Foreword

The theme of the conference, *(In)correctness in Onomastics*, has a twofold meaning. On the one hand, it implies the reconsideration of certain onomastic theories as well as older etymologies and hypotheses, which with the passage of time have become outdated and in need of revisiting. On the other hand, *(in) correctness in onomastics* is conceptually linked to political correctness/incorrectness. This ideologically promoted topic is currently of great interest and contributes to the redefinition of social phenomena, names/words, historical events, and geographical names. The process is favoured by the present-day worldview which encompasses different perspectives foregrounded by the hermeneutic framework and recent sensitivities.

Noteworthy examples include the following:

• in anthroponymy, there are "cursed" names whose use has become taboo and is therefore illegal in various countries (e.g., *Hitler*, *Bin Laden*); nicknames consisting of such names confirm the aforementioned reality;

• starting from the dichotomy correct/incorrect, the field of toponymy has recorded the change of names of countries (the Netherlands, North Macedonia), various places (English place names were replaced with aboriginal names in Australia and New Zeeland among others), settlements (underpinned by sociopolitical, racial, religious, economic, or moral reasons), streets, institutions, companies, etc.;

• in literature, there are writers who have been condemned (in the USA, some schools and members of the academic community have demanded that Shakespeare's works be removed from the curriculum) and book titles which have become undesirable (in the year 2020, James Prichard, Agatha Christie's great grandson, announced that the novel *And Then There Were None* would no longer be published in France as *Dix petits nègres*, the translation of the original title of the book, *Ten Little Niggers*, due to the racist connotations that it may trigger – see, for instance, https://www.rtl.fr/culture/arts-spectacles/dix-petits-negres-le-best-seller-d-agatha-christie-debaptise–7800747182);

• in ergonymy, while ethnic names for diseases/pandemics might have been common in the past (e.g., *Spanish flu*), they are unacceptable nowadays (e.g., *Covid–19* instead of the potentially stigmatising names *China/Chinese flu*, *China/Chinese virus*, *New China virus*, *China coronavirus*, and *Wuhan virus/flu*).

Name changes fuelled by political correctness are abundant in the West, especially in North America and Western Europe, in an attempt to amend the injustices that have been done over the centuries. At the same time, in Eastern Europe many intellectuals treat the "new religion" of political correctness with irony, as they consider

that it confines people to live within falsely constructed patterns of decorum. Starting from this dichotomy, the topicality of the subject *(In)correctness in Onomastics* persists so long as people will continue to want to rewrite history, geography, and literature without taking into account the sociopolitical context that changes from one age to the next.

The interest manifested by researchers all over the world in the theme of the conference is reflected by the large number of participants (106). The 22 countries represented at ICONN 6 were Austria (Fiorenza Fischer, Peter Handler, Hans Mrak, Martina Ritter, Brigitte Seidler, Holger Wochele), Brazil (Eduardo Tadeu Roque Amaral), Bulgaria (Vanya Ivanova, Veronika Kelbecheva, Gergana Petkova, Maya Vlahova-Angelova), Canada (Aurélie Beaupré, Sylvain Beaupré), Czech Republic (Žaneta Dvořáková, Tereza Slaměníková, Veronika Štěpánová, Pavel Štěpán, David Uher, Martina Zirhutová), Estonia (Marit Alas, Tiina Laansalu, Fred Puss), France (Marcienne Martin), Germany (Oleksandra Kuzmenko), Ghana (Mavis Afra Addo, Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo), Hungary (Andrea Bölcskei, Tamás Farkas, János N. Fodor, Erzsébet Győrffy, Kitti Hauber, Evelin Mozga, Róbert Kenyhercz, Éva Kovács, Katalin Reszegi, Mariann Slíz, Melinda Szőke, Dávid Wendl), Italy (Davide Astori, Pietro Celo, Piero Renato Costa León, Giulia Guzzo, Domenico Giuseppe Muscianisi, Elena Papa, Marie Antoinette Rieger, Alda Rossebastiano, Silvia Corino Rovano), Japan (Emma Tămâianu-Morita), Lithuania (Rita Baranauskienė, Ilona Mickienė), Poland (Henryk Duszyński-Karabasz, Artur Gałkowski, Justyna B. Walkowiak), Portugal (Agostinho Salgueiro), Romania (Anita Andreica, Minodora Barbul, Florina-Maria Băcilă, Cristian Bodor, Ioana Bud, Alina Bugheşiu, Daniela Butnaru, Adrian Chircu, Rozalia Colciar, Codruța Cozma, Mihaela Cozma, Ioana David, Diana-Maria Dimirache (Rist), Daiana Felecan, Oliviu Felecan, Raluca Giurgiulescu, Rebeca-Ioana Gîț (Petruş), Simona Goicu-Cealmof, Octavian Gordon, Alexandra Sorina Iliescu, Ionuța Ilieş, Silvia Iluț, Gabriela-Sînziana Ioaneş, Denisa-Alexandra Ionescu, George Dan Istrate, Mariana Istrate, Bianca-Daniela Kopoşciuc (Pop), Dumitru Loşonți, Margareta Manu Magda, Adelina Emilia Mihali, Valeriu-Nicolae Nichitean, Marcela-Cristina Oțoiu, Ana-Maria Prisacaru, Ioan-Nicolae Pop, Maria-Nicoleta Pop, Delia-Anamaria Răchişan, Csilla Ruff, Adriana Stoichițoiu Ichim, Tünde Emese Şterța, Luminița Todea, Ruxandra-Victorița Ursa (Hădărău-Ursa)), Russia (Anna Tsepkova), Switzerland (Frédéric Giraut), Turkey (Yekta Demirtaş, Muhammed Furkan Ataç), Ukraine (Olena Karpenko, Halyna Matsyuk, Valeriia Neklesova), the United Kingdom (Ephraim Nissan), the USA (Grant W. Smith), and Zimbabwe (Kudzai Cathrine Bingisai).

Following the double blind peer-review of the manuscripts submitted for publication, most papers (71) were accepted. They are grouped in this book under four large sections: *(In)correctness in Anthroponymy* (18 papers), *(In)correctness in Toponymy* (14 papers), *(In)correctness in Names in Public Space* (21 papers), *Onomastic Theory. (In)correctness in Translation Studies, Literary Onomastics and Cinema /Video Gaming* (18 papers). Overall, there are 31 papers written in English, 28 in Romanian,

5 in Italian, 4 in German, 3 in French. Within each section, the papers are organised alphabetically, according to the authors' names.

December 13, 2024
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