

POPULAR SCIENCE SUMMARY

After the Stalinist period the USSR underwent a liberalization of socio-political relations. In the 1960s Ukraine this led to the emergence of a group of young intellectuals, later called "shistdesiatnyki". They tried to express opinions independent of the dominant line of the communist party. In the beginning they consisted mainly of writers and artists; although the group of dissidents gradually expanded, it never became a mass movement. The reason for this was strong oppressiveness of the totalitarian system in the USSR and omnipotence of the KGB security services, which increased again after a brief period of "thaw". Despite this, dissident activists managed to conduct underground cultural and publishing activities. The main goal of the movement was the fight for respect basic human rights, including the right to develop national culture and pursuit of the independence of an Ukrainian state. A lot of them, mostly men, were sentenced to many years in a prison or labor camp. The situation of women was different - they had to face everyday reality and nagging repression, support imprisoned family members, gain livelihood, and raise children who also suffered persecution. It is the women who were responsible for the organizational side of dissident activities, ran underground publishing houses, contacted Western journalists, etc. However, their activity is underestimated and unnoticed; they remain in the shadow of their husbands and brothers.

The aim of the project is to recreate the biographical experience of women belonging to the Ukrainian dissident community in the context of everyday life and opposition activities, taking into account the socio-cultural specificity of Ukraine in the totalitarian system of the USSR. The project will apply oral history methods. Autobiographical and narrative video interviews with female participants of this movement will be carried out. The analysis of interviews will allow to determine biographical profiles of the interviewed people, their standards they aspired to and authorities, trajectories and biographical changes. Situations related to resistance to the oppressive authorities and the creation of social support networks will be presented in terms of "gendered" resistance, in particular in connection to everyday life. This will be of importance in the context of a reflection on ways in which their resistance strategies blurred a distinction between public and private space, and whether this increased their effectiveness. Since many people from this generation are already dead, period documents, memoirs and letters will be taken into account for presenting the problem in a broader context.

The phenomenon of the Ukrainian dissident movement had its history examined in some detail, but its sociological aspects (especially with regard to the role of women) have not yet been studied. This project will allow to fill a significant gap in the social history of totalitarian systems in Eastern Europe and provide a new perspective of the phenomenon of social change. Showing the experience of Ukrainian dissidents will be a fruitful starting point for further research of resistance and social support networks, as well as the functioning of public and private space in the conditions of political oppression. It will also show the difference in experience of dissidents arising from their socio-cultural gender. Collecting research material in the form of video interviews gives also an opportunity to popularize the subject among a wider audience, for example in the form of a documentary film.

Investigating the resistance used by Ukrainian dissident women can also be continued in research on the contemporary situation in the country - the role of women in the Ukrainian revolution of 2014 and the resistance put up against aggressors during the Russian-Ukrainian war. Of particular importance is the role of women in the volunteer movement during the events of the Maidan and the first years of the war. This civil society uprising enabled the emergence of social change, for the study and description of which the categories of resistance and domination, as well as the social support networks created by women volunteers, seem apt.