



## UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Winter Term 2023 via zoom, 11.00 - 12.00 (CET)

Registration via: [talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de](mailto:talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de)

March 6

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### Renaming the Streetscape in Postsocialist Romania: A Quantitative Approach at the National Level

Political geographers and sociologists working in the field of critical toponymies have demonstrated that renaming the streetscape follows invariably after a regime change. However, no piece of scholarship has gone beyond documenting the extent of toponymic change at the level of particular places, usually the capital cities of countries from the former socialist bloc and other post-dictatorial societies. This paper sets out to address toponymic changes at the country level, by examining the complete national street nomenclature in postsocialist urban Romania. For this purpose, a dataset comprising the entire collection of urban street names in Romania, together with all the street name changes occurred during postsocialism, was constructed from multiple sources (N = 37,076). The dataset thus compiled allowed us to perform a broad range of spatial, visual, and statistical analyses that show, first, the geography of toponymic change. Spatial analysis of street renaming reveals what could be called “an uneven geography” of postsocialist street name changes. Secondly, by employing a repertoire of statistical techniques, it is possible to pinpoint exactly the factors that underpinned the street renaming process. These consist both of locality-level characteristics, such as the type of settlement (municipality or town) and the historical age of the locality, and of street-level characteristics, such as the type of artery (boulevard, market, street, alley, etc.) and the type of name bore by a street (political or neutral).



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