

**(RE-)NAMING AND DECOMMUNIZATION IN UKRAINIAN:
MACROPOLICIES, HISTORICAL MEMORY AND THE RISKS OF MEDIATIZATION
(KHARKIV CASE)**

Alexander Golikov

V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
ORCID: 0000-0002-6786-0393

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Abstract. *The author analyzes the macropolicies of Kharkiv authorities embodied in a series of toponymic renamings carried out in Kharkiv in 2015–2016. Based on an extensive comparison with similar studies conducted over the past few years in the post-Soviet space, as well as historical studies of Soviet nominative politics, the author demonstrates the specifics of modern politics of historical memory in the case of Kharkiv and its regional authorities. Special attention is paid to the authorities confronting the risks of mediating the ongoing processes, in particular, the non-conflict and restrained kind of strategy employed by them. “The right to the city”, “politics of belonging”, “politics of memory”, discourses of power, symbolic domination, identities, (post)imperial connotations—all of these are discussed in the context of the post-Soviet renaming. The author argues that the processes studied are ambiguous and depend on multiple interests and actors in modern Ukraine.*

Key words: *renaming, renomination, decommunization, historical memory, Kharkiv, toponyms, social space, post-Soviet, politics of memory, sociology of knowledge*

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