
Editors-in-chief:
Maija Burima – project “Popularization of the centres of oral history in the LV-BY cross-border area”, manager
Sergey Pivovarchik – project “Popularization of the centres of oral history in the LV-BY cross-border area”, local manager

Bente Aamotsbakken, Dr. philos., Norway
Maija Burima, Dr. philol., professor, Latvia
André Filler, Dr. hist., associate professor, France
Fjodors Fjodorovs, Dr. habil. philol., professor, Latvia
Rahilya Geybullayeva, Dr. philol., professor, Azerbaijan
Jeanne E. Glesener, Dr. philol., associate professor, Luxembourg
Janina Kursiš-Pakule, Dr. habil. philol., professor, Latvia
Yordan Lyutskanov, Dr. philol., associate professor, Bulgaria
Malan Marnesdóttir, Dr. phil., professor, Faroe Islands
Vanessa Matajc, Dr. philol., associate professor, Slovenia
Eva Maagerø, professor, Norway
Sandra Meškova, Dr. philol., associate professor, Latvia
Anneli Mihkelev, Dr. phil., associate professor, Estonia
Margarita Odesskaya, Dr. philol., professor, Russia
Sergey Pivovarchik, Dr. hist., professor, Belarus
Irna Ratiani, Dr. philol., professor, Georgia
Elena Sadovskaya, Dr. philol., docent, Belarus
Tigran S. Simyan, PhD, associate professor, Armenia
Elina Vasiljeva, Dr. philol., associate professor, Latvia
Marina Yakoltsevitch, Dr. philol., docent, Belarus

Editorial Staff of the Issue Comparative Studies. Cemeteries in Cross-border Regions. Vol. VI (2)
The English language editors: Evita Badina, Aiga Trokša-Traško
Proof-reader: Ilze Kačāne
Lay-out: Marina Stočka

The publishing of the Issue is financially supported by the project “Popularization of the centres of oral history in the LV-BY cross-border area” (LLB-2-143).

‘Comparative Studies’ of Daugavpils University has entered into an electronic licensing relationship with EBSCO Publishing, the world’s most prolific aggregator of full text journals, magazines and other sources. The full text of ‘Comparative Studies’ can be found on EBSCO Publishing’s database called Humanities Source.
The publication is financed under the project

*Popularization of the centres of oral history in the LV-BY cross-border area (LLB-2-143)*

The Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument succeeds the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme Priority South IIIA Programme for the period of 2007–2013. The overall strategic goal of the programme is to enhance the cohesion of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border region, to secure a high level of environmental protection and to provide for economic and social welfare as well as to promote intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

Latgale region in Latvia, Panevėžys, Utena, Vilnius, Alytus and Kaunas counties in Lithuania, as well as Vitebsk, Mogilev, Minsk, Grodno oblasts and the city of Minsk in Belarus take part in the Programme. The Joint Managing Authority of the programme is the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. The web site of the programme is [www.enpi-cbc.eu](http://www.enpi-cbc.eu)

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States that have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during the period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Daugavpils University and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Daugavpils University  
Innovation and Development Promotion Centre  
Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOREWORD .................................................. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Maija Burima** (Latvia)  
Cemetery Culture in Border Zone as a Phenomenon of Comparative Area Studies ................................................................. 11 |
| RESEARCH OF NECROPOLISES IN LATGALE REGION |
| **Inguna Teilâne** (Latvia)  
Funeral Rites in Memories of Latgale Residents ................................................................. 41 |
| **Žans Badins** (Latvia)  
Peculiarities of Muslim Necropolis of Daugavpils Communal Cemetery .................. 48 |
| **Ingrīda Kupšāne** (Latvia)  
Catholic and Lutheran Confessional Segment in Daugavpils Communal Cemetery ................................................................. 56 |
| **Elīna Vasiljeva** (Latvia)  
Daugavpils Jewish Cemetery: Dynamics of Tradition .................................................. 64 |
| RESEARCH OF NECROPOLISES IN WESTERN BELARUS |
| **Albina Semenchuk** (Belarus)  
Methodology of Research of Necropolises in Modern Polish and Belarusian Historiography ........................................................................ 79 |
| **Sergey Omelko, Evgeny Mahnach** (Belarus)  
Methods and Sources of Research in Urban Necropolises (Case of Hrodna) ...... 92 |
| **Irina Pivovarchik, Natalya Filina** (Belarus)  
Epigraphics of Gravestone Monuments of a Polyconfessional Region ................. 101 |
| **Svetlana Selverstova** (Belarus)  
Methodological Approaches and Research Methods for the Study of Rural Necropolises of Northwest Belarus .................................................. 112 |
| **Aleksandr Dobriyan, Yuliya Yurkovec** (Belarus)  
Evolution of Funeral Traditions of the Village Population of Belorusian Ponemanye (on the Materials of the Necropolises of the Village Komatava of the Hrodna District) ........................................................................ 123 |
| CONTRIBUTORS .................................................. 134 |
FOREWORD

Cemeteries in Latvia and Belarus as the Object of Area Studies in the Context of Cross-Border Culture Communication

The study of cemeteries located in the border zone between Latvia and Belarus has been produced in the framework of European neighbour relations and partnership instrument 2007 – 2013 cross-border cooperation program Latvia – Lithuania – Belarus project “Popularization of Oral History Centres in the cross-border territory of LV – BY”, ID LLB-2-143. Cemetery comprises a sensitive and delicate topic both for an individual and the society at large. Not only does it preserve unique informative and historico-cultural segments but also foregrounds the collective traumatic experience or personal memories.

Cemetery culture as an object of study proved to be a new challenge for the project team of scholars, thus it was necessary to define the concept of border zone cemetery culture, consider its uniqueness and, on the basis of the prior studies of necropolises used in culture studies and social anthropology, crystallize the methodology for the particular study and produce fieldworks in the territory of urban and rural cemeteries in the border area between Latvia and Belarus. The comparative approach was approbated in the given research in the context of area studies gaining new knowledge on the phenomenon of cemetery culture as a representative of intercultural communication.

The introduction of the research paper collection offered to readers sets out the methodological positions of the project and maps the polemic character of the collected material. The theoretically empirical part of the collection characterizes the religious creed, ethnic, historical, social, etc. segments of cemetery studies in urban and rural cemeteries in the border zone between Latvia and Belarus.

The research “Cemeteries in Cross-border Regions” has been produced and the research paper collection “Comparative Studies. Vol. VI (2)” is published by the financial support of the European Union.

Maija Burima, project manager