

Guest editors' note and acknowledgements

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GUEST EDITORS' NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The special issue of *Etnografia Polska* journal, **“Ukraine: Lived Experiences of Past and Present”** was conceived as an intellectual and ethical response to the violence we have all been experiencing since the outbreak of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which is the continuation of a war begun in 2014. It is not only the atrocity of physical violence that we have been witnessing, but also the violence of words and ideas under an academic frame of colonial thinking and ‘westplaining’. We strongly believe therefore that this, our focused effort herein, is an important contribution that sheds at least some light on this gathering, violent, darkness around us. As guest editors we want to express our deep gratitude to our authors – Tetyana Boriak, Olena Sobolieva, Viktoriia Dmytriuk, Pavlo Leno, Denys Shatalov, Mykola Homaniuk, Yanush Panchenko, Roman Liubavskiy, Yevhen Zakharchenko, Tina Polek, Olena Martynchuk, Oleg Kyselov, Magdalena Zatorska, Tomasz Kosiek, Matej Butko, Patrycja Trzeszczyńska and Ignacy Józwiak; the entire editorial team of Joanna Mroczkowska, Łukasz Smyrski, Maria Dębińska and Keith Egan; our translators from Ukrainian into English, Asia Fruman, Oxana Blashkiv, Viktoriia Shkurenko; our reviewers; and all those who have inspired and supported us on this journey unconditionally, including our families and friends. What has come about as a result of our joint effort is a decidedly rich series of contributions to the ethnographic archive. In what follows, we distinguish our reflections on various parts of this issue, where Julia introduces and frames the individual contributors who have conducted long-term research on Ukraine, which in some cases has been more than a decade, while Tetiana presents an overview of the shorter, more immediate provocations and reflections on contemporary Ukraine.

Julia Buyskykh and Tetiana Kalenychenko,
1 November 2023

