Adam Urík

Spatial Analysis of the Second Wave of Jewish Deportations from Slovakia (1944–1945)

The proposed dissertation project focuses on a detailed spatial analysis of the second wave of deportation of Jews from the Slovak state from 1944 to 1945. The main goal of this project is to reveal the spatial dynamics, patterns and factors that might influenced these deportations, by applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a methodological approach within the digital humanities field. The study`s approach aims to contribute new insights into the progression and consequences of the Holocaust in Slovakia by analysing the spatial distribution and mobility of deported victims. This study will combine historical data with spatial analysis tools to better understand the geographical and chronological dimensions of the deportations. GIS tools, especially Quantum GIS (QGIS) will be used to process, analyse, and show historical data, providing a through geographical interpretation of deportation operations. The research will address following questions:

What structured spatial patterns can be seen in the geographical origins and destinations of Jews deported during Slovakia`s second wave of deportations (1944 – 1945)

What common socio-demographic traits may be found among deported people, and how do these traits reveal hidden spatial patterns?

What impact did the operational methods of Nazi Einsatzgruppe H and its subordinate commanders and Slovak collaborates have on the spatial distribution and mortality outcomes of deported people?

The project will collect significant data from various of archives, such as Slovak National Archives, the Military Historical Archives, the Czech National Archives, Arolsen Archives, Yad Vashem, and the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive. Main key dataset will include Jewish census records from 1944, and evidence logs from concentration camps. The study will use

Colloquium Carolinum, 14. März 2025 — Exposé Nr. 13

GIS – based spatial analysis to map deportation routes, identify spatial clusters, and analyse any patterns of Jewish populations during deportations. Data will be digitalized, normalized and georeferenced to enable detailed spatial analysis. This method will illustrate how geographic and operational factors influenced the trajectory and destiny of deported people. Furthermore, the research will look at the operational impact of distinct Nazi commands throughout Slovak areas, revealing differences in deportation tactics and outcomes.

This interdisciplinary approach will enable study of how deportation events occurred across time and geography, resulting in a better understanding of the victim's experiences and movement patterns. The outcome of research includes interactive maps and visualizations that reveal deportation patterns, identify trends and clusters, and provide a comprehensive understanding of the operational methods that determined the second wave of deportations. Findings could greatly benefit Holocaust studies by providing a geographical viewpoint that supports previous historical narratives.

Project will be divided into various phases. Initial data collecting and digitalization (1.5 years). Data normalization and georeferencing (6 months). Data interpretation and case study development (1 year). The final part will involve combining data into a full dissertation that combines historical study with spatial approaches. This dissertation intends to provide an original and significant addition to the study of the Holocaust by integrating historical research with geographical analysis, providing fresh insights into the spatial elements of persecution and genocide during the second wave of deportations of Jews from Slovakia.

Kontakt:
Mgr. Adam Urík
Comenius University Bratislava
urik6@uniba.sk