visiting research appointments at the Universities of Cork, Bucharest, Graz, Eastern Piedmont, Milan, Columbia (New York), and Durham.

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