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FOREWORD

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The 13th volume of *Review of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* (RHGT) is based on the contribution of two articles dealing with toponymy and other four articles focused on historical geographies. Our aim for this volume was to continue to bring new issues in the current agenda of toponymy research and to publish recent articles made by the new generation of researchers in historical geography.

Vanessa Ellen Mei Yin Nah and Francesco Perono Cacciafoco from Nanjing Technological University examine the histories and the etymologies of the names of Bermeja, Hy Brasil, and Sandy Island. The paper also examines the residential cruise liner *The World*, a manmade floating *island* challenging the notion of place. Though not real, these islands exist as hope – Bermeja, a hope for power, Hy Brasil, a hope for a divine land, and Sandy Island and The World, a hope for the unknown. The authors conclude that discovery is not exploring the new, but revisiting the old; not uncovering what we do not know, but undiscovering what we do. In this way, imagination and curiosity are powerful drivers and creators of place and space.

The second contribution to this volume is made by Francesco Perono Cacciafoco and Shu Qi Tuang. Focusing on Singapore toponymy, more precisely on the etymological aspects of individual street names as distinct units, the authors shed light on the relevance of naming practices across different languages. By exploring trends in naming practices in Singapore, where odonyms belong to three different languages (English, Malay, and Chinese), the authors highlight descriptive, commemorative, thematic, and borrowing categories of street names. The paper followed an approach that considers the social and sociolinguistic perspectives besides the conventional historical and etymological methods.

Dr Sorin Pavel and Dr Sebastian Ioan Jucu from West University of Timisoara proposes a study on tradition and underdevelopment in the rural areas of Romania.



Bringing specific examples from the north-eastern part of Romania, the study shows how in the last 100 years the predominant rural model of north-eastern region of Romania determined that area to remain one of the poorest region of Romania and the European Union. The authors reveal the factors that determined the underdevelopment image in the Romanian rural space of the north-eastern region of the country and point to the mechanisms which can dismantle this process.

Two theoretically-related papers in the historical geographies of different parts of the Romanian Banat region are presented by Covaci Raluca and Claudia Varan. Raluca Covaci presents some of the theories regarding ethnic identities which could be applied in mixed ethnic areas as those situated in the neighborhoods of border regions. The author considered several concepts related to ethnic identity, which could be applied and used when dealing with ethnic groups in Central and Eastern Europe. Dr Claudia Varan highlights the necessity of using intergenerational memory as a concept. Oral histories of displaced people in areas of economic development is a valuable heritage.

PhD student Corina Mihaela Petre investigates Romanian traditions and customs as major potential for intangible tourism. Taking some examples of religious habits and special events in the lives of Romanians, the author showed that such historical activities should be managed to be preserved and transmitted to the next generations so that to be promoted and included as immaterial cultural heritage of important value for the national and even world cultural heritage.