

## **TheseusUA: A Study of Changes in Identity Discourses and Practices among Ukrainians as a Reaction to Russian Aggression**

Ukraine is currently undergoing a cultural renaissance, redefining its identity and distancing itself from Russian influences. This transformation is crucial for understanding national identity dynamics in conflict and post-conflict settings. The project addresses a significant gap in current research by examining how the ongoing war and migration processes influence identity formation. The innovative aspect of this study lies in its combined analysis of discourse, everyday social practices, and national identity under the latest socio-political changes. The results will contribute to the academic discourse on national identity, offering insights that are essential for policy-making and social practices aimed at supporting integration and stabilization processes in the region.

The TheseusUA project aims to examine the social practices and identity transformations of contemporary Ukrainians in the context of dynamic socio-political changes (such as war, migration, and integration with the European Union). The main research problem is identity and self-identification mechanisms. The goal is to understand how contemporary events influence the national identity and everyday practices of Ukrainians. The analysis of discourse and practices also allows examining how national identity and distinctiveness from Russia are portrayed in various fields of culture, including literature, film, art, and music. Research data will also present the mechanisms of forming new national symbols in Ukraine. Given the above, it is reasonable to adopt a chronological division of the processes occurring in Ukraine into two stages: the years 1991-2014 and 2014-2022, and subsequent years.

### **Hypotheses:**

1. War and migrations have a significant impact on the identity transformations of Ukrainians, leading to an increase in national unity.
2. Antagonism towards Russian identity is one of the main ways of reconstructing Ukrainian identity.
3. The rapprochement with the European Union influences the growth of identification with European values, resulting in changes in everyday practices and citizens' self-awareness.

### **Research plan:**

Year 1: Theoretical and methodological preparation, conducting interviews in Poland.

Year 2: Continuation of empirical research in Ukraine, data analysis, preliminary results development.

Year 3: Finalizing research, final analysis, publication of results, preparation of final report.

### **Methods:**

The research will be conducted using mixed methods, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches, ensuring robust and credible results. Standard research tools will include audio recorders for interviews, data analysis software (MAXQDA), and access to databases and digital archives.

### **Expected outcomes:**

The project aims to publish at least two articles in high-quality Impact Factor journals, contributing valuable insights to the field of national identity studies.