

## **Research on the collection, preservation, analysis and disclosure of Ukrainian testimonies of war**

**Acronym: U-CORE**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has previously been labelled with various words and acronyms, began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea and armed conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Within eight years, more than 1.4 million people were registered as internally displaced persons in the controlled areas. In 2022, it became a full-scale invasion and was called a "war" - the entire country was affected by unprecedented terror, destruction and mass migration. As of October 27, 2022, the International Organization for Migration estimates that 6.5 million people are internally displaced within Ukraine. The lives of those who have remained in their homes have been threatened. Ukrainian refugees have crossed the borders of neighbouring countries and dispersed around the world. The story of this war has become a global story thanks to an unprecedented wave of migration since World War II. Across Europe, 7.9 million Ukrainian nationals have been reported (UNHCR, government). Behind every number is a human story. Through personal testimonies, we can grasp the scale of the tragedy and understand the ability to survive and survive the war.

Collins and Evans begin their book *Rethinking Expertise* by stating that "science, if it can deliver the truth, cannot deliver it at the speed of politics" (Collins and Evans 2007: 1). With the outbreak of war, researchers faced the need to respond quickly - personally and professionally. A particular challenge was and is to develop ways to deal with documentary and research material in a situation of conflict that has not yet ended. The challenges and questions concern aspects of preparing documentation and oral history collections with an international comparative perspective. The war in Ukraine makes it impossible for us to predict either the development of events on the ground or the movement of people. **U-CORE explores the heuristic act of collecting, preserving, analysing and revealing testimonies of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It proposes an international collective ethnography of building and analysing a methodological and ethical toolkit and digital environment for processing, preserving and sharing newly collected digital testimonies of war through a digital hermeneutics of practice.**

The U-CORE Project's predecessor initiative "24.02.2022 5am: Testimonies of War" began as an emergency documentation project to collect the stories of people who were externally and internally displaced due to Russian aggression. The result is to document the wartime and refugee fate of Ukrainians in Ukraine, Poland and Luxembourg. As an ad hoc initiative, we were unable to prepare either detailed research questions or infrastructure for digital archiving. In this project, we are moving from spontaneous data collection to well-organized empirical research. One of the outcomes of our activities will be **the disclosure of an elaborate and ethically thought-out database of recordings** collected in international teams, at local points in Luxembourg, Poland and Ukraine. In addition, the project will produce (with the participation of the witnesses involved) **a documentary film and a comic book, as well as a number of other activities at the intersection of science and art.**