

Mapping street names: What do they tell us?

Dataharvest 2023 - Mechelen, June 4

Lorenzo Ferrari, OBC Transeuropa

Kelly Kiki, iMEdD

Yuliia Dukach, Texty.org.ua

Approach

- **Covering several cities in several countries across several languages**
- **Focusing on streets named after individuals¹**
- **Moving beyond the mere gender gap:** place of origin, activity field, historical period, etc.
- **Including a diachronic dimension:** how have street names been changing over time?

1. Distinct, identifiable human beings or other anthropomorphic figures, e.g. fictional characters.

Coverage

- **30 major cities** in **17 EU countries**
- **146,000 streets**
- **41,000 individuals** giving their name to one or more streets

Outputs

- a dedicated **mini-website**: mappingdiversity.eu
- a series of **articles** in multiple languages
- freely available **datasets** (github.com/EDJNet/mapping_diversity)
- an **interface** for anyone to amend or add more data (streetnamer.europeandatajournalism.eu)

Results

Share of streets named after a woman out of the streets dedicated to individuals, by city name

Athens	4.5%	Debrecen	2.7%	Lyon	8.5%	Stockholm	19.5%
Barcelona	15.7%	Gdansk	6.2%	Madrid	18.7%	Turin	5.3%
Berlin	12.1%	Genoa	8.2%	Milan	5.0%	Vienna	9.8%
Brussels	8.0%	Katowice	6.2%	Palermo	8.1%	Warsaw	8.8%
Bucharest	5.6%	Krakow	6.6%	Paris	8.6%	Wroclaw	7.8%
Budapest	7.0%	Kyiv	6.3%	Prague	4.3%	Zagreb	5.6%
Chisinau	7.1%	Lisbon	10.5%	Rome	7.0%		
Copenhagen	13.4%	Lodz	8.4%	Sevilla	17.2%		

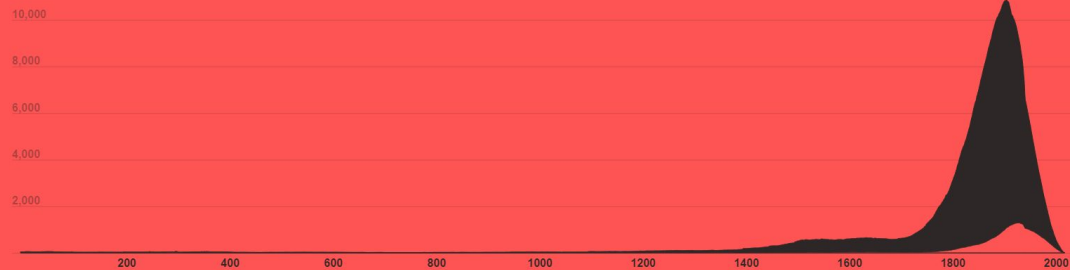
CREATED BY MAPPINGDIVERSITY.EU

Birth places of women with street dedications



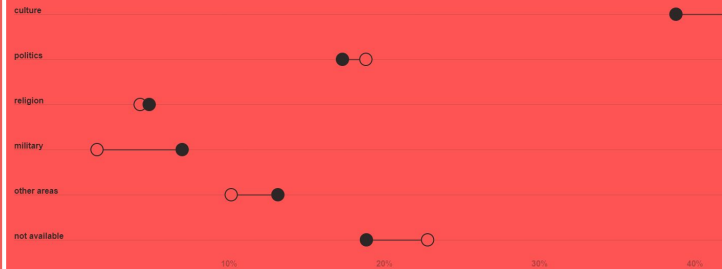
CREATED BY MAPPINGDIVERSITY.EU

Number of individuals who were alive per year (men / women)



CREATED BY MAPPINGDIVERSITY.EU

Percentage of streets honouring men and women by field



CREATED BY MAPPINGDIVERSITY.EU

Data sources

- Street names and geometries → **OpenStreetMap**
(+ Eurostat/EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries)
- Biographical information about individuals → **Wikidata**
- For some cities: data on local street names and entities shared by city administrations, Wikipedia contributors, local historians, etc.

Methodology

1. Getting street names from OpenStreetMap
 2. Cleaning the street names in order to isolate the entities they're devoted to
 3. Identifying the streets named after individuals
 4. Matching as many street names as possible with the Wikidata IDs of the respective individuals → tentative **automatic matching** first, then one-by-one **manual checks**
 5. Adding available information for the people missing from Wikidata
 6. Performing sample checks and targeted quality checks
- A dedicated R **library** ([tidywikidatar](#)) was developed to easily get and process relevant data from Wikidata + a dedicated R-based **interface** ([streetnamer](#)) was developed to easily check the automatic matching and amend or integrate it

The data validation

- **Checking** if **entities automatically annotated** as non-humans were really non-humans and vice versa
- Checking if humans were automatically matched with the **proper Wikidata ID** or replacing with the right one if needed
- Facing **the challenge of missing values**


Linguistic and other challenges

- The use of **declension** in Greek
- **Names** are generally **inflected by gender. But is that always the case?**
- **Streets named after last names only.** And those last names are sometimes too common.
- **Homonyms**

Some indicative results

- **Debrecen, Prague and Athens sit at the bottom** of the cities list when it comes to **gender diversity** in street names; less than 5% honor women.
- Most of those women come from **culture and politics** in the three cities. Religion is the third category in Prague and Athens, but military comes third in Debrecen.
- **In Athens, 26 streets should be renamed from 2012 to 2022. Only one of those**, previously an anonymous one, **currently honors a woman.**

How many streets in Kyiv have been decommunized and de-Russified

- 
- вулиці з російськими назвами
 - перейменовано на українські
 - перейменовано на честь іноземних діячів чи топонімів

What's next?

- Further **refining** the current data (mistakes, gaps, categorization)
- **Adding** 20+ more cities
- **Drawing** more stories out of the data
- **Exploring collaborations** with NGOs and with the OSM and Wikidata communities

Thank you!

Contacts

Lorenzo Ferrari, balcanicaucaso.org, ferrari@balcanicaucaso.org, [@lorferr](https://twitter.com/lorferr)

Kelly Kiki, imedd.org, k.kiki@imedd.org, [@KellyKiki_](https://twitter.com/KellyKiki_)

Yuliia Dukach, Texty.org.ua, iulia.dukach@gmail.com, [@ydukach](https://twitter.com/ydukach)